



## May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Jim Winkler, Dean Smith, Austin Turner, MacKenzie Taylor, Ben Eldridge, Jessica Frye, Vernon Miller, John Veenstra, Ray Rodriguez, Larry Randolph, Haley Hurst, Matt King, Rita Coy, Dean Rink, Jerry Mast, Floyd Beachy, Colton Hurst, Melissa Beachy, and Gary Kauffman.

Dean made a motion to approve the minutes from April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Austin Turner seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to approve the meeting minutes from April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Wastewater:** Ben explained to the council that he had spoken with a gentleman that works at wastewater for Goshen City. Ben told the gentleman about the situation that arose out at wastewater. (Refer to April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes where the treatment plant was upset by an unknown substance from a septic hauler) Ben was advised by the individual to stop having septic haulers dump there because we don't necessarily know what is in the septic being dumped. Therefore, Ben would like to have dumping completely stopped. The council was in agreement that we can't take chances like this. The treatment plant is still upset, but it's getting better than it was.

**Maintenance:** Matt told the council they had an issue with a manhole that was in front of Battery Tech's loading dock. It needed to be cleaned out. Matt was in talks with a couple of individuals from different companies, but they were unable to help. Matt contacted Rick Pharis and he got a hold of someone from Ligonier. They came out with their vac truck and helped us for free.

Matt told the council in the bills they will see a charge of \$619.00 for the front tires on the dump truck. This was an unexpected large expense.

Matt gave the council a quote from Bontrager Security for new cameras to be installed. This would all tie back to the Town Hall so Ray can have surveillance footage of the maintenance building. The quote was just shy of \$3,000. Dean asked MacKenzie what will this be paid out of and do we have the money for it. MacKenzie confirmed yes, since it's at the maintenance department it would come out of the MVH fund for equipment. Dean made a motion to approve the camera expense. Austin Turner seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to purchase cameras through Bontrager Security.

Jim commended the maintenance department for getting the signs put up. While they have just been put into place yesterday, many haulers are ignoring the signs.

**Marshal:** Ray explained he has been looking into the flock camera system. He would like to have four installed, one south bound, west bound, east bound, and north bound. Each cost for the camera is \$3,000. For the first year, we would pay \$14,600 and after that year it would drop to \$12,000 a year. There is a decent amount of donations that have been received in regards to the installation of flock cameras. Jim said, we would pay that much to purchase the cameras? Ray replied, yes. Jim asked, then these would be ours? Ray said no, this would be a rental. Dean said he would like to table this issue until the next meeting and have more time to think about this large purchase.

Ray said he has been patrolling the four-way stop. The traffic today was light. Robert patrolled the area yesterday and stated it was light then too. Jim said, maybe the early morning would be the best time to sit on it to see if vehicles are complying. It'll be something for everyone to get used to.

**Clerk Treasurer:** MacKenzie gave the council a quote for Cintas. The quote includes two first aid cabinets. One would go in the meeting room and the other would be in the hallway near the police station. MacKenzie explained, we aren't in compliance with first aid cabinets. Within the quote, there is another quote for three small first aid kits to put in the patrol cars for the police officers. The quote was just shy of \$2,100. Dean asked Austin, who do we use at the fire station? Austin told MacKenzie EMP and to look into them. This was tabled until the next meeting to compare prices.

MacKenzie gave the council quotes to get the sign repaired out front. Damage happened on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 due to a mowing accident. MacKenzie told the council she is still talking with the liability insurance, so this one we will have to wait on and see what our next step is.

MacKenzie told the council she talked to Rick earlier that day. Rick could not attend the meeting tonight. Rick provided MacKenzie with two quotes. One is for the police alley and that was \$19,400. MacKenzie told the council there is money there to get this fixed. She told them the other quote of \$27,800 is for the parking lot but this is not necessary to do because we have other alleys that need to be repaired in the town. The parking lot alley was dropped. The council wants to wait on the police ally to see what the cost of the other alleys in town will add up to. Rick should have quotes for us at the next meeting in regards to the seven alleys. Jim said, didn't Rick say something about signage on alleys? MacKenzie replied, yes, if we put signage on the alleys and give them names, we can apply for community crossing grants. Matt said he would have to see what it would cost for every signage needed. This was tabled until the next meeting.

