

**REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 14TH, 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

The meeting opened with a Public Hearing for the Proposed Water Project. Edwin Buswell from K-IRPC introduced a Resolution Of The Town Council Of The Town Of Kentland, Authorizing The Submittal Of The Wastewater/Drinking Water Program Application To OCRA. He also explained that The Town of Kentland is looking at an OCRA Grant in the amount of \$700,000.00 and the local match that would come from an SRF loan would be \$3,581,500.00. Questions from Mara Davis in the audience was “how long would the process take”? Edwin responded with 6 months to find an engineer and 18 months to finish the project. Mara also asked “what if they don’t received the grant”. Edwin told her that we could reapply for the funding again through OCRA on the second go around. Those were the only questions and paperwork was signed and given to Edwin.

A motion was made by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to approve the May 10th, 2023 minutes.

A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve the minutes from the May 24th, 2023 minutes.

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

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

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Matt Wittenborn was not present but sent the following:

9 Permits issued for a total of \$589.00

2 Certificate of Occupancy were issued

302 E. Maple Street

101 E. Carroll Street

2 Inspections at Autumn Trace have been completed

TOWN MANAGER

Ricky Hughes reported on the following:

Paving of the streets will begin on the 15th and 16th of June. Grindings will be used for the alleys again and the County will roll them.

Ricky ordered equipment for Pickle Ball and it has come in. He will get with Mark Mayhew on this.

Ricky has not heard back from Matt Whitaker on the 2 storm water projects that need to be done. No bids were received for this.

Ricky is trying to find someone local to work on the sign at the Community Center. It is not working at this time.

Responses have been prepared for IDEM and Ricky is working with The Alliance on the last item.

Ricky inquired about the shed at the old T-Ball field and what the board would like to do with it. Debby said she was approached by someone that would like to have it. Judy King responded that it cannot just be given away, but would need to be advertised and sold. Judy will work on getting this advertised.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Jamie Wirtz reported on the following:

174 Service Calls

122 Calls were taken by the Kentland Police Department

3 letters were sent out by Attorney Goddard on ordinance violations and 1 has complied. Jamie will get with Becky when she returns to see what action needs to be taken.

Good response on the information sheets that were given to the businesses.

Jamie spoke with the homeowners at 102 E. Graham in regards to their dogs and not being leashed. Jamie felt that the situation has been taken care of and there should be no more issues.

New tires are needed on Jamie's car. He will get with Ricky and see if they can find some at a lower cost.

Jamie also received a quote from Axon Enterprise for body cams at a price of \$2,396.90 per year for the next 5 years. A motion was made by Mike Rowe and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to approve and order.

FIRE CHIEF

Matt Wittenborn was not present but sent the following:

3 Fire calls/2 mutual aid

2 Trainings

1 Business meeting

3 PR Events

30 Medical calls

New addition to the fire department is Maliki Alexander.

New tanker almost completed

AVIATION

Jim Butler reported on the following:

Funds from Newton County Economic Development have not been spent and would like their approval to update a few more items. Mike Rowe said he has not heard back on this, but will let Jim Butler know when he does.

Bids for paving the west ramp at the airport came in and was less than expected. Jim thinks the FAA will approve going forward because of this.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mike Davis reported on the following:

A big thank you to Matt Wittenborn for the use of the Fire House last week for their meeting and a thank you to Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman and Debby Shufflebarger for attending The Task Force Meeting.

Moving forward with the Christmas Event. May have another possible big donor to add for funding on the program.

Mike spoke with a potential business owner for a new business coming to town. Mike will no more in a week or so.

July 11th will be the next Redevelopment Meeting at 4:30 and followed by a Task Force Meeting.

ATTORNEY

Becky Goddard was not present

CLERK

Judy King had nothing to report

Cecil Whitaker from Whitaker Engineering was present and just wanted to thank the town for their business over the past few years.

OLD BUSINESS

Judy will check with Becky on the new phone system situation and where we are in the process.

BZA and Planning Commission both held meetings on June 6th in regards to 7 acres located on U.S. 24 and Lutz Street. The BZA issued an approval to the developer for a height variance and special exception to operate a grain handling facility. This approval was unanimously approved 5-0. Debby Shufflebarger advised that the decisions from the BZA are final and do not need Town Council approval. The Planning Commission voted to rezone the property to I1 (Industrial) from a B2 (Business). The vote passed 5-0. Debby Shufflebarger advised the Town Council that the Planning Commission's recommendation is to rezone the property to I1 (Industrial) and the Town Council shall vote with Debby Shufflebarger abstaining from the vote. Mike Rowe stated that these boards are in place for a reason and at the recommendation of the Planning Commission Mike Rowe made the motion to rezone and Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Mike Rowe is looking into cameras at the parks and would like to spend around \$2,500.00. A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman that no more than \$2,500.00 would be spent.

Debby brought up the property at 306 E. Owen Street and would like to see if we couldn't get it sold. Judy will talk with Becky about lowering the price and advertising it. A motion was made to set the asking price at \$4,500.00 for the property by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman.

Debby spoke with Jeff Rowe of Baker Tilly on the water rates. Baker Tilly did a rate study in January and our water department is not sustainable with our current rates. It showed that an increase of \$2.47 per minimum household would help sustain the water account. The increase can be implemented over phases. A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman to move forward with the increase over a 3 year period of time.

NEW BUSINESS

Rob Slavens has resigned from the BZA Board effective immediately. Jim Sammons has resigned from the Planning Commission also. Jim Sammons replacement will need to be a democrat to fill the board.

Casey Ward has agreed to fill the position as President for the Park Board. Along with Casey on the board, there will be Kyle Robbins who is replacing Chris Wilson and Bailey Geswein who will be replacing Damon Ward. A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by Mike Rowe to approve the new board. Also, already on the board is Jim Kiifner and Greg Hamilton.

Mike Rowe is looking into a "Adopt A Spot". Mike will be speaking with Vast on communicating this.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mara Davis asked what the new business will be that required rezoning. Debby Shufflebarger responded that it will be a grain handling facility and the owner is Patrick Molter.

Being no further business, a motion was made by Chandlor Weiss-Brinkman 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