Town of Monroe

Town Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Monthly Expenses were reviewed and approved.

May minutes were reviewed and approved.

Those in attendance at tonight’s meeting: Mike Geels, David Bard, Clayton Lengerich, Justin Shaffer, both newspaper journalists, Steve Christner (town resident), Mike Miller (owner of Shaka Shack), Bill Bliss (town resident), Brett Miller (owner of MLS), Clayton Lothridge, Steve Bailey. Absent tonight are Josh Geerken and Rachel Tague

**New Business**

Nothing new to discuss.

**Old Business**

Justin brought with him an agreement for on call services with Wessler Engineering. They have created this agreement so Justin and anyone with the town can call when problems arise. The first agreement is for water and that will cover up to $5,000. The second agreement is for sewage related concerns which will cover up to $10,000. David made a motion to accept these agreements. Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Justin and Wessler have been working on the blocked sewage pipe that leads to Berne. They are going to go from a 2” pipe up to a 6” pipe to see if that helps with the blockage.

Justin has lost another sewage pump, this time it is repairable. Justin is recommending to rebuild since the pump hasn’t gone out completely. David made a motion to accept the recommendation, Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0. David asked what size and how many pumps the town owns. Justin stated we have two 8 horse power pumps at the west lift station, two 17 horse power pumps at the east lift station and two and a 30 horse power at the EQ basin.

Justin brought with him the 2024-2 CCMG paving pay app that needs signed. Mike asked if we needed to make this official business at the meeting but Clayton said that we have already gone through the scope of work done at the beginning of the project so Mike just needed to view and sign.

Justin mentioned that the live-streaming of our board meetings will take effect at our July meeting. Training on this will take place this Wednesday.

Justin stated the security cameras have been causing some trouble. He obtained a quote from Innovative Concepts to correct the problem. The motherboard to the old system burned out which now leads the town to purchase a new system. The quote from Innovative came in at $3478.32 + 400.00 labor with a total of $3878.32. The estimate is a good faith estimate and could fluctuate depending on when the purchase was made. Justin is asking for approval to replace the system. David made a motion to approve. Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0 pending the fire department approving to pay 1/2 of this expense. If it’s not approved council will discuss next month. Clayton said that if it’s approved by the Fire Department, we can go ahead and move forward with the update.

Justin said there will be another water main project which is set to begin next week on S Van Buren. This will tie up the area for 2-3 weeks. Flemings will do the work.

Justin reported there have been several complaints of excessive speed down alleys. Justin would like to add stop signs to try and curb the speeding and possibly some speed bumps. Mike is asking for a list of alleys to review. Justin and Clayton will work on this together and bring it to council before anything is done.

The parking lot and alley behind the post office has been causing some trouble. He received a complaint from the home owner to the east of the post office because she wasn’t able to access or leave her driveway due to customers parking in what is technically her driveway. Justin would like to make that a one way going from Washington around to Van Buren. Justin would like to add a do not block drive in addition to one-way signs.

**Other Business**

Clayton Lothridge was here tonight to discuss Monroe Day on September 6th. He believes it will be larger than last year with more people attending. Clayton would like the streets to close down by 10am to let everyone set up. He’s anticipating vendors of all sorts, craft and food. Mike mentioned the town has 3k set aside for Monroe Day. David made a motion. Mike accepted. Motion passed 2-0

Steve Bailey was available at tonight’s meeting. He reported he’s been approached to give the park over to the town. The park and pond are in the name of Adams County parks. If this happens, the town will be responsible for all the upkeep. Justin wants to know what the parks dept maintains. Steve said all property in their name. Justin would like to share some of the maintenance. He’s doesn’t mind mowing and helping out that way but the town doesn’t have the equipment to turn sand or other things to maintain the park. Clayton Lothridge spoke up and said he had gone to Steve Bailey first to get this started. Clayton said he’s been approached by many to upgrade the park. Clayton Lengerich mentioned an interlocal agreement. Steve said he’d rather just give to the town and let the town take over. The funding for the parks department is not much of anything. Clayton Lengerich asked about ADA compliance. The parks dept was grandfathered in and doesn’t have to be compliant but once it’s turned over to the town, that will change the grandfather rule and force the town to make it ADA approved which will then cost the town. Steve said he’ll speak with county council within the next week. Justin spoke up and said he had been putting together a parks board for the town and has several people who would be interested. Those names are: Josh Geerken, Mike Miller, Bret Miller, Whitney Smith, Cheyenne Wilder, Brett Miller, Mark Donaghy, Clayton Lothridge, employees Karthon McCullough and Justin Shaffer so far. David made motion to accept motion for park board members. Mike approved. Motion passed 2-0

Brett Miller with MLS was here to discuss some upcoming construction on Bahner Dr. He just wanted to let council know he was planning to put up more storage units along with more homes on the right side of Bahner Dr. Council was appreciative of the communication.

