

Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana
Monday, February 5, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A public meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. Present were board members Michael Aker, Patricia Freck (P); Brad Hite; and Brandon Seifert; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Street Superintendent Gabriel Brindle; Water Plant Operator Gabriel Brindle; Resource Officer Brandon Reichert; Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc.; Steve Carter of Krohn & Associates; Jay Stankiewicz of GAI Consultants; eleven (11) members of the public and zero (0) members of the media. Board member Tina McDonald was absent.

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

COUNCIL ACTION

Brandon Seifert made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2024, regular meeting. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve the General, Water and Sewer claims dated February 5, 2024, in the amount of \$542,586.82. Brad Hite seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve the secondary plats for Lakes at Broad Acres Section I and Grasslands at Broad Acres Section I as presented. Brandon Seifert seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to appoint Brandon Seifert as the Town Council representative to the Poka-Bache Connector Task Force. Brad Hite seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$11,527.00 to American Pump Repair & Service for new water pump at the wastewater treatment plant. Brad Hite seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Alexandra Hall, consulting with the Allen County Board of Commissioners, presented the council information on a Bicentennial Statue project she is coordinating with the county. The project will have local artists produce 14 fiberglass statues placed throughout the county and Huntertown was chosen as a host site. She is asking the council to consider a location and help supply the infrastructure to install the statues when complete. Allen County is funding the rest of the project. Hall said she would like to have the Town decide on a location by the end of the month and she estimates the statues to be complete in November. After no further discussion, no action was taken.
- Austen Bartles, representing Fort Wayne IT Solutions, provided the council with an overview of the recent iPad management transition; highlighting the ability to manage and improve cyber-security for the iPads. He is requesting that the town consider federating if huntertown.in.gov domain to allow for easier ownership transition for the devices. He explained the process and what would be needed from the town. While no vote was taken, council members agreed to move forward with federating the town's domain.
- Derek Frederickson asked the council for some feedback on how to proceed with a potential area connection fee for new customers to the town's water utility. Frederickson explained that the town has an estimated \$23.5 million in future capital project expenses for the utility and is suggesting a \$1,500 area connection fee for all new connections. The town would still be looking at a potential

rate increase in 2026 as well. Council members discussed a higher area connection fee to potentially reduce the cost of future rate increases. Other topics of discussion included getting feedback from the development community; starting smaller rate increases sooner than 2026; and the possibility of not being able to approve any more plats for development if funding is not approved. Frederickson asked the council to proceed with having Town Attorney David Hawk prepare an ordinance for the rate increase. While no formal vote was taken, verbal approval was given.

OLD BUSINESS

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

REPORTS

Brandon Seifert had the following report:

- He has reached out to the current Redevelopment Commission members about re-appointment and would like to get those appointments in place at the next town council meeting.

Michael Aker had the following report:

- Resource Officer Brandon Reichert reached out to him about a resident complaint about speeding on Cedar Canyons Road. The corridor currently has three different speed limits depending on what area you are in. Reichert is suggesting that a 35 MPH limit be enacted for the entire corridor. Derek Frederickson noted that speed measurements were taken in 2021 and he would follow up.

Patricia Freck had the following report:

- A resident expressed concern with her about the number of accidents at the intersection of Shoaff Road and State Road 3. Randy Bailey said that the state is putting a stop light at that intersection in the near future but did not have an exact date. He also noted that the town is looking into improving the intersection of Shoaff Road and Old Lima Road in anticipation of the new Willow Creek Middle School construction project.
- She requested an update about the inflow and infiltration issues at the wastewater treatment plant. Water Plant Operator Gabriel Brindle said that the town will not ever find it all but continues to be proactive. Lining manhole covers is the next step in reducing I&I. Derek Frederickson added that the town has a tight system and that its I&I numbers are lower than a lot of other communities.
- She reported that a new TIF report from the county auditor shows a 16-percent reduction in TIF finds for 2024.

Brad Hite had the following report:

- If the latest round of Town Manager resumes does not net a qualified candidate, he would like to see the town use Indeed for the job posting. He uses it for his job, and it does a nice job of getting qualified candidates to employers.

Resource Officer Brandon Reichert had the following report:

- He has seen an increase in accidents at the intersection of State Road 3 and Copper Mine Passage. He knows it is inside INDOT's jurisdiction but would like to see a turn left on green only signal installed at the intersection.
- He will be presenting a quote to the council at a future meeting for two more radar speed signs for the town. He would like these to be solar powered to save on battery changes/recharges.

Outside of items listed under council action, Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had the following report:

- The town will need to appoint a new ADA/Title VI Coordinator to replace Beth Shellman by March 31, 2024.

Water Plant Operator Gabriel Brindle had the following report:

- He has interviewed and hired Gene Dreer to work for the water department. He starts Feb. 12.

In addition to items listed under Council Action, Derek Frederickson had the following report:

- He provided an update on the Gump Road Roundabout project, noting that conversation with Parkview Health about funding the project is the top priority.

Jay Stankiewicz had the following report:

- He provided an update from the quarterly meeting related to the Carroll Road roundabout project. The current topic is funding for the right-of-way- acquisition as well as the creation of the right-of-way services agreement. He also talked about a delay in getting some environmental documents approved.
- He needs a copy of an agreement between the town and INDOT for the Kell Road Bridge. Patricia Freck said she signed a document related to that project earlier in the day and will get it to him.

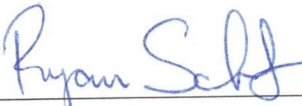
PUBLIC COMMENT

None were brought forth.

Brandon Seifert made a motion to adjourn. Michael Aker seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Attest:


Patricia Freck
President


Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer