

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
MEETING MINUTES MAY 9, 2023

Presented for approval JUNE 13, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING: The public hearing regarding an additional appropriation from the fire territory equipment fund was called to order by President Gerren Cullison. Treasurer Mindy Hoover explained that PS LIT money and LIT money were being paid to the Fire Territory without valid and current resolution from the Town Board. After consulting the SBOA and the DLGF, the Clerk-treasurer recommended the town take the over payment amount back and put it in the proper town fund or leave it in the equipment fund and ask for an additional appropriation to pay off the fire truck and discontinue further LIT payments.

Representatives from the Fire Territory were there to dispute the information provided. Fire chief Kyle Steward expressed concern that the Fire Territory was blindsided by the information presented at the April meeting, and would like to be given time to consider all the options available. He stated that the town has benefitted from being the provider unit by receiving additional COIT(LIT) money. He is concerned that the budget created by the consultants hired last year was approved for publication, and should be honored by the town. Mike Steward and Danny Lent also spoke about the truck loan and the advantage to continue making payments and saving money for future major purchases. Fire Board President Chuck Strickler said he would be willing to make some additional payments on the loan after they have a chance to discuss the matter at the next Fire Territory meeting.

After hearing all opinions on the matter, Board President Gerren Cullison, closed the hearing by allowing the Fire Territory to discuss options and bring another solution to the next town board meeting.

BOARD MEETING: The Worthington Town Council met for the monthly meeting on 5/9/2023 at Town Hall at 6:45PM. Members in attendance were Gerren Cullison, Brian Stoner, Tom Franklin, and Barry Hoover and Kim Archer.

Meeting was called to order by Tom Franklin. Kim Archer offered a prayer.

Motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting was made by Barry Hoover. Kim Archer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion to approve and pay claims was made by Tom Franklin . Kim Archer seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer's Report

- Clerk Treasurer Mindy Hoover presented the fund report and again expressed concern over the negative balance of the MVH fund. On the advice of Jim Higgins and Janet Alexander, some expenses that are shared by sewer and street are now being paid from the Sewer Utility account until future distributions are deposited into the proper MVH accounts.
- The CD's were cashed out in April and deposited into the Town's Trust/Indiana account. In the 6 days since the deposits were made the town gained almost \$800 in interest.

Sewer Utility Report:

- Clerk Renie Powell reported that in the month of April she sent out 36 late letters and filed 30 liens for delinquent accounts. She has been able to collect on many of the past due balances.

Street Department:

- President Cullison praised Tim Edelman for working hard on grading out alleys in town.
- The Board decided that the tree and sidewalk on Jeff Clark's property was his responsibility.
- Tim had questions about the fences that are being built. Tom Franklin said anyone wishing to put up a fence should get a permit and submit a detailed drawing of where the fence will be located to make it easier for inspection. Denny Green's fence was discussed. Brian said the alley is tight inside the utility poles anyway, so the fence will be checked before he continues with the project.

Police Department:

- The police department had 48 calls, issued 7 tickets.
- Officer Trey Sparks resigned his position to return to work at the hospital.
- A motion was made by Tom Franklin to waive interviews and hire Reserve Officer Caleb Ray. Officer Ray was sworn in as the new Deputy Marshal by the Clerk Treasurer.
- The gun raffle raised over \$700 to go towards the purchase of body cameras.
- Officer Gambill presented a quote for body cameras and cameras for the interview room. A motion was made by Tom Franklin to approve the purchase of body cameras. It was seconded by Kim Archer. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business:

- Mindy Hoover asked about progress on compiling a list of elderly residents who may need assistance in an emergency situation. Vern Spoor said the Grace Point Church can be used as a shelter. Mindy and Renie will come up with a plan to gather names of those in need of assistance.

New Business:

- Cameras are being installed at the town yard waste facility. Hopefully, this will stop the illegal dumping.
- Blighted property procedures were discussed. This is an ongoing problem and Officer Gambill and the Clerk-treasurer will be working on specifics of enforcement.
- The pitbull ban was discussed. Officer Gambill would like to delete the language regarding pitbulls from our current ordinance. Loose dogs are also a problem in town. Changes will be made and approved at the next meeting.
- Officer Gambill made a proposal to hire 4 qualified part time officers with the savings from not hiring a 3rd full time officer. Jim O'Malley concurred that qualified part time officers will be a good solution. Since there will be money saved from salary and benefits, Officer Gambill proposed a raise for himself and the deputy. The board discussed this and agreed that a raise is in order, but not in the middle of the year. The board agreed to readdress raises once we have up to date budget numbers for 2024.
- Mindy Hoover presented what it will take to begin direct deposit of all employees' paychecks. The board agreed to go forward. Marilyn Hartman suggested making a provision in the Employee Handbook that requires all employees to participate in Direct Deposit. Mindy will add this to the other revisions being made.
- When filling out the Treasury Department Report for ARPA, Mindy discovered a line item for Town Hall improvements. She proposed the money be used to construct a wall to create a private office for the Clerk Treasurer. Board members agreed this would be a good use of the funds and advised to move forward with the plan.
- The approved travel for the Clerk Treasurer and the Utility Clerk to attend the Indiana League of Municipal Clerk treasurers conference from June 25-29. Town Hall will be closed to the public those days.

Gerren Cullison, President

Melinda L. Hoover, Clerk-Treasurer