

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana held a called public hearing at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:30 p.m. on December 20, 2022.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jerry Bragg.

## **OCRA WASTEWATER GRANT #2**

Victoria Bechert stated as you know the Town's wastewater application will be submitted tomorrow. The due date is Thursday. On or about December 22, 2022 the Town of Hope intends to apply to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for a grant proposal from the State Community Development Block Grant program. This program is funded by Title One of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: Upgrades to the wastewater grinder at the wastewater treatment plant and installing a new force main that routes directly from the Goshen Meadows lift station to the wastewater treatment plant facility. This will elevate capacity issues at the Moravian station. In addition to these improvements, the force main that serves Miller's Merry Manor is to be rerouted to discharge into the gravity sewer system in the Goshen Meadows lift system service area. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$600,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low to moderate income persons is approximately \$355,560. The applicant also proposes to expend an estimated \$156,050 in non CDBG funds on the project. These will be from the Town's ARPA funds. The purpose of this public hearing is to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on this proposed federally funded CDBG project. It was opened for questions. There were no questions.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana held a called meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:34 p.m. on December 20, 2022.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Jerry Bragg (President), John Walstad (Vice-President), Clyde Compton, Ohmer Miller and Ed Johnson. Town Manager Jason Eckart and Clerk Treasurer Diane Burton were also present.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Minutes 10/18/2022**

**John made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

## **APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS**

**John made a motion for the approval of the claims. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT CONTRACT**

Tony Akles stated first of all congratulations. The Town of Hope received all three grants for all three streets submitted. The streets that will be paved are Union Street from Jackson to Seminary, Hauser Drive from SR 9 to Schaefer and West Drive from Jackson to Washington. INDOT has put a schedule out that the town needs to meet. They are giving you four months from the time the grant was awarded, December 6, to have a contractor under contract which is April 6. Strand's cost to prepare the plans and specs will be not to exceed \$7,000. Tony stated since it is less than \$150,000, I will help put the quote package together that Scott will review. Our proposal will be to get all the design done and bring it back to the January 17 Council meeting for approval from the Council to go out for bid. We will send it out to at least three contractors. The quotes will be due February 8<sup>th</sup> so we can prepare the bid tab and give Scott time to review the bids. We will bring it to the February 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting for approval. You guys can award it to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder that night. That gives the contractor about a month to get their bonds and insurance together and for the contract to get signed. That should get us well before the April 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. **Ed made a motion to approve the cost with Strand not to exceed \$7,000. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

### **DUKE ENERGY STREETLAMPS CONTRACT**

Jason Eckart stated I want to talk tonight about the Duke Energy LED streetlamps involved with Goshen Meadows. Duke Energy finally got back with me on the price per month on twenty-five new streetlamps including poles in Goshen Meadows. The cost for twenty-five lights is \$353 per month. The Town was paying \$1100 per month for streetlights in the old part of town. You have already approved that. The Town is saving \$650 per month on the 103 streetlamps they're replacing in the old section of Hope. An additional \$353 still puts us less than the \$1100 that we have been paying in just the old section of Hope. I think it's a wonderful way to improve the lighting in Goshen Meadows. A picture of the streetlamps was given to the Council. The LED 50 watt lamps should brighten up Goshen Meadows quite a bit. Jason requested the Council sign the Duke Energy contract as presented. Jason feels the timeframe will still be February or March. Clyde stated this is a ten-year contract so they can't increase the price for ten years. They must maintain the lights. There was discussion on the lights. **Clyde made a motion to accept the contract. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

### **211 WALNUT STREET DEMO**

Jason Eckart stated 211 Walnut Street is now leveled. Veteran Hauling came in at the last moment and knocked the house down. We had some resistance from the homeowner. There is still a lot of debris on the ground. The bid was originally \$12,500. Veteran Hauling did it for \$10,448. Jason discussed some work that still needs finished on the property. Jason stated Scott, our Town Attorney, is aware of the situation. There is a court hearing on January 13<sup>th</sup>. We will submit the amount we paid to be placed on the current tax lien. We will then work on the foreclosure portion to get the deed for the home. Scott stated if you decide you want to have more work done to have it cleaned up more, I will just need that figure to present to the court on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Jerry voiced concern for safety and feels more needs to be done. The council agreed. Jason will get some bids for Scott to add to the total. There was discussion on

getting the work done and who might do it. It was decided it probably needs to be a professional. John asked if someone slips and falls on the property, who is responsible. Scott answered he still owns the property.

Ed asked about the Wentworth property. Scott stated there is no current hearing. We have our \$20,000 judgement. By statute we have to wait for a period of time before we can foreclose on it. If they are still in violation there can be an additional violations. Ed stated there are. Scott stated we can continue to pressure them until we can try to get the property from them which is probably where we are headed which will ultimately, hopefully resolve the issue.

