



## June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Dean Smith, MacKenzie Taylor, Jim Winkler, Ben & Michelle Eldridge, Jessica Frye, Robert Roa, Ray Rodriguez, Avery Ferguson, John Veenstra, Vernon Miller, Haley Hurst, Larry Randolph, Rick Pharis, Jennifer Dorio, Claire Tarala, Amber Gingerich, (two other Timber Valley resident did not get name), Ryan LeCount, Karen Martin and husband from Sandbrooke.

Dean called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Dean made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Jim seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Water:** Ben said, so far so good. Avery has been doing the water testing for the last two weeks. Pierless was here for the annual well inspection and got the report on that. Ben said, his office is all cleaned out.

There was small discussion over Stouder Services agreement. Jim said, let's continue moving forward and get a final draft so Avery can have a certified operator working alongside him for two years at water and one year at wastewater.

Ben informed the council he composed a letter and sent it to IDEM stating his last day will be June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Wastewater:** Ben and Avery spoke with Pete from Alliance. Pete is more than willing to come out and assist/help Avery with whatever he is needing during this transition phase.

As far as operations at the wastewater, we are still having some issues with the septic hauler from a couple of months ago. Ben said he called the inspector last week and notified IDEM of the issues that are still occurring.

Ben mentioned he will be canceling his EPA account and get Avery his own and the same will go for the net DNR.

Avery and Tina will correlate times to work together and go over testing items.

Ben said, he felt really well talking with Eddy (our IDEM inspector). Eddy told Ben, you are turning over a well maintained and well-kept treatment plant and Avery shouldn't have any headaches starting out. Ben stated, he thinks he is turning over a good facility and Avery will do alright.

Dean asked Ben to approach the front. Dean said, the town would like to show you our appreciation to you and your service of twenty-two years and presented Ben with a plaque.

**Community Development:** MacKenzie informed the council that her and Jessica will be meeting with Bill Murray and Shannon Oaks at 9:30am tomorrow. They are with Vibrant Communities and wanted to go over an Action Plan that we have prepared together.

**Maintenance:** Jim said, Matt is ill and he's been ill for the past couple of days. I know the maintenance department has done some patching.

Jim announced the amended lawn mowing ordinance. The part the was amended was the service for having the maintenance department mow resident's/business's lawns. Jim made a motion to waive the second reading. Dean seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to waive the second reading. Dean made a motion to approve the amended lawn mowing ordinance. Jim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the amended lawn mowing ordinance was unanimously approved.

**Marshal:** Ray said we have not had anymore graffiti anywhere.

There was a home in town that was tee-peed over the weekend.

Ray stated they believe they know who broke into the concession stands. The police are still dealing with that matter.

Be prepared to start hearing fireworks. Robert said, last year he passed out flyers stating the rules. He may do that again this year with times that are allowed for fireworks to be lit off along with dates.

**Park:** Vernon said things are going well for the park.

Vernon presented a quote from U-Line to the council. The cost is \$584.00 and this is for toiletry items at the park restrooms. Vernon believes this should get us through the end of the year. Dean made a motion to approve the expense from U-Line. Jim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote this was unanimously approved.

Vernon stated the health department is coming out tomorrow. He said he spent all afternoon cleaning and getting ready for them. Dean said, let us know if there are any problems.

Vernon reported to the council that Austin did spread some limestone on the driveway.

**Clerk Treasurer:** Just to get you guys thinking about this for the future. We have to figure out how we want to run the concession stand. Whether the town will have involvement or the leagues that use our fields. Eventually, we will need a contract agreement stating how we plan on operating. Craig can make us one once we get this figured out. This item was tabled.

MacKenzie gave the council the amended employee handbook. MacKenzie explained that her and Vernon created a job description together and Vernon was okay with these terms. Dean made a motion to accept the amended employee handbook with the new job description for the park. Jim seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the amended employee handbook was adopted and accepted.

