

Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana
Monday, August 21, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A public meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, August 21, 2023, at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. Present were board members Michael Aker; Brad Hite, Tina McDonald, and Brandon Seifert (P); Town Manager Beth Shellman; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Resource Officer Brandon Reichert; Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc.; three (3) members of the public and one (1) member of the media. Absent was board member Patricia Freck.

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

Brandon Seifert suspended the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. and opened a Public Hearing for Huntertown Ordinance 2023-007, an Ordinance annexing certain territory to the Town of Huntertown, Indiana to be commonly known as Black/Page voluntary annexation. The floor was opened to public comment, and none was brought forth. Brandon Seifert closed the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting.

COUNCIL ACTION

Tina McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2023, regular meeting. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to approve the General, Water and Sewer claims dated August 21, 2023, in the amount of \$973,505.01. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 2023-007, an Ordinance annexing certain territory to the Town of Huntertown, Indiana to be commonly known as Black/Page voluntary annexation. Brad Hite seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to keep Carroll Road, west of State Road 3, open during the reconstruction project, scheduled to begin on Monday, October 9, 2023. Brad Hite seconded. Beth Shellman reported that a gas line was not properly marked and needs relocated before construction can begin. Construction was originally scheduled to begin in July. The contractor is requesting full closure to allow the road to be completed in a faster timeline. Derek Frederickson said the project would still be concluded on time under the current schedule, which would leave the road open, but with restrictions. Beth Shellman read a letter from Northwest Allen County Schools CEO Brandon Biting requesting that the road stay open. After no further discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Beth Shellman reported that the light poles the town purchased for the Woods Road project are too tall and interfere with the overhead power lines on the north side of the street. The poles can either be cut to fit or they can be repurposed. They cannot, however, be sent back. The town has had discussions in the past with the Lima Plank Industrial Park board about lighting improvements in their park. They have need for 11 lights, which is the exact number of lights the town purchased for Woods Road. She would like the council to consider donating the lights to the Lima Plank Industrial Park board and they will pay for installation. The Huntertown Redevelopment Commission is considering purchasing lights for the Woods Road project. After no further discussion, no action was taken.

- Beth Shellman read a letter from the town to INDOT requesting a speed study along State Road 3 from Shoaff road to Carroll Road. Council members suggested no changes.

OLD BUSINESS

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

REPORTS

Brad Hite had the following report:

- He reported that the town had its effluent line from the wastewater treatment plant hit by a machine working on a development in the area. The line was improperly marked by the town. The accident has been repaired and town plans to pay for the repairs.

Resource Officer Brandon Reichert had the following report:

- Huntertown Heritage Days traffic issues were handled successfully. Notably, 151 cars took part in the car show immediately after the parade. While traffic in the area was slow, the plans to get everyone in and out successfully were executed well. Tweaks will be made for future festivals.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had the following report:

- He asked the council for input on the draft of 2024 budget material he presented at the August 7, 2023, meeting. No feedback was provided.

Town Manager Beth Shellman had the following report:

- The Tever Cay subdivision is requesting a variance from the Allen County Department of Planning Services to remove a stub street and add a lot to its south end. Retention ponds on the north side of the property need to be increased for drainage purposes, altering the size of lots on the north side. Council questioned whether the property to the south would ever develop and connect if a stub street were allowed. Shellman said that the town typically encourages connectivity with all its subdivisions when possible. After no further discussion, no action was taken.
- In a prepared statement, Shellman announced her plan to retire on February 1, 2024. She has worked in public service for 37 years.
- She would like the town to promote a scarecrow design contest through downtown Huntertown. She would like to solicit businesses and residents along Old Lima Road to participate.

Derek Frederickson had no further report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Smith, a resident at 2729 Hunter Road, expressed concern about construction traffic driving on Bethel Road, which was recently reconstructed. He expressed concern about the future of the intersection of Old Lima Road and Shoaff Road with the announcement of the construction of a new middle school just west of the intersection. He also told the council the town was losing a “real prize” with the retirement of Beth Shellman. Shellman added that the drainage repair project at Smith’s property is supposed to begin in October.

After no Further public comment was brought forth, Tina McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Michael Aker seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Attest:

Brandon Seifert
President

Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer