Town Board Meeting

February 6, 2025

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Monthly expenses were reviewed and approved.

Minutes for January 2025 were reviewed and approved.

Those in attendance at tonight’s meeting were Mike Geels, David Bard, Josh Geerken, Justin Shaffer, Eric Mann, Shaun Hamrick, Dana Bowman, Jeff Rowe with Baker Tilly, Rachel Tague.

Absent Clayton Lengerich, Kris Burkhart & AJ Bertsch.

**New Business**

Nothing new to report.

**Old Business**

Justin started the meeting and brought with him an INDOT agreement that pertains to the right of way at the cross walk on Washington St/124. Since the INDOT post, which is permanent and the LED sign, owned by the town has joint use, INDOT has created a maintenance agreement. David asked if this would cost the town any money. Justin said we purchased the signs; the post belongs to INDOT. Josh made a motion to sign the agreement. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

On January 16th bids were accepted for the CCMG grants. Brooks came in the lowest at $190,147.00. if council approves, we can move forward with the project. Justin has brought with him the agreement, notice to proceed and acceptance. Justin walked through all documents with council. Josh made a motion to proceed with the agreement, notice to proceed as well as acceptance, David seconded motion passed 3-0. The roads that will be works on this year will be Andrews to Adams, Van Buren to town limits, a continuation of Bahner Dr and Jackson from Park to Adams and Polk to Park.

Jeff Rowe with Baker Tilly is here to discuss the sewage increase based off the sewage rate study performed last summer. The sewage rate increase proposed last year was a 6% increase which takes the average bill up about $4-5. Council chose to put a hold on the sewage rate increase until after the start of 2025 due to the large hike in the water increase in late 2024.

Jeff is also here to discuss a summer watering credit council has inquired about. This credit would be offered only during summer months, perhaps during June, July and August though those could change or be extended through September. Jeff suggested taking December, January and February average sewage bills and applying these averages to the resident’s summer bills to give them a summer sewage credit. This would be a blanket credit available to everyone, not just some residents. This would also eliminate pool fill up credits. Jeff wanted to make sure everyone is also aware this is only a service for residential use, businesses would not be able to partake in this.

Jeff asked Rachel to send him last year’s consumption report to help him get some firm figures so he can get back to council next month. Depending on what Jeff finds out, he’s recommending bumping up the increase by 1-2% to cover any losses that may be associated with the credits and this is in addition to the 6% increase already needed to make the sewage fund healthy.

**Fire Department**

Kris Burkhart was absent at tonight’s meeting. Josh mentioned the Fire Department has planned their 3rd annual Bingo event for February 22nd at the 4H Hall. The event starts at 6pm. Bingo tickets are sold out but there is a gun safe being raffled off and tickets are still available for that.

**Clerk-Treasurer**

Rachel Tague was present at tonight’s meeting. The only thing she brought up was that she has an updated appointment list for council which she had printed off for them.

**Town Attorney**

Clayton Lengerich absent but did prepare ordinance 2025-1 which about fences. Mike read the short title which will be considered the first reading. The short title reads as follows: An ordinance establishing standards and requirements for the erection of fencing and out buildings within the Town of Monroe. Council approved this first reading and introduction of the ordinance. The next reading will take place at our next board meeting schedule on March 6, 2025 at 6pm.

With nothing further to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.

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Town Board President

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Clerk-Treasurer