

Town of Millersburg
201 W. Washington Street
Millersburg, IN 46543

February 8th, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Dean Smith, Austin Turner, Jim Winkler, Ben Eldridge, Matt King, Ray Rodriguez, Jessica Frye, Larry Randolph, Haley Hurst, John Nelson, Rick Pharis.

Dean called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. The meeting minutes for January 11th, 2023 were reviewed. No minutes were taken for January 25, 2023 due to cancellation. Dean made a motion to approve the minutes from January 11th, 2023. Jim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business: Rick Pharis was asked to put together a couple of quotes. The first quote is for the pavement of the police alley. The estimated cost for this project will be \$14,000-\$16,000. Based on the size of the alley (it's only about 10 feet) it should really be a one way, said Rick. As for the other quote to extend the parking lot with no curbing that would be between \$17,000-\$19,000. Therefore, the two projects together would be around \$31,000-\$35,000. Rick said, he can certainly get a more accurate quote. He went on to say, with the extended parking lot you can expect nine more parking spaces. Sidewalks would be included. Rick also stated, if you do curbing it would cost more. Matt said, it would be easier to have it without curbing for when the street department is plowing. Rick said, we can have bumper blocks put in. Matt said, we can do that, I believe we have about ten of them down at the shop. Dean asked Matt, are you in favor of the bumper blocks? Matt said, yes because we can just back drag and that's a piece of cake. Rick said, we can always add the bumper blocks later if we need to and striping would be included. MacKenzie was asked if the funds were available to do this. MacKenzie said, let me look this over closer tomorrow and see what actual quotes we get.

Jim asked, what is the length of the alley? Rick said, it's about 325 feet from Clinton to Cook. Rick asked Ray, how do you feel about making that a one way? Ray said, he wasn't in favor because they come in and out of there at both ends. Also, one of the residents uses that alley quite a bit since their garage stall is near the back of the Town Hall building. Rick said, we can always focus on the one way later if we need to. Jim asked, thinking of the apartment house, would it go past Depot Street? Rick responded, yes.

Rick said, since this is the estimate, we don't have to advertise this but just get three quotes. Dean asked, do we know any sort of projected schedule? Rick said, I haven't talked to anyone yet but I'm thinking spring or summer. Any chance we could have Pulver do this since they would already be here? Rick said, there's a possibility. I would ask them to quote/bid on this. Dean said, let's table this until the next meeting, get quotes, and see if funds are available for this.

Rick said, other item of business and I'm glad you're here Ray. It was brought to my attention that instead of the four stall garage you're interested in having a larger two stall garage because there is limited clearance. Rick said, maybe instead of having the four stall we make three large stalls. Ray said, he isn't sure what kind of new police vehicle will be purchased but Tahoes do not fit and neither do certain trucks. Matt said, his truck certainly won't fit in the garage. There's enough length, it's just the width the police are having an issue with. Rick said he could get a quote. Dean said, let's get an estimate and see where we're at.

Water: I have a quote for a security light package at the water plant. Currently, only two of them are working. I would like to have these lights switched over to LED lights. LED lights last a lot longer too. They are quite a bit of money, but there is still a lot of money left in the ARPA fund. Dean asked, how is the lighting at wastewater? Ben said, it's glorious. It looks like a baseball field all lit up when you're coming down SR 13. Ben said, he had the lights switched over about four years ago. MacKenzie confirmed, ARPA fund is still healthy and there's money appropriated in the line item. Dean made a motion to approve changing over the lighting at water. Jim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote was unanimously approved. Dean signed the contract to have the LED lights installed.

Ben said, on Monday I'll be replacing four curbstops. Currently, they don't spin or move. Haskins will be coming in to do this. One of the homes is right over here, Kevin Riegsecker. Then the other two are houses at 108 Monroe which is Cecil's and then his duplex on Lincoln Street.

Wastewater: Ben said, the new clarifier at the wastewater is working like a champ. Tina said, it's significantly better since this has been up and running. Next thing at the wastewater that needs to be fixed is the fine screen, it's been broken for a while. There are three clinoid valves that haven't worked forever. Ben presented one quote to the Council and said, this is the quote if we do not want to be up to code standards. Then, he handed them another quote that was significantly higher. This amount, he explained, is if we want to have the job done up to code. First quote was \$16,745 and the second quote is for \$44,439. Jim said, it's better to always do things up to code. Say we don't do it up to code, they come in and fail us and then we would have to redo this whole thing over again. It was confirmed that this project needs to be done up to code. Ben stated, the panel will be weather proof too. Jim made a motion to accept the high proposal within code, Austin seconded the motion. Upon voice vote was unanimously approved.

Community Development: Ben started by saying, since everyone is here I'll take this opportunity to share what we've been working on with Vibrant Communities. We have had some meetings over the past year. In attendance it was myself, MacKenzie, Jessica, Amber Gingerich, and Karen from Sandbrook. Ben passed out a booklet. As you can see, some of the stuff listed in here we are already doing. What we want to focus on is creating a trail or some trails through Millersburg that will connect the downtown to Cook Station park and or the

Pumpkin Vine. MacKenzie had the idea of creating a history walk and getting some plaques that describe the history. For example, one of the older homes here used to be a funeral home, so put a historical plaque marker. I'm not asking for any funds right now, I just want to know all hands are on deck and we're on the same page to help make this happen. Jim said, when you say trail, what would this look like? Jessica mentioned, in a previous meeting, it would be neat to tie in the art alley with the existing alley that runs by Charles Beard's apartment and then the home that sits next to it. John drew up a trail that could run through the alley way to the Post Office area and then North through the school parking lot. Haley asked, a sidewalk or a path? John said, we wouldn't do it in front of the parking lot so there's no compensation of that area. John said, we'd have signage going up through the school and up towards the park. So property would have to be secured and make sure of it's right away. A valid point was brought up, it'd be a great thing to get children off of Elm street and place on a path or sidewalk. Ben said, right now these are all preliminary ideas, trying to find the best route.