**Town Attorney**

Clayton Lengerich read a letter of resignation from AJ Bertsch. AJ feels it’s time to step down and let someone else lead the PD. Clayton is asking if council will accept his resignation. David made motion to accept. Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Clayton introduced some minor amendments to ordinance 2025-3. David motioned to accept. Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0

Clayton introduced minor amendments to nuisance ordinance 2025-2. David made motion to accept. Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0

Clayton brought ordinance 2025-4 which is an amendment to ordinance 2019-4 increasing sewage rates. This is the first reading for this ordinance. There will be another special meeting next month to take comments and approve. David made a motion to accept this first reading. Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Clayton said that Rachel had received the Strick tax abatement paperwork for the year. Strick is asking council to sign off on this. Council would like to table this until a Strick employee can be available.

**Fire Department**

Kris Burkhart was available tonight. Kris came with a report of the calls they received last year compared to this year. Last year 2024 24 calls per month this year 2025

Kris stated the fire department will not move forward with painting the building at this time. If Rachel needs to paint her office, that’s fine but that will need to be paid by the town.

There has been electric work done in the building. The Clerks office now has a light switch to control the lighting in the vestibule. Anyone coming in to pay their bill can now see when they write their checks.

**Public Comments**

Mike Miller was in attendance tonight. He’s the owner of Shaka Shack. He’s come tonight to discuss the tree trimming that took place on May 24th. The tree trimmer was using a skid loader on an already compromised sidewalk. He also stated that it prevented customers from accessing several businesses including his. He wants council to know that no one was notified of the trimming services which affected his business. Lots of small businesses were affected. He’d like to be notified in the future. He’d like the local businesses to be a part of the planning in the future. He’s upset that the businesses were treated as an afterthought. Justin said they were supposed to come on Friday but they had to reschedule to Saturday. Mike mentioned he has a legitimate concern. Justin is asking of a better way to handle this in the future. Justin said he’ll voice his concern to the tree trimmer. Justin stated that if the town can’t do what it needs to do then the small businesses need to take over the tree trimming. Mike has asked Justin to come up with a plan for anything that might happen in the future.

Steve Christener came to comment on ordinance 2009-2 for golf cart safety. He’s concerned about unlicensed children driving golf carts. He has spoken with AJ Bertsch in the past. He feels like council doesn’t care at this point since nothing is being done. The ordinance is not being addressed. He would like to see something done. He thinks the town needs to amend the ordinance or enforce the one we have. He’s worried these kids driving around are going to get hit by an adult who didn’t see them. Clayton said the parents should be held responsible. Clayton recommends revising the golf cart ordinance. He also recommends perhaps have the witness snap a picture of illegal activity and send it in to the PD. He also stated that the fine needs to be increased. Mike and David mentioned the need to register all golf carts from here on out. Clayton will work on an ordinance that includes both the golf cart and off-road vehicle ordinances.

Bill Bliss was here tonight and is asking for the emergency sirens to be louder. He said he can’t hear those sirens through the wind that comes with a storm. Kris said the siren is designed for those who are outside and need to go somewhere safe. The other concern Bill Bliss has is the empty lots off Bahner that back up to the houses on 124/W Washington. There is a company that comes in and mows the lots with houses, they leave the empty lots alone. He has seen an older gentleman in his 90’s walks the unmowed lot with his push mower. Bills concerned that the resident is mowing the property but also, when it’s not mowed, it’s overgrown and harboring animals and insect not to mention it’s ugly. Justin said he’ll say something to Brett Miller with MLS that mowing needs done on all lots.

With nothing further to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.

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Town Board President

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Clerk-Treasurer