Mackenzie told the council Rick told her Pulver will not start until the week after next week. They've been pushed back again due to weather.

**Park:** Softball and little league has been going on. Ben said on Sunday he got a call about opening the concession stands because there was a double header. So, Ben went to Walmart, grabbed a bunch of different items and opened up/worked in the concession stands Sunday. He said he did sell quite a bit and almost made back all of the money he spent at Walmart.

Ben said he talked with Toni Miller. Over July 4<sup>th</sup>, Toni said the pickleball courts should be getting painted. Toni plans on putting up fencing around the court as well since it's so close to the softball fields. She will more than likely be getting a league started out there.

**New Business:** Friends of the park was in attendance. Jim said, who wants to talk first. Floyd Beachy replied, you tell us, you invited us here. Jim said, we'll we just want to know what's going on for Farmer's Day. In the past couple of years, we don't know anything that is going on. Floyd said, we have invited the park board for years and no one ever comes. Ben told Floyd, we don't have a park board and haven't for a while. Haley Hurst, who was formerly on the park board when it was around said she never received an invitation to one of the meetings. Floyd said, well it's happening the third weekend in August like it does every year. Friday we always have a car show. Saturday will be fireworks, we have vendors, the parade, Fairfield choir will be there, we have some entertainment, a magician, garden tractor pulls. Jim asked, are you charging vendors? Floyd said, absolutely. We have to beg for every penny we get. Floyd said, for a big vendor it's \$250 and a smaller one like kettle corn it's \$75. Jim asked, what about tournaments and things like that? Floyd said, the tournament pays us for using the diamonds and pays us for the concessions. Which we have to talk about because, Ben will you be supplying food? Ben said, I just have it for when the softball leagues are here that are scheduled, Farmer's Day I am not. Ben said, the concern the town has, we received two different calls last year saying you are charging people to have these tournaments and to use to concession stand. I told these people; friends of the park have no business charging you guys to use the town's facilities when we don't charge you guys for utilizing the park. Ben said, there's no reason for you to charge them when it's the town that maintains the fields all year round. Floyd said, back in the 1980's when Farmer's Day started it was by the Millersburg Commerce. (Which we do not have anymore and haven't for a long time) Floyd said, Millersburg started this whole thing, I've been here for 63 years. I've been involved all of my life. So, the town took care of it and moved it to the park. Then, the town lost interest and asked for any volunteers to keep this tradition going. Within that, it grew into friends of the park hosting this event now. Floyd said, it's a community gathering event for everyone to enjoy. You guys do the same thing for charging of the ball diamonds and the community park, isn't that true? Ben said, we do not charge the schools to use them of Fairfield Youth League. Floyd said, you aren't getting my question. You charge people to rent them. Ben said, the argument you are making right now is that we should charge you guys for utilizing our facilities. It's owned and maintained by the

town and the town pays employees to maintain it. Dean Rink asked, how much did you pay for the park? Jim said he wasn't sure but that's something Kurt Kritzman could probably tell you. Dean R said, I'm sure it was donated just like all of the others of thousands of dollars. Floyd said, the expenses for Farmer's Day are between \$8,000-\$10,000. I think friends of the park mistakenly thought the town would make a contribution towards the event. Ben said, we do by paying for the electricity, water, maintenance, and our street department going to pick up your trailer in Nappanee, putting signs up for you guys, emptying the trash. Last year, there was trash all over to road and park. Floyd said, I believe we missed a few spots like the playground. There's only four of us. Jim said, we want this to be a good thing for our residents and people that come here. We don't want it to be a money maker for anybody. Floyd said, we have to pay big money for entertainment and magicians. If the vendors that rent a spot, we don't charge them if they don't make money. Floyd said, for the softball fields he offered to give us money to use the fields. He said the gentleman also offered them money for the concession stand. Jim said, for the past two years we have had no information on Farmer's Day other than what you send out on the flyer. No one has ever come to a council meeting saying this is what we want to do. Floyd said, we never heard anything from park board.

