

Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana
Monday, December 4, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A public meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, December 4, 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; Street Superintendent Randy Bailey; Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc.; Beth Johnson of USI Consultants; five (5) members of the public and one (1) member of the media. Board members Patricia Freck participated via electronic means.

Brandon Seifert called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL ACTION

Tina McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2023, regular meeting. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve the General, Water and Sewer claims dated December 4, 2023, in the amount of \$611,700.55. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2023-039, a Resolution approving purchase of land. Brad Hite seconded. Beth Shellman covered the details of the resolution, which covers a piece of right-of-way at the northeast corner of Hathaway Road and State Road 3. The cost to purchase is \$2,000.00. After no further discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Brad Hite made a motion to approve a vehicle/equipment sales agreement with Hitzfield Landscaping Inc. for the purchase of a 4300 International dump truck in the amount of \$65,000 and a Veritech 1,100-gallon de-icing sprayer unit in the amount of \$15,000.00, with the general fund covering one-third of the overall expense. Michael Aker seconded. Ryan Schwab noted that both items were included in the 2024 budget and both items came in under the estimated value in the budget. After no further discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$400.00 for utility employee Tyler Chesney to take a Water Exam Review Course with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Brad Hite made a motion to approve Pay Application No. 4 to Pulver Asphalt for the Woods Road Reconstruction project in the amount of \$77,358.24. Michael Aker seconded. This is the final pay application for this project. After no further discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 2023-014, an ordinance to fix salaries of elected and appointed officials and employees of the Town of Huntertown for fiscal year 2024. Michael Aker seconded. Beth Shellman covered the details of the resolution noting the following changes: 1) a decrease in the employee and elected official raise from 7-percent to 5-percent; 2) removal of the longevity pay language related to the elected clerk-treasurer; 3) reducing the wage range for the town manager position; and 4) eliminating the consultant portion of section 4. She also stated that she did not agree with the first two changes but respected the council's desire to make the change. She also stated that the Utility Service Board approved the same document at its meeting earlier in the night and asked the council to reconsider the wage range for the Town Manager position. After no further discussion, the motion carried 4-1 (Hite – Nay; McDonald – Aye, Aker – Aye; Freck – Aye; Seifert – Aye).

Tina McDonald made a motion to consider Huntertown Ordinance 2023-014, an ordinance to fix salaries of elected and appointed officials and employees of the Town of Huntertown for fiscal year 2024. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 4-1 (McDonald – Aye, Aker – Aye, Freck – Aye; Hite – Nay; Seifert – Aye).

Tina McDonald made a motion to adopt Huntertown Ordinance 2023-014, an ordinance to fix salaries of elected and appointed officials and employees of the Town of Huntertown for fiscal year 2024. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 4-1 (Aker – Aye, Freck – Aye; Hite – Nay; McDonald – Aye; Seifert – Aye).

Tina McDonald made a motion to approve the closure of Carroll Road from State Road 3 to Bethel Road beginning June 3, 2024, through August 1, 2024, as part of the Carroll Road reconstruction project. Michael Aker seconded. Beth Johnson of USI Consultants provided the council with a status report on the project, noting that some issues with utility relocation have pushed the completion date back to May 31, 2025, a delay of nearly six months. 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:

- Ryan Schwab presented the council with dates for the 2024 meeting schedule. Council said it would like to alter the dates for the January meetings and schedule them for Monday January 8, and Monday January 22, 2024. The schedule will be presented for approval at the December 18, 2023, meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

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

REPORTS

Brandon Seifert had the following report:

- He would like to solicit resumes for the open Utility Service Board positions. He would like the town to post a request for resumes on its website and Facebook page. He would also like to review the resumes that were sent last year and see if any of those applicants would be interested. He intends to make his appointment at the December 18, 2023, meeting. The Council also has an appointment to make. The board would need a quorum appointed prior to the January 8, 2024, meeting.

Brad Hite had the following report:

- He said that he voted against the salary ordinance because of the reduction in salary from 7-percent to 5-percent. However, discussion among council members suggests that a 5-percent increase is already being discussed for the 2025 salary ordinance and if the council sticks to the plan, he is agreeable to the pair of 5-percent raises.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had no further report.

Town Manager Beth Shellman handed out a copy of her report and highlighted the following items:

- The deadline to submit stories for the Hometown Hero book has been extended to January 15, 2024.
- The town has received quotes to remove asbestos and demolish property next door to Town Hall at 15805 Lima Road.
- Applications for the Town Manager opening is being taken until December 8, 2023. Applications for the two openings for outside employees are being taken until December 22, 2023. The hiring committee will report recommendations to the USB and the Town Council.
- The utility service board approved the chemical cleaning of two water wells at \$6,399 per well.

Derek Frederickson had the following report:

- As part of the Carroll Road reconstruction project, he is suggesting that the town add a new "Welcome to Hometown" sign on the south side of Carroll Road at the town limits. He presented the board with a sample of four design options and would like input from the board. He would like to add the sign to the scope of the project before construction begins.


Beth Johnson with USI Consultants had no further report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None were brought forth.

Tina McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Brad Hite seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Attest:


Brandon Seifert
President


Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer