

December 11, 2014

Be it remembered that the Versailles Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on December 11, 2014. All council members and attorney Larry Eaton were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Richard Zinz representing the Versailles Lions Club presented an idea for a Lions Club fundraiser. The Lions Club would like to hold the first annual punkin chunkin at the Tyson Memorial Sports Complex the weekend before the Pumpkin Show. Mr. Zinz informed the council that pumpkins would be launched at targets, not shot for distance. Several area schools and organizations are interested in participating. Target distance will be limited to 300 feet, with pumpkins weighing between 2-3 lbs. Participants must certify that the machine has been fired previously, and must stand 10 feet away from the machine when launching. There may be categories for kids as well. If there is any clean up required, the Lions Club will take care of it. The council agreed that the fundraiser sounded good, but informed Mr. Zinz that the town is in the process of solidifying plans for leasing the park next season. Sue Meisberger told Mr. Zinz that the council should be able to give the Lions Club an answer by the January council meeting.

Lynn Lohrum was in attendance to ask about the proposed annexation of his property. Mr. Lohrum's only concern is that his property is currently zoned for small business, and he wants to make sure the zoning stays the same. Attorney Eaton informed Mr. Lohrum that the annexation would not affect the zoning of his property.

Fire Chief Ben Sieverding reported 109 calls since he last attended a meeting. The fire department has received a grant from the Ripley County Community Foundation to purchase equipment for hose testing. The department also received a grant from Rising Sun Regional Foundation to upgrade a vehicle. The department will be hosting a state fire marshall's seminar at South Ripley. Ben said they still have not been reimbursed for the gas leak at Marathon, totaling \$7,500. Ben informed the owner of the station that they will seek legal action if the matter is not resolved soon.

Mary McCarty updated the council on the storm drain project. The information still has not been released for the disaster recovery grant. The town will need to do an updated income survey. The new guidelines for the grant will be released in February. Approximately 200-300 surveys will need to be returned to form an adequate survey.

Aimee Cornette from the Tyson Activity Center informed the council that their organization is interested in leasing the sports complex for the 2015 baseball/softball season. It was agreed that the council will meet with the Tyson Activity Center on December 30 to discuss details of the potential lease.

Marshal Joe Mann has been researching the K9 program. The ten year projected cost for the program would be approximately \$25,000, including the initial cost of \$14,500 for the dog. Marshal Mann would like to solicit donations from businesses in exchange for the business name being put on the back of the police car. Marshal Mann also suggested that the town apply to the RSRF for a grant for the program. The council would like to hold off on applying for the grant until they information on the status of the current application for the walking trails. If the council decides to implement the K9 program, Marshal Mann suggested getting a dual purpose dog that would track drugs, people, and attack on command. Marshal Mann reported an incident where he was required to visit a bed bug infested home. He would like to purchase a dryer in case the situation arises again, so that his clothes do not have to be in his home. Joe will look into the cost of purchasing a dryer versus a specialty heat box for killing bed bugs.

Superintendent Kevin Hensley reported that North Adams street has been patched. The approximate cost of replacing the sewer lines on U.S. 421 would be \$43,000. Kevin would like to get the water line going to the state park finished before the weather gets bad. Kevin will get prices for purchasing salt and speak with Gil Landwehr about the town cleaning the school parking lots.

Attorney Eaton will contact Umbaugh about doing a water and sewer rate study, and get the process started.

The council agreed unanimously to re-appoint Jim Waldo to the Ripley County Planning Commission. A hearing was held on the annexation of the Baugh, Sheets, Begley and Lohrum properties.

Steve Mathes thanked everyone involved with the Santa on the square event. Over 100 children attended. The DOT is not in favor of enforcing engine braking violations on U.S. 50. Preventing engine braking presents a safety issue to the truck drivers. Attorney Eaton will send a copy of the DOT letter to Mr. Cochran, who requested the no engine braking signs in front of his property.

The council agreed unanimously to accept the insurance renewal from Gardner Insurance. A letter was presented from Von McGuire praising the efforts of the Versailles Police Department in a recent vandalism of his property.

With no further business coming before the council, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Council President – Sue Meisberger

Attest: _____
Kiersten B. Libby, Clerk-Treasurer

Council Member – John Holzer

Council Member – Steve Mathes