Floyd brought up the instance with the concrete slab in the middle of the park that we had to pay for ourselves. The slab was offered then to be made into a pickleball court, now you guys have a pickleball court. Jim said, we did measure the concrete slab you guys put in and it wasn't big enough. Floyd said, we offered to make it the right size. Gary said, the Lions Club paid for that other basketball court. I believe, we bought the ground and then it was sold off to Forest River and that's how the park came about, I don't know. I think Freeman Miller and Sue Lantz had something to do with it back in the day. Ben said, I do believe back in the day Farmer's Day committee used to give the town a monetary donation or would donate a piece of equipment to the park and that has all stopped. Everyone keeps bringing up the past and you get free stuff from the town. Ben said, I don't care if you have it. (There was some chatter in the background between Ben and Gary about hydrants. Ben didn't attend farmers day because he was working on hydrants and Gary is a keyboard warrior). Gary said, it's pathetic, everyone makes fun of this town. Jim said, we just want to be sure that we are working together with you guys and don't want to be left out of what is going on.

Floyd explained he received a message from Kenny Jones about having a football game out there during farmer's day and opening up the concession stands. Kenny stated, Ben told him that if there is any event going on at the park, Kenny could have the concession stand open. Floyd said, that's not apart of the park property, that has nothing to do with us because that's not part of the park. Jim said, the idea of it was going to be like a fundraiser and do it for the Fairfield football program. Ben said, the football league would like to help with fireworks, setting up, and cleaning up trash. Jim said, let's work together instead of apart. Floyd said, that has been our issue in the past, people not informing other people of not knowing what is going on. We feel, the town board or park board, no one has ever informed us of what you guys need

either. Ben said, we get that. As town elected officials, we feel the same way. This is a two-way street.

Dean Rink said, there is a line item in the park, would you want a thing for improvements from the park that are available for park property, the funds come to help appropriate town funds. Jim said, no because we are the council and we run the town. The point I am trying to make is we meet up here twice a month and we have not seen anyone up here, ever. Melissa said, most of us have jobs and work until 5, 5:30, or later. You'd have a better turn out if you had the meetings later. Jim said, us three also have jobs outside of this. Anyways, I guess we will call it a get to know each other event.

Floyd asked, park funds being spent on a line item, is that public knowledge? MacKenzie replied yes. Floyd asked how can I know this information? MacKenzie said you can go to the town website at millersburgin.com or you can fill out a public request form and I can get you the information you are wanting. Dean Rink asked, so you'll be charging friend of the park for the park property? Jim said, no we won't. Floyd and Dean said thank you. We want to work with you guys and break down the barriers, Jim said. Someone asked, when is the next farmers day meeting and one of us will try to be there. It's scheduled for Tuesday but we may have to reschedule. Jim said, let MacKenzie know and she will inform us.

It was asked to have tractor pulls in front of the school again. No council member saw an issue with that.

Dean Rink said, back to the dump truck going to Nappanee and taking trash away, we appreciate it. If I am not mistaken, Austin is kind of connected to the park as far as job description and he and Matt and Avery take care of that stuff. Aren't some park funds going towards Austin? In essence the park is paying for park funds and are getting spent on wages for Austin so why should we pay the town for the use of the park? MacKenzie explained there are two separate park funds. We have one park fund that comes from County, what we are allocated during budget season. Only these monies from County are used for Austin's wages. For donations/rentals those are put into a park non-reverting fund. This fund is not allowed to pay for any wages. The town is allocated so much money from the County and it's broken down in departments where we budget x amount of dollars for different funds.

Larry Randolph asked about the football field, is it owned by the town? Ben said, it's in the well field by water and owned by us. Are we not generating any income from this? Ben said no, Kenny Jones paid to have those fields put in. Larry asked, why are we maintaining it? It's a park activity and we maintain it for the school.

Floyd said, another issue with the football field. They were blocking the leaf and grass bin. MacKenzie told Floyd she spoke with Kenny Jones about the issue. Kenny assured us this will not happen again and he won't allow people to park in the area.

Dean made a motion to pay bills. Austin seconded the motion to pay bill. Upon voice it was unanimously approved to pay bills.

Dean made a motion to adjourn. Austin seconded the motion to adjourn. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to adjourn.

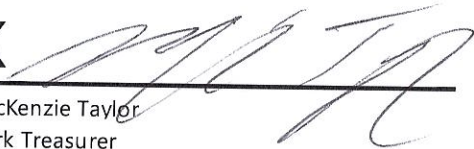
X



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Dean Smith  
Council President

X



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Mackenzie Taylor  
Clerk Treasurer