

## MEETING MINUTES

108 E Randolph ST., LaPaz, IN 46537  
Thursday December 8, 2022 6:00 PM

### Council Members

Roger Ecker, Pres.  
Ryan Young  
Cathy Welch

**Council Members present:** Roger Ecker, Ryan Young, Cathy Welch

**Council Members absent** – none

Town Clerk- Treasurer – present

Town Attorney – present

**Call to order** – meeting started at 6:02 PM

**Patrons:** Paul Tyler, Jerry Auer, Steve Barber, Matt Haskins, Steve Stacy, Amber Godlewski

**Approval of Minutes:** Ecker made a motion to approve the minutes from November 10, 2022 as written. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

**Old Business: Park:** Cathy Welch gave a report of the meeting with Mike Reese of the Troyer Group. He gave drawings of the new park design, broken into 3 phases. Phase one the ball T-ball diamond, baseball diamond, dug outs, concession stand; old basketball courts will be demolished. The current pavilions will stay. The playground area will be updated with fiber mulch and newer equipment. Two pickle ball courts will be installed. The cost of phase one will be \$222,750.00. Break down of the cost of phase two and three were also included in the report. Welch asked the attorney about having a form for volunteers to sign for liability. A waiver is optional but the insurance will cover any accidents. Clerk stated if the town received donations parts of phase two can be added into phase one. Ecker stated the park survey is completed and submitted for title work. He will get with the township when title work is done. Wagner said he sent the letter to the Troyer Group stating the reasons why the council went to a park authority verses park board.

**Fire District:** Ecker reported that at his time things are at a standstill. He stated Polk Township might be interested in joining. Will be trying to go forward in 2023. Chief Matt Haskins gave a report on the fire department calls for the year. Clerk asked the council if they are renewing contract with fire department for 2023. Chief Haskins is to send a copy of the contract for council to sign at next meeting. He stated the only change is the request for more pay for runs for firefighters. He questioned the word "shall" in the contract. Attorney Wagner he did not think the fire chief would not be liable, the entity would be liable. Haskins was directed to consult the Volunteer Firefighters Association. Ecker asked the clerk about how to get to pay the fire department the \$20,000.00 voted on in March 2021 since it was not used in the purchase of the new fire truck. Clerk stated that the town needs an invoice in the town's name to pay or the township can pay the invoice and the town can reimburse the township for \$20,000.00. Chief Haskins will look into it. Clerk asked the attorney as for what SBOA would allow since the money has been appropriated. Discussion was done. Clerk would need a good paper trail to pay.

**Minute Correction:** Clerk found an error in the minutes from the meeting on June 2, 2022. In the section under Thayer Street Extension; the street name should read Troyer Street. Ecker made a motion to make the change in the minutes, with a signed name and dated the change. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

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**Police Department:** no report

**MVH:** The town is ready to put the 2000 Dodge dump truck up 4-sale. Tyler is to get a description for the clerk to advertise the sale.

**Sewer Dept.:** An issue came up 3 weeks ago with the discharge from the LaVille School. Zac Moore dumped 250 gallons of antifreeze into the system. It created a foam on the ditch. Auer had to run another rotator to put more Oxygen into the ditch. The BOD tests that Auer and Stacy ran showed up the chemicals. Stacy had to put it into the report to the state. It was stated this was the second time the school personal has dumped chemicals into the sewer system and caused problems. Ecker asked to be called immediately if this happens again in the future. He will go directly to the school board with complaints. He asked for dates of the first two incidents to be sent to him and copy the council in the email. Ecker will go talk with Zac Moore and the superintendent of the schools. Stacy asked why the school doesn't have a spill proof around the drain. Clerk asked if the school should be fined for this incident that created a health hazard. Auer stated it is in our ordinance that they can be fined.

**New Business:** Ecker took a moment to thank all the employees of the town, the fire department, ambulance service and the attorney for their work throughout the year. He especially thanked the clerk for her efforts and the good results of the town's SBOA audit for years 2018 – 2021.

**Christmas lighting Contest:** Ecker asked the council to judge homeowners Christmas decorations again this year. It was decided Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> will be the judging of the lights for the residents of the town. Top three winners will receive a prize. A discussion was made on having a contest that would be judge by the citizens voting on the winner. It would raise money for the town's holiday lights by casting a vote. The council will do more on it for 2023 contest. Ecker is to get donations for the prizes.

**Red Cross:** Ecker asked the council members if anyone was interested in representing LaPaz on the Marshall County Red Cross board. No one volunteered.

**Memorial Donation:** Ecker made a motion to contribute \$50.00 in the name of Donella Emmons, a recently deceased former council member, to the firemen fund for Christmas Lights for the town. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Ecker said the Emmons family appreciated the memorial message on the town's LED sign.

**Opioid Settlement:** The clerk informed the council that the town received the first payment from the settlement for \$1,835.53. The clerk had asked SBOA if the town can give the money directly to the Union-North Ambulance service for Narcan medication. She is waiting to hear back from SBOA on the answer. Ecker made a motion if SBOA gives approval to give the funds to the ambulance service, to do so. Young second the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion Carried 3-0.

**End of Year Meeting:** Ecker stated all the paperwork has been submitted to the state for the street project for Community Crossings. The contract needs to be submitted by January 31st. The council needs to discuss and vote on. He asked that the meeting to be held on Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

**Patron Comments:** none

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**Attorney Update:** Golf Cart Ordinance: Wagner asked if the council had any changes to the revised ordinance he gave to the council at the last meeting. The only change was to ask to change no driver's license required in the ordinance. Ecker made a motion to pass the ordinance on the first reading with the additional change in driver license requirement. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion Carried 3-0.

Capital Assets Ordinance: Wagner said he is still working on it for next meeting.

**Financials:** Ecker made a motion to pay APV vouchers from November 11th – December 8, 2022 APV #'s 3930 - 3976 for a total of \$47,416.61. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion Carried 3-0.

**Clerk Update:** Dove reported she received \$755.55 from the TRECS filing. She will work on updating the files for January when tax returns will start filing. She sent 30 delinquent letters at the same time as the billing for sewer. She had some payments in response to the letters. Three accounts were sent to the attorney. One account is out of state and the attorney doesn't expect a response. Two accounts were to a business that went out of business. The attorney will try, but doesn't expect payment.

The clerk gave an update on the new security system.

Keystone Workshop; the clerk stated it was very informative on the year end process for accounting.

The system will have new features available in 2023 regarding records on cloud.

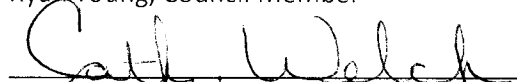
**Adjournment:** President Ecker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Young seconded the motion. Roll call: Ecker-aye, Young-aye, Welch-aye. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

  
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Roger Ecker, Council President

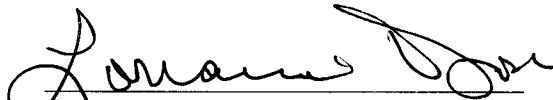
12-22-2022  
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Ryan Young, Council Member

12-20-2022  
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Cathy Welch, Council Member

12-20-2022  
date

  
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Lorraine Dove, Clerk – Treasurer

12-20-2022  
date