

**REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 5:00 P.M.  
KENTLAND TOWN HALL**

**Attending: Debby Shufflebarger, President, David Michael Rowe and Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman, Council Members, Rebecca Goddard, Attorney and Judy King, Clerk/Treasurer**

**The meeting opened by saying the Pledge of Allegiance**

**A spokesperson from AT&T was present to answer questions on the specs that they had presented to the Town for placement of antennas. The Town is inquiring if they are really putting 9 or 10 antennas on the water tower. He stated, "That this is pretty common practice to put that many antennas in one place". The board will take all of this under advisement.**

**BUILDING COMMISSIONER**

**Matt Wittenborn was not present but sent the following:**

**Slow month**

**Zero permits issued**

**Contacted Dollar General in regards to drainage issues at Darrell Fredrickson's property.**

**TOWN MANAGER**

**Ricky Hughes reported on the following:**

**Additional power has been requested for the Baseball Concession. Ricky has not received a cost from Hopkins but was wondering if the Town would be paying for this or it will be a shared cost with Baseball. Mike Rowe said he would like to see baseball pay part of this with additional money that will be coming to them from Newton County Economic Development.**

**Also, in the baseball concessions, there has been a drain issue. Ricky will get a quote from Harmons and Butch Wang.**

**Southside Park fencing is complete except for a small section that will have to wait for warmer weather.**

**Firestone account is set up and the town can purchase through them.**

**New samplers are installed at the sewage plant.**

**David will be scheduling his test within the next few weeks.**

**New tables are needed at the Community Center. Ricky will check out the cost on this.**

**Debby asked Ricky about the garage behind the Town Hall and the progress on it. Ricky thought it would be less expensive to side it, new garage door and windows instead of tearing it down. All three board members decided they would like to have it removed. Ricky will be working on the removal.**

## **CHIEF OF POLICE**

**Jamie Wirtz reported on the following:**

**He's been checking out properties within the town that need cleanup. The Franklin property on Iroquois Drive was the topic again. Jamie will be looking into the court order on this property.**

**Jamie will work with Attorney Goddard on a Golf Cart Ordinance.**

## **FIRE CHIEF**

**Matt Wittenborn was not present but sent the following:**

**6 Fire Calls**

**19 Medical Calls**

**1 Training Meeting**

**1 Business Meeting**

**NIPSCO will be sending someone for training on electrical and gas fires**

**Pagers are still not working for the fireman to receive the calls**

**Matt is looking into a program to give smoke detectors at no cost to those who need them.**

## **AVIATION**

**Jim Butler reported on the following:**

**Surprisingly a good month for fuel sales**

**Working on the next grant funding project**

**Pay request that was submitted to Judy was incorrect on page 10. Jim gave Judy the corrected page for payment. There is no cost to the town for this pay request.**

**Mike Rowe inquired if the Airport had internet service from Vertical Horizon. Judy responded that the airport is still paying for internet service through Bright Speed. Mike asked Judy to look into why Vertical Horizon has not taken service to the Airport yet.**

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Mike Davis reported on the following:**

**The project at Batton Park has begun and a lot of dirt is being moved. If anyone inquires this project will be referred to Autumn Trace Senior Living Community. Costs will range from \$2,900.00 to \$4,000.00 per month. It will employ 11 individuals. Tim Meyers, Newton County Economic Development Director will be placing a billboard on U.S. 41 for this project.**

**Casey Ward and Laura Robbins are continuing to look into child care services for the Task Force.**

**Endowment fund has raised over \$200,000.00**

**Debby asked Mike if he would be available to attend a Broadband Webinar**

## **ATTORNEY**

**Rebecca Goddard reported on the following:**

**Becky inquired if the board would like to move forward on renewing Terry Hafstrom's contract for 2023. The answer from the board was "yes" at this time.**

The property at 306 Owen Street will need two appraisals or two market analysis and cannot be advertised for sale for less than the average of the two appraisal or two analysis. Debby will be working on this.

#### **CLERK**

Judy King reported on the following:

Judy presented "Old Outstanding Checks Considered Void" to the board for approval. Debby made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-01-11 and Mike Rowe seconded the motion.

Doc's Lawn & Garden presented bids for lawn care at the Town Hall and the ball fields for 2023. A motion was made by Mike Rowe to approve the bids and increase the Town Hall by \$75.00 and it was seconded by Debby Shufflebarger.

Judy presented the board with the 2022 cleanup. A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to approve.

Judy reported that an incident at the Depot recently might indicate an increase in the deposit. No cleanup was done, trash was not removed, furniture was all moved and 3 folding chairs are missing. Right now the charge for rental at the Depot is \$100.00 with a deposit of \$50.00 for a total of \$150.00 and if cleaned up they will receive the \$50.00 back. Judy will see if a resolution will need to be updated for an increase in the deposit that is requested by the board.

Mike Rowe inquired if the answering service had been resolved at the Town Hall. Judy replied that it had not been taken care of. Mike will have Kyle Mark stop in and see if he can't help with the situation.

Debby Shufflebarger inquired if Judy had a list of repairs that are needed for the Town Hall. Judy will be working on that.

#### **PRIVILIDGE OF THE FLOOR**

Jacob Shufflebarger, Jefferson Township Trustee reported that the tanker was on order for the fire department that he will be paying for. Jacob also mentioned that if funds are needed for the swimming pool repairs he could probably help with that.

T.J. Firkins inquired if the new hours for closing on Friday afternoon at the Town Hall were set in stone. Debby Shufflebarger referred that question to Clerk, Judy King. Judy King replied "yes, pretty much". Judy than asked T.J. Firkins "Do you have a problem or issue with that"? T.J. Firkins replied "No".

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

With the departure of Julian Elson, who was on the Community Correction Board, a motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to appoint Jamie Wirtz in his place.

W.B. Mowing will be taking care of the highways and mowing again in 2023.

The Park Board is pretty much inactive and Debby Shufflebarger will reach out to a few of the members to see if they are still interested. She would like to discuss this in February.

A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to approve the minutes from "Special Meeting" on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to approve the claims.

A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve the financial statement.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Debby Shufflebarger will be having a conference call on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 with BakerTilley and asked if Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman, Judy King and Ricky Hughes would also be available. Judy will advertise the meeting.

There is a lot of dirt being moved at Batton Park and the town will need to decide what needs to be done with it. Mike Davis asked that they check with Matt Whitaker or Jason Yoder to see what they will be needing before we get rid of it all.

Mike Rowe brought up the water bills that are not being received. Mike would like us to look into possibly changing to a bigger piece of paper and putting into an envelope. Judy King said they had done this for years this way and because of the cost that's why they went with the post card size. Mike would like to see comparison of cost.

Jamie Wirtz and Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman will be getting with Vast to get business cards issued.

With the departure of James Sammons a motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and second by Mike Rowe to appoint Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to the Redevelopment Board.

Debby Shufflebarger has received information in regards to handicap ramps from the State of Indiana. She will look further into this.

Being no further business, a motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to adjourn the meeting.

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Debby Shufflebarger, President

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David Michael Rowe, Member

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Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman, Member

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Judy M. King, Clerk/Treasurer

