

**Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana**  
**Monday, May 15, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road**

A public meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, May 15, 2023, at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. Present were board members Michael Aker, Brad Hite, and Brandon Seifert (P); Town Manager Beth Shellman; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Resource Officer Brandon Reichert; Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc.; twenty-six (26) members of the public and zero (0) members of the media. Board members Patricia Freck and Tina McDonald attended the meeting via Zoom.

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

**COUNCIL ACTION**

Michael Aker made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2023, regular meeting. Brad Hite seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve the General, Water and Sewer claims dated May 15, 2023, in the amount of \$525,232.13. Brad Hite seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with GAI Consultants Inc. in the amount of \$3,364 for the Carroll Road Roundabout project. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve the secondary plat for Hunters Reserve Section I. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to apportion \$1,000 annually for the Poka-Bache Connector trail. Brad Hite seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 2023-005, an Ordinance establishing the Town of Huntertown Department of Economic Development and the Town of Huntertown Economic Development Commission. Tina McDonald seconded. Town Attorney David Hawk presented the council with this ordinance at the May 1, 2023, meeting and said he would share the State statute about the creation of an EDC with the council and let them decide which avenue to pursue; to create an EDC and partner with the Allen County EDC. Beth Shellman said she had contacted individuals at Greater Fort Wayne, Tom Pittman with Barnes and Thornburg, and representatives of both Grabill and New Haven and each was suggesting that the town create its own EDC. Patricia Freck said she had a conversation with a representative of the County EDC and said its meet about once a year and she had no reason to think the County EDC would not act in the town's best interest. Brandon Seifert said he would prefer the town to create its own EDC so that the town would have full control. He cited some past issues with representatives of Allen County not acting in the best interests of the town. Patricia Freck expressed concern about the need for additional staff the town may need when the County already has those individuals in place. Brad Hite asked if the county was trying to take growth away from the town with Pat Freck responding that she didn't like the idea that the town wouldn't trust the county. Both Tina McDonald and Mike Aker expressed opinions in favor of the town creating its own EDC. After no further discussion, the motion carried 4-1 (Freck – Nay; Hite – Aye; McDonald – Aye; Aker – Aye; Seifert – Aye).

Brad Hite made a motion to approve the LPA award for the Carroll Road Reconstruction project and authorize Beth Shellman to sign the recommendation letter. Michael Aker seconded. Beth Shellman said the project bid was higher than expected at a total of \$4,171,738.27. The total amount the town would have to cover in both

eligible and ineligible expenses \$1,121,982.57. Ryan Schwab covered which funds would be used to account for the eligible and ineligible expenses. Shellman noted that INDOT is covering 80-percent of the \$312,500 in construction engineering costs, originally thought to be 100-percent on the town. After no further discussion, the motion carried, 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Outside of items listed under Council Action, the following new business was brought forth:

- Robert Boren, assistant Fire Chief of the Huntertown Fire Department, led a swearing in ceremony for new firefighters Tyler Aguirre and Hayden Fitch. Ryan Schwab performed the Oath of Office and family members participated in a pinning ceremony.
- Beth Shellman reported that the town invited five engineering firms to send in RFPs for construction engineering of the Kell Road Bridge. The town received three RFPs and will have a committee score them. She would like the scores returned to her in time to present the results at the second meeting of June.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Outside of items listed under Council Action, the following Old Business was brought forth:

- Beth Shellman re-introduced a topic on ornamental lighting for the Woods Road project. An email was circulated among the council with a few styles, including an umbrella style light and an acorn style light. While most liked the umbrella light, Brad Hite said it went against what the town already has for ornamental lights. He liked staying consistent with what the town already features. Beth Shellman said she would provide the council with a quote for costs for both styles and will present that information to the council at a future meeting.

## **REPORTS**

Michael Aker had the following report:

- The town recently had an increase in noise complaints related to new construction. He plans to work with Resource Officer Brandon Reichert to beef up the town's noise ordinance.
- The Woods Road project is set to begin on May 15, with road closures for through traffic scheduled. The contractor plans to keep the road open as much as possible, but if the safety of workers is threatened, then closures are possible. Homeowners in the area will always have access to their homes.  
Patricia Freck asked for an update on the park tying into the town's storm water system as part of this project. Beth Shellman said the contractor is setting inlets in the curb and the park property will have the ability to extend its storm sewer lines to those inlets.

Resource Officer Brandon Reichert had the following report:

- Summer baseball and softball began at Huntertown Elementary School. He is reminding residents to slow down in the evenings around the school. He will be out enforcing both speed and parking rules.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had no report.

Town Manager Beth Shellman had no report.


Derek Frederickson had no further report.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deb Walker, a resident at 1231 Ashville Drive, and Marcia Schamberg, a resident at 1301 Ashville Drive, asked for an update on the progress of the construction of a path between their homes, which would stop vehicles from driving from the Copper Creek subdivision into the Hidden Oaks Subdivision. They would like the area to only be open to foot and bicycle traffic. Walker shared a video of the current status of her yard, which has been damaged by automobile and construction vehicle traffic. The town had put a large mound of dirt in the area to prevent people from driving through the area, but vehicles have just driven around it. Walker said the residents were promised some posts to separate the two subdivisions with some form of tree line to prevent cars from driving. Brandon Reichert said the goal of the improvements was to always allow golf cart and bicycle traffic. The work is planned, and the town has been waiting for the weather to improve to do the work. He asked for continued patience. Walker said she doesn't feel safe in her home and has had power and internet cut multiple times by workers digging in the area.

After no further public comment was brought forth, Michael Aker made a motion to adjourn. Brad Hite seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Attest:

  
Brandon Seifert  
President

  
Ryan Schwab  
Clerk Treasurer