MacKenzie gave the council an updated retroactive salary ordinance that they wanted in place for the June payroll. An employee meeting was held on May 30<sup>th</sup> and these terms were discussed. MacKenzie made the amended changes on the salary ordinance with the distributions. This changed where employees (Avery, Vernon, and Austin) were to be paid out of. Jim made a motion to accept and adopt the amended salary ordinance. Dean seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the retroactive salary ordinance was approved and adopted.

**New Business:** Rick started by bringing everyone up to speed on the CCMG. Pulver is officially done paving. Cindy Court, Larimer, and Oak are complete along with the three alleys the council agreed to have repaved.

Rick told the council he was informed that there were some upset residents back in Timber Valley. He started by saying, we did the asphalt because concrete would have been four times more expensive than the asphalt. We would have had to pull out all of the existing concrete then fill it with six inches of concrete. What we spent with Pulver to do the asphalt was about \$23,000, if we would have done concrete it would have been \$94,000. The town would not have been able to do the work on the designated alleys either if concrete was an option. We were able to repair more roadways. MacKenzie was concerned about the cost of everything.

Another concern I heard about the asphalt is that it's too hot. It will be when it's first down because it's black. As it grays out like all of the other roads, you will see it becomes cooler and less irritable for humans and pets. I spoke with several contractors personally and they informed me that most communities they are working with are using asphalt for roads.

It was then asked, Timber Valley residents, does anyone want to speak or comment? Ryan Lecount started by asking, do we plan to do the rest of Timber Valley is asphalt and make it more uniform? It looks silly. Rick said, I cannot answer that, this is more of a Matt question. When we first started working on this CCMG I asked Matt about this and asphalt was the choice. Jim mentioned, this is a State funded match grant so the State paid for 75% and the town had to match 25% of the funds, or else we would never be able to do anything like this on our own. Unfortunately, this isn't something that we can all do at one time. Ryan said, it's kind of like the old Johnny Cash song, One at a Time. Rick stated, the town does what they can in sections or else they wouldn't do any. Ryan said, at the last board meeting I left it was discussed the whole neighborhood getting redone, that was in April of 2022. I didn't know if any attempt was made prior to this getting done to the residents, do you want it done one piece at a time? Jim asked, would you rather us have done nothing or something? Claire Tarala said, there was a complete lack of communication. (In redoing the minutes MacKenzie was unable to verify whether Claire said "it was" or "it wasn't" in the newsletter. While doing the minutes MacKenzie went back and looked at the newsletter and it does state in there what roads are getting redone and that they were to begin mid-April, when the town was first alerted). Claire said, they started working on it on the day of the garage sales. They pulled in with their trucks without even talking to us. The communication was awful. MacKenzie said, yes, I remember speaking with Claire that day and I wasn't even aware that Pulver was in town and preparing to start. They were not supposed to begin until after the week of the garage sales. (While revising minutes MacKenzie looked up the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 council meeting minutes and it states in there before the park section, "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). Claire said, it would not have been that difficult to write a letter to everyone in that subdivision. MacKenzie apologized and said this is eye opening and a learning experience for her. If we cannot get it in the newsletter in time then we will definitely post more on the town page or facebook to try and alert everyone in town what is going on.

Jim mentioned, we have meetings twice a month and no one attends. There was a special meeting in August and we didn't even know about it said Amber. (While revising minutes MacKenzie did look back and we had to call an emergency meeting to award the bid winner and sign paperwork so we could move forward with the CCMG). Amber said, we don't have any sidewalks and it's way too hot for pets and children, this would have been a perk of having concrete. We don't like the way it looks. Tonya Jaberg was able to get the town to replace the concrete in her driveway and it looks great. (While revising minutes MacKenzie looked up the reason for Jaberg's concrete and it was due to having to dig up a water main because she had a major leak). Amber said, I can't imagine concrete being as much as asphalt. It's the price of concrete and for the labor that goes along with it. Someone asked if we go quotes for concrete when preparing for the CCMG. Jim said, we did not get a quote for the concrete. We knew right off the bat that it would have been too expensive. If you want to start a "Go Fund Me" account,

as you get money, we can put up a contract. A woman in the back (MacKenzie didn't get her name) said to Jim, don't be like that.

