

October 8, 2015

Be it remembered that the Versailles Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on October 8, 2015. Council members Steve Mathes and Sue Meisberger, and attorney Larry Eaton were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved.

Judge Cheryl Richmond requested that expenses for her upcoming judge's conference be pre-approved for payment. The council approved. Tamea Hewitt will be filling in while Cheryl is on vacation, and for training, 11 days total. Judge Richmond informed the council that local ordinances from other towns may be run through the Versailles court, but an interlocal agreement must be formed. Attorney Eaton will draft the agreement. The new court software through Odyssey will go live sometime in November. Microdome will come and set up the new court computers.

Fire Chief Ben Sieverding reported 47 calls since the last meeting. The Versailles Volunteer Fire Department has been distributing information to local schools for fire prevention week. Grant money was received from the RSRF and the Tyson Fund to refurbish a brush truck. Ben commended the department for all of their hard work. Steve Mathes thanked Ben and the department as well.

Versailles property owner Rodney Sellers addressed the council with questions about the rate increase. Mr. Sellers asked if the council had been aware that such a large increase would be warranted, if it would have affected the vote to go with Hoosier Hills. Mr. Sellers also asked how the minimum charge in the contract was overlooked. Steve Mathes stated that if the council had been aware that the contract was written to include a minimum charge that it would have been tailored differently, and that such a large increase was a surprise to everyone. Mr. Sellers asked if the council had attempted to renegotiate the contract. Steve stated that indeed, the council had tried several times to renegotiate. Mr. Sellers pointed out that Milan and Aberdeen Pate would both have cheaper bills than the town of Versailles. Attorney Eaton stated that Milan is increasing their rates as well. Mr. Sellers asked why Milan's increase was 14%, and Versailles was 70%. The council stated that the utility rates had not been raised in many years, so instead of small, periodic raises, the rate increase took affect all at once.

Superintendent Kevin Hensley reported that two manholes had been replaced. Materials have been ordered for the sewer repairs on 421, and work will hopefully start next week. A new tractor has been ordered through the dealer, and will be delivered in 6-8 weeks. A new employee, Ben Walston has been hired for the street department. The soccer and baseball fields have been seeded.

The council agreed to reappoint Jeff French to the Rising Sun Regional Foundation. Steve asked Kevin if he could follow up with REMC about the light at the sports complex. Kevin will contact Duke, and will winterize the complex in the next few weeks. Steve will follow up with Rumpke about recycling, and will ask that a representative come to the next meeting.

Larry sent a draft agreement to the state on the firing range. Almost all of the South Adams Street easements have been signed. All of the storm sewer easements have been signed.

Natalie Gilpin thanked the town for use of the square for the Mainstreet farmer's market. She also thanked the county commissioners for use of the courthouse bathrooms. The market was a huge success.

With no further business coming before the council, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Attest: _____
Kiersten B. Libby, Clerk-Treasurer

Council President – Sue Meisberger

Council Member – John Holzer

Council Member – Steve Mathes