


TOWN OF
Millersburg
Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024

Attendees: MacKenzie Taylor, Larry & Alice Randolph, Dean Smith, Dana Rutter, Ray Rodriguez, John Veenstra, Haley Hurst, Rita Van Voorst, and Eric Ivory.

Dean called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Dean made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 28, 2024. Larry seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business: Eric Ivory is here from Borden Waste Away to discuss trash renewal contract. The current trash contract will expire in June 2024. Eric mentioned, we've had a couple of conversations want to see how we can approach an extension to the contract/construct a new one. Current rate is 13.00 and we look at the municipal cost index and that's about a 3% increase. That would take the customer to \$13.39. MacKenzie stopped Eric and said that's what residents are already paying as of January 1, 2024. Eric said, ok typically the rate increases are effective July 1st. MacKenzie apologized to the audience, council, and anyone that reads these minutes. Eric assured MacKenzie not to worry, we can fix this.

Haley wanted to let Eric know that they are very happy with their trash services. Haley said they've been doing some home improvement projects. The trash they set out one Tuesday was full and when the driver came to collect their trash, some of it didn't make it all the way in the truck and the driver got out and picked it all up and put it in the truck. Haley said, she really appreciated that. Haley was positive it was Larry from Borden who picked everything up. Eric said, thank you for letting me know. We do have an incentive program for our employees to show them our appreciation of the job they do, so I will definitely make sure he receives the proper acknowledgment for doing this. If there's ever any other drivers or there's things you notice whether it's a like or dislike, let us know, because the feedback really is important to us.

Water: MacKenzie mentioned Avery is at training for the rest of this week. We have been communicating since he's been down there. He relayed some information about the lead line survey that will need to be complete in October. He asked for excel sheets of the customers and I was able to get that for him.

Community Development: MacKenzie told the council she met with Mae Kratzer and Zach Dripps from Elkhart County to discuss the Stellar Grant opportunity. This is a unique grant. This

would consist of Millersburg applying for a grant with other municipalities in Elkhart County. The grant funds are pretty substantial for this. The biggest things we thought that would apply for the town are incorporating a bike trail and adding some cross walks/sidewalks/safety measures to protect the residents and children. The grant application is a process and it sounds like it will take a year before everything can be submitted.

I would like everyone to start thinking about a spring newsletter. Any information, ideas, important things coming up. Let's try to get this all collected in mid-April so we can send something out within that time frame.

Maintenance: Matt texted Dean that he couldn't be here tonight. He told Dean that he is getting ready for some mowing. Dana asked about leaf pick-up being done one more time? Haley said, there are some leaves near the school parking lot, I'm not sure if it's their jurisdiction or not. Some streets really need their leaves picked up again. Dean said we can find out and bring this to their attention about leaf pick up.

Marshal: Ray gave the Copsgear quote to the council to have the new Durango equipped. This includes all of the trade in value for the Taurus. We got 4800 off of the quote. Dean said he doesn't have an issue with it and it's something that needs to be done. MacKenzie said there's funds to support this. Dean made a motion to approve the Copsgear quote. Larry seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved to equip the new Durango by Copsgear.

Chaplain John Veenstra is working on getting a grant for us. We are asking for a state and local grant. John said he's writing one into the Elkhart County Community Foundations. Then, the other one is for radio's, that's the state grant. With the state grant you have to ask for twice as much, so we really need 3 radios but will ask for 6 because they only tend to give you half. The local grants are relatively quick grants. The state grant will take a little bit of time. MacKenzie, not that she needs anymore on her plate, but was willing to help with the state grant.

Park: MacKenzie said, Vernon couldn't be here tonight. He had prior obligations. I wanted to put a bug in your ear, we don't have to make any rash decisions but this is something to really think about. Vernon talked to that guy about the 2 acres of land again. Vernon suggested 50,000, the guy said no. Vernon suggested 60,000 and the guy said no. Vernon suggested 70,000 and the guy seemed okay with that. Vernon said the gentleman isn't in a hurry to sell by any means. MacKenzie said, this would be great to have as our park grows with additional parking and the three large events we have out there. Also, another nice place to come into the park off of SR-13. Then hopefully, traffic would lessen on Cripe and Larimer Drive. Just think about it, I'll look

around at our funds and see what we have. It'd be good to get an engineer out there to look at everything too because that'll be an additional cost to put in a drive leading into the park.

Clerk Treasurer: I have February balanced but I am waiting for Suzy Bass to look over it and give me the go before I give you guys the bank rec packets.

The office will be closed next week because I'll be in Plainfield for training. Good news, I received the scholarship so my education courses of \$450.00 will be reimbursed to the Town.

I received a call on Tuesday towards the end of the day and the Town will be getting its audit. The auditor will be here tomorrow to begin. He is aware that I'll be in training next week but I'd like to give him a key and my passcode so he can come into the building and complete his work. The council was fine with him doing this.

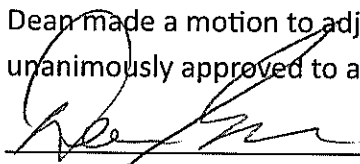
Lastly, I have the Travel Amendment. The Amendment of Ordinance 2005-2024-01. A Retroactive ordinance that takes place on March 11, 2024. An Ordinance to define policies for travel, lodging, meals, take home vehicles, uniforms, and cell phone use. The amended changes were within the meal allowance raising it from 25.00 to 40.00 a day for meals if training does not provide them for you. Dean made a motion to waive the second reading. Larry seconded the motion. Upon voice vote it was unanimously approved the waive the second reading. Dean made a motion to adopt the travel amendment. Dana seconded the motion. Upon voice vote the travel amendment was unanimously approved.

Old Business: Ray said he spoke with a realtor company about the property on the corner of Washington and SR-13. The company is going to clean up the property up and get it ready to sell. Larry said good, that property is a mess. Ray said he'd call the realtor tomorrow and get a date of when they think the clean up will happen.

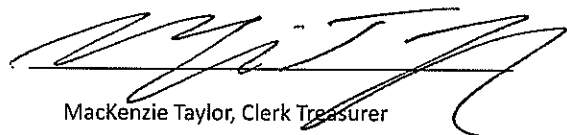
Rita said, there's a Farmer's Day meeting next Tuesday at 6pm if anyone wants to come.

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

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



Dean Smith, Council President



MacKenzie Taylor, Clerk Treasurer