Someone mentioned that there is a spot in Cindy Court that is already collecting water in the middle. Rick said he is aware and he is keeping his eye on that. It was discussed again, that the residents of Timber Valley would have rather us not to have messed with it. Jim said, he gets that, but we cannot do the entire subdivision at one time, the money isn't there for that. Amber said, you talk about beautification and it doesn't look nice back there.

Someone asked, was there any reaching out to Ozinga? Jim said no, that is for a separate cause. This is an Eagle Scout project and the scout is the one getting a discount for his project from them.

It was stated there are some bad spots in that subdivision. The subdivision was built in the 90's and is still relatively new. Jim mentioned, Larimer (one of the roads that just got redone) was concrete and is 51 years old. Claire said, in regards to the subdivision there are major drainage issues. There's water standing in Travis Court, the sides, and it makes things deteriorate much quicker when there's constant standing water after a good rain. Claire said, we brought the drainage issue up back in April, let's try to fix the source of the problem. Jim said, that isn't lost in the works and it needs to be looked into. A lady from Timber Valley (MacKenzie did not get her name) said, talked about the negative impacts of asphalt. It smells, it doesn't look as nice, kids and dogs play out there, and it leaves black everywhere. Jim said, we can come up with a plan to have the whole subdivision redone but it might take up to 10 years. Amber said, you could have patched with concrete, it would have looked fine. Jim said, patching with concrete is just like a band aid. Amber said, am I not thinking about this right? Jim said, why spend the money just to band aid it? Amber said, the concrete is the solution. Someone asked, what is the longevity of asphalt verses concrete? Rick said, asphalt is 10-15 years and concrete is 20-25 years. It's obvious concrete lasts longer. Claire said, another concern, at the rate of how things are getting fixed, how long will be waiting to get it fixed/repaired? I don't know, I just think again the communication could have been better. MacKenzie and the council were in full agreement communication could have been better. Rick said, weather was a hindering factor on it getting pushed back as much as it did.

Ryan asked, what funds can be used for this? MacKenzie said, MVH, MVH Restricted, Local Road and Street, and Edit. Rick said, MVH is gas tax revenue. The nice thing about the CCMG they help out with 75% of the cost because we are a population under 10,000. Ryan asked, how much money does the town receive in MVH? MacKenzie said, she doesn't know off of the top of her head, she'd have to look at the revenue report but she doesn't even think MVH took in \$26,000 for 2022.

As a community we need to have a better plan of action instead of being surprised. Amber said, we are the only ones that use that road and it sucks. It's just upsetting. Even though we may not agree with the end solution I do think it helps coming and hearing the information and understanding things. This was a process. A resident asked about a town agenda. MacKenzie explained, we do not formally adopt our agendas. I do post a notice on the door 24 hours in advance with items I know we will discuss. As you can see, we are laid back and allow everyone to speak that comes with questions or concerns.

Ryan added, I will say the minutes are very detailed.

Karen Martin started by saying thank you to the town council and its employees. Karen brought in doughnuts for everyone. Karen went on to state the garage sales were a fantastic turn out and she appreciates MacKenzie and Jessica for all of their help. The girls were kind and said, if you need more of anything don't hesitate to let us know and we'll get you more print outs or whatever we need. Jim said, we don't do everything right. We just try to do the best we can. Communication is key and we are always open to suggestions and ideas.

Jim said, thank you all for coming.

MacKenzie asked about the Cable Electric bill for the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Club. Dean and Jim agreed to help pay \$2,500 of the bill out of the CCD fund. The RDC agreed to pay \$2,000 out of the TIF.

Jessica updated everyone about the Back to School Bash taking place August 5<sup>th</sup>. The event is from 11am-3pm. Our goal is to provide every child that comes to this event in the Fairfield School District with a backpack full of the basic school supplies. It's been talked about at our meetings that we will split any donations raised for back packs in a blessing, overdue school lunches, and save some monies for the following year to make this an annual event. There will be bounce houses, food, Kona Ice, cloggers, and a dunk tank. This is supposed to be a fun celebration before sending the kids back off to school. Any donations or people that want to be involved/volunteer please let us know. We will take whatever we can get.

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

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