#### **2023 SALARY ORDINANCE 2022-09 (Second Reading)**

Diane Burton stated this is our second reading. The salary ordinance has no change in the minimum and a four percent increase in the maximum on the ranges. The HSA increased \$500. It went from \$1425 to \$1925. **Clyde made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-09. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **RAINY DAY TRANSFER OF FUNDS RESOLUTION 2022-03**

Diane Burton stated this is a combination of our regular transfer to the Rainy-Day Fund and at the end I do have a change in categories I need to make within MVH. This is Resolution 2022-03. Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Hope that the following transfer of funds be made. They all come from General and all start out 101001 so I am going to just read the last three numbers: From 123 Workers Comp \$7,000, 114 Animal Control Officer \$7,000, 002114 Police Salaries \$5,500, 310 Engineering Services \$1,500, 311 Attorney \$2,500, 314 Miscellaneous Professional Services \$2,500, 391 Dues and Subscriptions \$2,000, and 395 Professional Conferences \$2,000. That gives us \$30,000 that will go into our Rainy Day Fund 436001301. The last one is to do a change in categories. MVH has been difficult since we have had to restrict half of the funds. We need money into 201001221 Other Supplies Streets \$3,800 and 201001241 Gasoline. That is coming from 201001116 Salaries – Street Labor \$4,000. Clyde asked for the balance in our Rainy Day Fund. Diane answered it is a little over \$200,000. **Ed made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-03. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

##### **ESTABLISH OPIOID FUND NUMBERS ORDINANCE 2022-10 AND 2022-11**

Scott stated there are actually two different ordinances. Basically if you guys have seen in the news, the Attorney General has settled an Opioid case with certain manufacturers of opioids. So every county municipality gets a piece of that. State Board of Accounts has indicated we need to do an ordinance to establish funds to hold those accounts. There are two different types of funds; Unrestricted and Restricted. That is why we have two different ordinances. One is approving an Unrestricted Fund estimating to receive \$2,806.28. over the next seventeen to eighteen years. The Restricted Fund is projected to be \$6,547.89 for the Town of Hope over the next seventeen to eighteen years. This is a first reading but if you want to you can suspend the rules and pass it on the first reading. **Ohmer made a motion to suspend the rules and move forward on this. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0. Ed made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-10 and 2022-11. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

### **TRASH REMOVAL FOR TOWN PARKS/DOWNTOWN CONTRACT**

Jason stated our current contract does not include Norman Park. Jeff Yarnell has been taking care of our trash and has been doing an exemplary job. I would like to rewrite the contract to include Norman Park and talk with Jeff Yarnell about that and hopefully get him to sign a new contract before year end.

Ohmer asked at what expense. Jason has not determined an amount. Diane stated the current cost is \$250 for four months (winter) and \$375 for eight months. The annual cost is \$4,000. David requested pickup at the basketball court by the utility building be added as well. **Ohmer made a motion to increase up to \$5,000 annually and to include Norman Park and the basketball court. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

### **BUILDING AND ZONING CONTRACT**

Jason stated I apologize about these contracts. I didn't realize they expired at the end of December. I just spoke with Matt Galbraith. I would like to speak with him privately and discuss a few things. I hope to have him sign a contract with the town before year end. He has done a reasonably good job. He did a very good job with getting the 211 Walnut Street house torn down. Scott suggested a one-month extension on the contract to bring it back in January. You can always retroact the increase in fee. **Ohmer made a motion to extend the contract for one month. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Victoria Bechert stated in your application for the wastewater project, we need to include two resolutions that are to be passed. The first one authorizing the Town to submit the application and commit your local match of \$156,050. The second resolution states the funds are coming from your APRA Funds specifically. **Ohmer made a motion to authorize the Town to submit the application and to commit the local match amount of \$156,050. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0. Clyde made a motion to commit the local match of \$156,050 come from ARPA Funds. John seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS**

\*A Town Manager, Police and Utilities report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

Ohmer asked Victoria if she had information on why Hope did not get approved for the Owner-Occupied Rehab grant. Victoria answered OCRA is telling me it is mainly due to your distress factors. If you go to the census website, every city and town is assigned a distress factor. Usually around 125 is the max. OCRA assigns points to that on your application. Hope's distress factor 75.29. If you put in more local match, it would give you more points. They were just giving that for guidance for next time. They funded the four highest distress factors communities this round. The hope is when they bring it back in a competitive round, they will fund more than four. We will reach out to all the home owners who applied, send them letters and keep them on the list and give them some other options if they have immediate needs like contacting USDA.

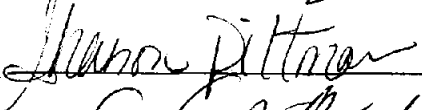
Jason stated this is the last night for two of our Council members, Jerry and Clyde. The Town wants to thank you for your dedication to the Town. We have a couple of plaques for you guys. All your efforts are greatly appreciated. Clyde, thank you very much for everything you have done for sixteen years. (Applause) Jason stated Jerry, we appreciate everything you have done for this Town for the last nine

years. Thank you. (Applause) Jerry stated it has been an honor to be on this Council. Some people may take it lightly, but I tell you what, you can't. Everything that comes across this table affects everyone of us. If you're not looking for the best for this town, it's no good. I appreciate every year I've been here. I've enjoyed it. I'm honored that I got to do it as long as I have. Clyde stated the one thing that comes to my mind, instead of saying good-bye, I don't know how many of you are old enough that you watched Star Trek the Vulcan, he never said good-bye. He said may you always have peace and prosper. I'll leave it at that.

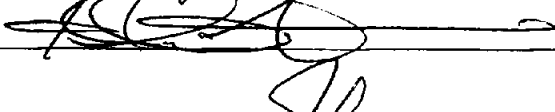
Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

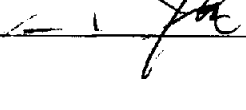
  
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