

**Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana**  
**Monday, September 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road**

A public meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, September 18, 2023, at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. Present were board members Michael Aker; Patricia Freck, Tina McDonald, and Brandon Seifert (P); Town Manager Beth Shellman; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Resource Officer Brandon Reichert; Jay Stankiewicz of GAI Consultants; five (5) members of the public and one (1) member of the media. Absent was board member Brad Hite.

Brandon Seifert called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brandon Seifert suspended the regular meeting at 6:03 p.m. and opened a Public Hearing for Huntertown Ordinance 2020-009, Ordinance for appropriations and tax rates. Ryan Schwab provided the council and public with a detailed overview of the items listed in the budget for fiscal year 2024. By fund, he covered anticipated expenses, estimated revenues and June 30, 2023, cash balances. He also listed estimated costs of planned expenses for each fund. He covered the tax rate for the town's three taxable funds and provided an overview on existing debt. The floor was open to public comment, and none were brought forth.

Brandon Seifert closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 6:28 p.m.

### **COUNCIL ACTION**

Tina McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2023, regular meeting. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve the General, Water and Sewer claims dated September 18, 2023, in the amount of \$1,064,610.47. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 2023-009, an Ordinance for appropriations and tax rates. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Patricia Freck made a motion to approve the Kell Road Bridge LPA Consulting Contract with GAI Consultants in the amount of \$120,000.00. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2023-025, a Resolution appointing appraisers. Patricia Freck seconded. Beth Shellman provided an overview of the resolution which is to get two appraisals for a property at 2123 Trinity Street. After no further discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to transfer the 11 light poles recently purchased for the Woods Road project into the name of the Lima Plank Industrial Park. Patricia Freck seconded. Beth Shellman said that the town's Redevelopment Commission has approved the purchase of eleven (11) 14-foot acorn style lights to place on Woods Road. The Lima Plank Industrial Park had a need for 11 new lights and the larger lights that are too tall for the power lines on Woods Road, would fit in the Industrial Park. Shellman also noted that the Industrial Park would be responsible for any future maintenance of the lights. 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 provided the council with a copy of Huntertown Resolution 2023-024, an update to the personnel policy and procedural manual. The provisions state 1) that if the town is paying for an employee to get a license that that employee can only use that license to the exclusive benefit of Huntertown Utilities; and 2) employees acknowledge that they will remain in the exclusive employment of the town for a period of three (3) years following the completion of any licensed related classes paid for by the town. If employee leaves the Town of Huntertown within the three (3) year term, they shall reimburse the town for all costs associated with classes and obtaining a license. Council members said they would like to see the language in the second provision change to pro-rate the return of expenses to the town based on the amount of time they stayed employed after receiving the license. Shellman said she would update the resolution and bring it back to the council at its next meeting.
- Beth Shellman provided the council with information about a piece of right-of-way located at the northeast corner of State Road 3 and Gump Road is not owned by the Town nor is it owned by Parkview Health who recently acquired the property on that corner. The deed owner is Simon William R. Farms Inc. Shellman said she contacted the owner to let them know the town would be interested in purchasing the right-of-way at 20-cents per square foot for a total of \$1,045.40. The owner countered with \$6,000. Shellman did not believe the right-of-way was worth that much and when the town plans its pedestrian bridge project over Gump Road, the acquisition of any needed right-of-way would be handled for fair market value at that time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

- Beth Shellman said she attended the Public Hearing for the proposed Hathaway Crossing rezoning. The council had voted to support the rezoning of that property. The neighborhood to the east included 81 restrictions it would like to see not allowed for the property as well as a 30-buffer between the two properties. The final vote to approve the rezoning will come before the council at the October 2, 2023, meeting.

## **REPORTS**

Patricia Freck had the following report:

- Sherri Myers asked if the town had issue with wreaths being hung on the walls at Town Hall for the November 25 Christmas Trolly event at Town Hall. Beth Shellman said she was told they were using stands or easels for the wreaths. Freck also said they would like the hallway of Town Hall to be open. Last year's event saw the line go out the front door and people were standing in the cold. Ryan Schwab suggested having attendees park in the west parking lot of Town Hall and enter at the south door for the event. Schwab also said that all three doors to Town Hall could be open, and attendees could enter at the north or the east door.

Michael Aker had the following report:

- He said he met with some employees earlier in the day and that he and Patricia Freck would be revisiting the cell phone policy.

Brandon Seifert had the following report:

- He and council member Tina McDonald attended the Greater Fort Wayne Economic Summit. He said that while the main focus was on Fort Wayne, there was a lot of focus on other areas within the county. Patricia Freck was interested in knowing what businesses Greater Fort Wayne was responsible for bringing to Huntertown, since the town pays them \$10,000. Beth Shellman said they do a lot of things behind the scenes, and they are helping the commercial interest in Huntertown.



Resource Officer Brandon Reichert had the following report:

- He has been approved to be a Field Training Officer for the Allen County Sheriff's Department. He will be working with his first rookie in October.

Tina McDonald asked if the individuals who vandalized the Lima Road Bridge, north of Cedar Canyons Road have been identified. He said they are still investigating.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had no further report.

Town Manager Beth Shellman had the following report:

- Allen County Highway is closing Hand Road from September 25 through September 29 to allow Fox Contractors to do the utility line work for the Farmstead development in the area. The detour route will be Hathaway Road to Bethel Road to Carroll Road.
- There was a design flaw on the effluent force main for the wastewater treatment plant, near the corner of Hand Road and Hathaway Road as the line headed west to Johnson Road. The line jetted around a phone pedestal at the corner instead of having the utility pole relocated. The town should consider moving the line as part of a future project. She also stated that because of the design flaw, the accident that occurred with that line being hit was not completely the town's fault. Fox Contractors repaired the line and will invoice the town for materials only.
- A backflow preventer has been ordered for the stormwater project at the Dave Smith property on Hunter Road. The part should be in by the end of September and the contractor hopes to have the work completed by the end of October.

Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc. was absent.

Jay Stankiewicz of GAI Consultants had the following report:

- The Section 106 reporting for the Carroll Road Roundabout project is complete and there were minimal comments from INDOT. This will allow GAI to proceed with the environmental work by the end of the year and begin right-of-way acquisition in 2024.

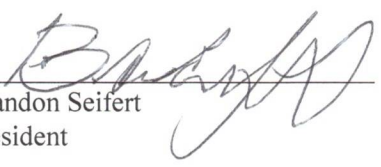
## **PUBLIC COMMENT**


Jamie Arnold, a resident at 4917 Balor Court, expressed his concern about Republic Services leaving discharge stains in the road at the end of his driveway. He said pressure washing the stains won't get rid of it. He wants it to stop. Beth Shellman said that his concerns have been addressed. Republic Services has washed and replaced the seals in the truck that has that route, and it is no longer compacting the trash on that street. Mr. Arnold said he didn't think the council was taking his concern seriously at all.

Jim Gill, a resident at 4759 Balor Court, wanted more information on the schedule for Town Council meetings. The council let him know that meetings are the first and third Monday of each month unless a government holiday pushes the meeting to the next day. A schedule is listed on the town's website and is included at the bottom of each utility bill.

After no further public comment was brought forth, Tina McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Patricia Freck seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Attest:

  
Brandon Seifert  
President

  
Ryan Schwab  
Clerk Treasurer