

Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana
Monday, March 22, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A public/virtual meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, March 22, 2021 at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. The meeting utilized the Zoom App. Present at Huntertown Town Hall was board member Brandon Seifert, Resource Officer Anis Softic and eleven (11) members of the public. Present using the Zoom app were council members Michael Aker, Patricia Freck, and Michael Stamets; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Town Manager Beth Shellman; Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc; ten (10) members of the public and one (1) reporter. Absent was council member Gary Grant (P).

Michael Aker called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL ACTION

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2021 regular meeting. Michael Stamets seconded. Ryan Schwab noted that the header on the minutes presented to Council incorrectly listed the date as March 11, 2021 and that he would change it to reflect the correct date. The motion passed, 4-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve the general, water, and sewer claims dated March 22, 2021 in the amount of \$275,625.65. Brandon Seifert seconded. Michael Stamets asked for more information about the claim to Hydrophase. Beth Shellman explained that this item was to update the Town's Wellhead Protection Plan, which had not been updated in five years. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve the low bid from Wayne Asphalt in the amount of \$612,711.00 for the CCMG Street Project 2020-02 Bethel Road. Brandon Seifert seconded. Beth Shellman provided the council with an overview of the three bids submitted for the project, noting a \$55,000 difference between the low and high bidder. Street Department Head Randy Bailey expressed concern over the drainage portion of the project, noting that he has not know Wayne Asphalt to do drainage work. Derek Frederickson said that he would not Bailey's concern and share it with the contractor. After no further discussion, the motion passed 4-0.

Brandon Siefert made a motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 2021-004, an Ordinance creating a Special Fund to be known as: Fund #274 – Lima Road Sidewalk Improvement Fund. Patricia Freck seconded. Ryan Schwab noted that the council agreed at its March 1, 2021 meeting to allow Feders Meats to pay the Town a sum of money in lieu of the business installing sidewalks on Almon Street and Lima Road as required as part of the business's expansion plan. Beth Shellman added that the business has agreed to pay \$3,000 for the sidewalk on Almon Street and \$5,000 for the sidewalk on Lima Road. Patricia Freck asked if a second ordinance was needed for the Lima Road transaction since the council had already approved the Almon Street transaction. Shellman noted that both streets were included in the Ordinance. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0. There were no further readings of the Ordinance.

Brandon Seifert made a motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 2021-005, an Ordinance for Feders Real Estate LLC petition REZ-2021-0007. Patricia Freck seconded. Beth Shellman said that Allen County Department of Planning Services has held the Public Hearing and approved a resolution at its Business meeting. The Resolution is included with the Ordinance. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0. There were no further readings of the Ordinance.

Brandon Seifert made motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 2021-005, an Ordinance for Feders Real Estate LLC petition REZ-2021-0008. Michael Stamets seconded. Beth Shellman said that Allen County Department of Planning Services has held the Public Hearing and approved a resolution at its Business meeting. The Resolution is included with the Ordinance. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0. There were no further reading of the Ordinance.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve Pay-application No. 2 to Primco Inc. for work in progress on the Lima Road-CCMG Street Project 2019-02. Brandon Seifert seconded. Randy Bailey said the work is ahead of schedule and the road is likely to re-open in mid-April. Beth Shellman said that quantities needed to complete certain portions of the project are over what was included in the original bid package and the town will be looking at an addition expense to complete the project. While the town will not know the exact amount until the project is complete, she estimates the amount to be approximately \$53,000. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0.

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2021-009, a Resolution accepting for ownership and maintenance "Cananea Way," "Copper Strike Pass," and "Radomiro Passage" located in Grand Pointe at Copper Creek – Section I subdivision. Michael Stamets seconded. Beth Shellman said that everything with these streets is in order and the developer is already working on Section II. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Outside of items listed under Council Action, no other New Business was brought forth.

OLD BUSINESS

The following Old Business was brought forth:

- Derek Frederickson re-introduced a discussion on the Carroll Road project, notably as it relates to suggested improvements at the Mossy Oak Run intersection, east of State Road 3. He added that new information continues to come in, but that overall issue remains that INDOT would like a full concrete barrier placed in the middle of this road that does not allow for left hand turns in either direction on Mossy Oak Run. The town prefers a plan that leaves the center of the road open with signage for "No Left Turns" to be posted at the intersection. Patricia Freck asked that the entire council be present before a vote is taken. Michael Aker noted that the council is still reviewing its options and that the public will be allowed to comment during the Public Comment session of this meeting. Brandon Seifert wanted all public input to be heard before a vote was taken and asked that a special meeting be scheduled to allow any and all residents a chance to share concerns about the project and its impact on the intersection. Other topics of conversation included sending letters to all the businesses and homeowners in the impacted area to let them know of the situation; whether a formal Public Hearing for the project was held or needed to be held; and a date/time/location for a special meeting. Council determined that Monday, March 29, 2021 at 6 p.m. would work. The meeting location details needed to be worked out. After no further discussion, no action was taken.

REPORTS

Resource Officer Anis Softic had no report.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab provided the council with a detailed report and highlighted the following items:

- The town is set to receive an estimated \$1.42 million through the American Rescue Plan as signed into law by the President of the United States on March 11, 2021. Information on how the money can be spent is still coming out and that an ordinance to create a special funds would be required. Early reports state that the money can be spent in any of four categories: 1) assistance to households, small businesses, and non-profits; or to aid industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality; 2) assistance to essential workers; 3) Government entities that can prove revenue was lost due to COVID-19; and 4) water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure projects.
- The current health emergency as enacted by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb was set to expire on March 31, 2021. If the governor does not extend the emergency, then the virtual meeting allowance would also expire, and the town's next meeting would have been a full public meeting. Michael Aker said that council

president Gary Grant would like to see the virtual meetings continue in April to get the town through Spring Break and a potential spike in cases. Schwab said that if the health emergency is not extended, the town would have no option and could no longer use virtual means for its meetings.

Town Manager Beth Shellman had the following report:

- She asked the council to consider how it would like to use the estimated funds through the American Rescue Plan. She noted that façade grants could be a possible use of funding and it would be nice to have a plan on how to divide the estimated distribution.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Harris, a resident at 12331 Shearwater Run, speaking as President of the Shearwater Homeowners Association, expressed concern about Carroll Road project and the impact a concrete barrier would have on his subdivision as well as the adjacent Carroll Oaks subdivision. He said that between 750-800 homes use that entrance every day and limiting the exit to a right-turn only would create more traffic through the neighborhood. He said 8-10 children live in the first 10 homes on the main road through the subdivision and that road already has some wear. He also noted that closing off the entrance at Carroll Road would force residents coming southbound on State Road 3 to cross a busy four-lane highway to enter at the access street at Farmers & Merchants State Bank.

Theresa Jewel, a resident at 12122 Mossy Oak run shared similar concerns about the Carroll Road project, noting that cars already park on both sides of Bear Claw Lane, a street that will see increased traffic if the entrance to the subdivision is closed off to Carroll Road's eastbound traffic.

Mark Spencer, a resident at 1510 switchback Cove, spoke on his concerns for the Carroll Road project. He said that an option #7 as distributed by the Town was the best option for the project as it leaves the intersection open. He was concerned about the increased traffic on side streets near Walgreens and Empowered Sports Club which already sees high traffic volumes.

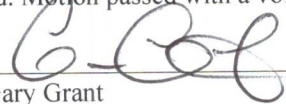
Rob Kruger, speaking on behalf of the Indiana Physical Therapy facility at 1675 Carroll Road, spoke on his concerns for the Carroll Road Project. He said that one-third of his customer base is older clientele who are on Medicare. His concern would be asking older drivers to make illegal U-turns in order to turn south on State Road 3 to go to Fort Wayne. He said his business only supports the project "Option #7" as distributed by the Town.

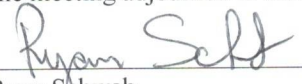
Sandy Frick, a resident at 1518 Flint Lock Lan, speaking as President of the Carroll Oaks Homeowners Association, shared her concerns with the Carroll Road Project. She asked for speed bumps to be installed on Bear Claw pass if the entrance is closed off to eastbound traffic. She expressed concern about the increase in church traffic once Pathway Community Church resumes in person services. She also said that closing the entrance off to eastbound traffic would be detrimental to emergency service vehicles and prays no one in her community would suffer from the extra time it would take an emergency vehicle to reach them if necessary.

Mark Sexton, speaking as the manager of the Indiana Physical Therapy facility located at 1675 Carroll Road, expressed his concern for the Carroll Road project. He said he does not want to have to worry about his patients, who are already coming to him because of ailments, to have to stress about the driving decisions a barrier would add. He does not want to see his patients doing U-turns or cutting through other parking lots to access the road they need. A barrier would only be making the environment unsafe.

After no further public comment was brought forth, Brandon Siefert made a motion to adjourn. Michael Stamets seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Attest:


Gary Grant
President


Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer