

**REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12TH, 2023 5:00 P.M.
KENTLAND TOWN HALL**

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

The meeting opened by saying the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Meeting for Wastewater/Drinking Water Program Grant:

Edwin Buswell, from KIRPC spoke about the application that the Town of Kentland is applying for with OCRA for \$700,000.00. The Town is working on solutions for better water quality for the residents. Site visits to Remington and Wolcott have concluded that a filtration plant would be needed. The cost would be over \$5,000,000.00 and the Town would be responsible for this cost. The Town is looking to see how much they can retain from grants before reaching out to other sources for loans. Edwin asked if the public had any questions. Mara Davis asked if this would benefit the entire Town and get rid of the rust and smell. Rachel Runge, Commonwealth Engineers, answered Mara with, "A filtration plant will take care of the issues that you asked about. There may be an adjustment period after the filtration plant is up and going to clean the lines before you notice a significant difference".

Public Meeting for Water Rates for Utility Receipts Tax in HEA 1002-2020:

Debby Shufflebarger read the Ordinance #2023-04-12 in the public meeting out loud to the participants. Debby asked if anyone had any questions in regards to the ordinance. No one had questions. A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve Ordinance #2023-04-12.

Bid Openings for Pool Project:

One bid was received by Reno Sys from Indianapolis, Indiana in the amount of \$159,117.00. Matt Whitaker advised the board that a decision to move forward pretty quickly would be needed for costs are going up, and this project would be more expensive if they put off a decision. They would be able to start in August of 2023 after the pool closes for the year. A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve the bid and move forward, contingent that the Town Attorney review the documents, and everything is good with her.

A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve the minutes from March 8th, 2023.

A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve the minute from Special Meeting held March 9th, 2023.

A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to approve the minutes from March 29th, 2023.

A motion was made by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman and seconded by Mike Rowe to approve the claims.

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

BUILDING COMMISSIONER:

Matt Wittenborn reported on the following:

5 Permits Issued

Received many phone calls

TOWN MANAGER

Ricky Hughes reported on the following:

Storm drains are being worked on throughout the town.

Storm drain at Meadow Lane has been repaired and will repair the road soon.

Gateway Cable snapped on the water tower to read meters. Ricky has a quote from J&K Communications in the amount of \$8,815.03. A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve the repairs.

Dumpsters have been ordered for cleanup day on April 29th, 2023. Ricky will put together a few flyers to distribute at the grocery store and a few other businesses around town.

Taking applications for pool help.

Faucets have been replaced in the pool restrooms.

POLICE CHIEF

Jamie Wirtz reported on the following:

115 Calls

73 of those calls were answered by the Kentland Police Department

Wayne Franklin property is still not cleaned up. The board will give Mr. Franklin until May 19th, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. to clean up this property. If not in compliance, the Town employees will be at his address on May 20th, at 7:00 A.M. to remove everything in his yard and dispose of it.

Jamie would like to see the Community Center totally lit up all around the building. This would keep unwanted visitors away.

Jamie has a Business Information Sheet that he will distribute to all the businesses in Kentland. He will have them return the sheets to the Town Hall and he will gather the information for the Police and Fire.

FIRE CHIEF

Matt Wittenborn reported on the following:

4 Fire Calls

24 Medical Calls
1 Business Meeting
1 Training Meeting
Tanker is almost completed

AVIATION

Jim Butler was not present

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mike Davis reported on the following:

A big thank you to Town Employees, Chandlor and whomever that also helped at the Southside Park.

Mike was shown the drawings for the new pavilion to be installed at Batton Park. Mike though possibly there could be a community build on this project to save funds.

Task Force will be updating pictures.

ATTORNEY

Rebecca Goddard was not present

CLERK

Judy King reported on the following:

Judy had the contracts for Jim Smith and Maxon Murphy for the farm leases.

OLD BUSINESS

The only business that Debby had was to change the second meeting of the month that is for "Ordinances" to 4:15 P.M. instead of meeting at 5:00 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS

COVID Pay for 2023, is no longer being paid by the Town. If someone should become ill they will have to use their personal time or vacation time for this. A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve pay from the individuals personal or vacation time.

If calls are received on the dirt from Batton Park, it is not free. Kory Muller is charging \$100.00 to load and haul within the Towns City Limits. It is only the dirt that is closest to the ditch. Some dirt was taken to the Southside Park this week. Debby and also Mike Davis were approached by a single individual to take the abundance of dirt. Debby would like Ricky Hughes to reach out to the County first to see if they might need it before letting it go to an individual.

Dave Jordan from Jordan Manufacturing was present and asking for approval on his Tax Abatement that the Town issued to him on April 11th, 2018 for 5 years. This will be Mr. Jordan's last year for the abatement. A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve the abatement.

Jim Schoen from Hoosier Associates was present to review the Towns Annual Insurance policy.

Matt Whitaker from Whitaker Engineering said that he was still looking for someone to complete the work for the storm projects on U.S. 24 and First Street and the Third Street parking lot. Matt also brought drawings for a 2 Stage Ditch Project north of Town, between 1500 South and Bailie Street. If land was obtained and the 2 Stage Ditch was complete, this will hold an additional 8 to 12 million gallons of water. The Batton Park project has added an additional 2 million gallons of water storage. Mike Rowe showed a video from 1400 South to the Kindig Ditch with blockage. This would be the responsibility of Newton County and not the Town of Kentland. Beau Watkins was present and said that the last cleanup in this area was in 2002.

Rachel Runge from Commonwealth Engineers gave an overview and update on the loan funding that has been sent in for the Town of Kentland, if they should move forward with a filtration plant or other updates for the water. Rachel also asked if Ricky has spoken with anyone from the Alliance in regards to the Lead Service Line Inventory. Ricky responded and has Rick Purdy communicating with the Alliance on this. Regional Planning Meetings are a requirement for funding. Judy King will look into this,


PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Newton County Economic Development will be hosting a "Business Portal" on April 20th, 2023 at Cast Park. If a business would like to post job hiring's, they will have someone at the Depot to do this for them.

Newton County Community Services has been in contact with Debby in regards to the Nutrition Site that was to be at the Kentland Depot but delayed due to COVID.

A developer has been in contact with Debby in regards to 7 acres on the west part of Town. This will need to come before the Planning Commission and Debby will have to abstain from voting on this, due to her involvement.

Being no further business, a motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by Mike Rowe to adjourn the meeting.


Debby Shufflebarger, President

David Michael Rowe, Member


Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman, Member

Attest:


Judy M. King, Clerk/Treasurer