Moving on to the Hawpatch Trail that is going to be going through LaGrange County, they want to find a way to connect with us. So, we kind of have a trailhead location thought of. Remember where Cecil's old trailer used to be? We burned it down? That would be the entrance or trailhead that would help connect us to the Hawpatch. The plan for the Hawpatch Trail is to run that along the old abandoned railroad. We can secure grant funding if we work with LaGrange County to get this trail going. Along with Elkhart County, if we connect to the Pumpkin Vine. Previously in a meeting over the summer, it was brought up about putting a path along CR 140. We already know this a populated road many residents walk, jog, or bike on. Many people complain about the sun setting in the west and it creates visibility issues. We could put a path in along the railroad side, to get people off the road and keep them safe. Brittney Short, who is ahead of bike trails through Elkhart County. John, Rick, and myself (Ben) met with her a couple of weeks ago and she's excited about the differently possibilities we have. Dean said, he would be in favor of getting a path going along CR 140. What we need to start doing, is trying to figure out where and how to designate 8-10feet for a path and a path that will keep buggies off of it. John said, Topeka is having that issue right now with buggies using those paths. Jim asked, does the Pumpkin Vine have issues with buggies using the trail? John said, no they do not.

Another thing we discussed, Ben said, was possibly renaming this part of the building. The Town Hall kind of creates a stigma to where we hold meetings and you make utility payments. We tossed around the idea of rebranding this building, or this section. Maybe calling it, Millersburg Community Building? Just a thought, but that was also another thing we discussed with Vibrant Communities. Maybe we could ask the community and take a poll?

Is there any word on Eagle Park? Ben said, I have been in contact with the Scout. I am applying for a \$10,000 grant through Community Foundations. I'm not sure if this is something we can afford or not, but I thought about adding a splash pad where the existing basketball courts are. This project will probably start late spring or summer.

Ben said, he will be having a meeting here on the 21st of February at 3:00pm to discuss Customer Appreciation Day. Customer Appreciation Day will be April 11th.

Dean asked Ben, have you heard back about that property from out of Town? Ben said, he e-mailed him but has not received a response back yet. Ben said, he'd reach out to him again.

Marshal: We had an auto-theft here in Town about three weeks ago. Vehicle and everything was recovered after 4 or 5 days. Ray said, someone saw there were keys sitting in the ignition and decided to take it.

Jim said, I've noticed across the way from me, someone is tearing up that grass area off of Larimer and Blessing. Jim also mentioned to keep an ear/eye out for someone up towards blessing that house a loud truck revving their engine and peeling out around 9:30pm.

Ray said, to be on the lookout for a silver vehicle that is steaking things out in Town. Reports state, they've been doing a slow drive by and stopping/recording home or taking pictures. Ray said, it's a white male and a bigger white female. Converters have been getting stolen easily, so watch out for that as well.

Flock cameras are starting to get more attention. It would be great if we could acquire two of these but they are very expensive. John suggested, maybe try looking into grants to help cover the cost. Where would you put these? Ray said a good spot would be at the intersection of Lincoln and SR-13.

Maintenance: Matt said, just be aware. The last time we got a significant amount of snow, there were snowmobilers out riding on the new sidewalks on Washington Street. They tore them up pretty good.

We got our new backhoe. It's great, it has all the bells and whistles. The old one was a trade in for this new one.

Just to let everyone know, I am having knee surgery again on the 21st of this month. I'm not positive how long I'll be out. Probably for the rest of that week at least but I'll keep everyone updated.

Park: Vernon is getting the itch to start mowing. He's eager to get started on the park.

Ben said, I talked with Gary Kauffman and he said the school will not let them have the Easter Egg drop there anymore. They don't have enough custodial help and the school wasn't comfortable handing over a key to him. So, I told him that he can do it up in Cook Station Park.

Since it's still a ways away, rain could play a factor. So, they are looking at setting up a large 30 by 60 tent. This will happen the Saturday of Easter weekend.

Jim told Ben; I know we talked about doing a walk through the park together. I'd still like to do that and make notes of equipment that may need repaired in the play area.

Clerk Treasurer: MacKenzie has Resolution 2023-01 to present to the Council. This is a simple transfer from MVH Restricted to the Local Road and Bridge Match Grant. This is our 25% share for the next round of CCMG. Dean made a motion to approve resolution 2023-01, Austin seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved.

New Business: Dean asked, has anyone heard what is happening with the old legion building? Ben said, Myron or Marion Bontrager purchased the building. In the bottom level, it is going to be a health clinic. Then, a taco truck will be using the kitchen and sell items out of their truck. The upstairs is being converted into two apartments.

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

X 

Dean Smith
Council President

X 

MacKenzie Taylor
Clerk Treasurer

