

**COUNCIL MEETING (REGULAR)**  
**MARCH 5, 2025**

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, March 5, 2025**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Ken Hickman, Ron Benakovich and Chris Franklin. Also present were Attorney Rebecca Trent, Marshall/Commissioner Roger Young and Clerk Treasurer Annette Sipkema.

Jamie Myers and Toni Onken were absent.

President Hickman started our regular meeting @ 6:30 pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment-of silence.

**MINUTES, PAYROLL, BILLS & CLAIMS:**

**Minutes:** President Hickman asked if everyone had a chance to review the meeting minutes dated February 5, 2025.

Chris Franklin made a motion to approve the February 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes as presented.  
Ron Benakovich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Payroll, Bills & Claims:**

Ron Benakovich made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll.  
Chris Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. **\$ 309,990.96**

**Clerk Sipkema** requested authorization to process payment for two invoices recently received. Accu-Dig in the amount of \$6150.00 for the emergency call out repair for the water main break at Lincoln & Monroe and Spear Aquatics in the amount of \$5719.73 for repairs made at the water plant. Commissioner Young noted that Spear Aquatics invoice covers two separate repairs.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to authorize payment to Accu-Dig and Spear Aquatics as presented.  
Chris Franklin seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Total additional to be paid: **\$11,869.73**

**Month End Reconciliation Review / Sign Off....**

Ron Benakovich made a motion to accept the January and February reconciliations as presented.  
Chris Franklin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**VISITORS:**

**DIANNE TRIBBETT, PARK BOARD PRESIDENT**, reported that the board recently met for their first meeting of 2025. Election of Officers: Dianne Tribbett, Park Board President, Ryan McGrail, Vice President, Julie Hart, Treasurer, and Esther Hardy, Secretary. Mrs. Tribbett informed the council that the township trustee had stated that he would no longer be able to donate any funds to the park due to an issue with the State Board of Accounts.

**MIKE SMOLECK, WHITE COUNTY COMMISSIONER**, was in attendance to answer any questions.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

**COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING....CLERK SIPKEMA** read the Waste Water Treatment Plant update provided by Gabrielle : 1) Completed internal QA/QC of process plans and sent final markups to our CAD department. 2) Ongoing internal coordination with Structural, Electrical, and Controls teams to complete their final design and incorporate those documents into the overall sets of plans and specs. 3) Finalizing legal descriptions for Greenwood Street sewer and expect to transmit to the Town's attorney on or before 3/11/25. 4) Commonwealth will coordinate schedules with the Town, the financial consultants (rate consultant and bond council), USDA, and the Town's attorney to set up bi-weekly status mtgs now that we are preparing to transition from design towards bidding phases. 5) All permits have been obtained.

**CLERK SIPKEMA** reported that she has been working on water and wastewater rate increases to present to the council. During her review of the wastewater construction project's financial documents, she identified a major concern with the current and projected wastewater rate. The current rate is \$64.49 per 4,000 gallons, projections indicate a potential increase up to \$118 per 4,000 gallons per month, depending on the final financing need for the project. Clerk Sipkema expressed hope that the Readi 2.0 grant application, which Mr. Jim Davis has been working on, will be successful. County Commissioner Mike Smolek noted that there is an issue delaying the release of Readi 2.0 funds and encouraged the town to inquire with the county commissioners about any additional funding that may be available.

Clerk Sipkema spoke with Ross Hagen of Baker Tilly, and he recommended postponing any rate increase at this time. This is due to the likelihood of another rate increase at the start of the WWTP project. As mentioned in Gabrielle's update, Clerk Sipkema anticipates many discussions with Mr. Kelly in the near future regarding this matter.

**SIDEWALKS/STREETS.....PRESIDENT HICKMAN** stated that a quote in excess of \$90,000 was received for the proposed sidewalk work along Park Rd & Race St. The 2025 budget for sidewalk work is \$40,000. Commissioner Young will seek additional quotes. President Hickman requested that council members have a list of streets in need of repair to discuss at the next meeting.

**TOWN/TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICE CONTRACT .....**tabled to next meeting.

#### **DEPARTMENTS:**

**SEAN GARRETT, FIRE CHIEF, stated that** the new pagers have been received. Chief Garrett said that the department has started to receive donations from local businesses to upgrade their radio equipment. The department needs to upgrade Squad 8 in the next couple of years. Squad 7 will be sent to the township trustee to be sold. The second story plumbing work has been completed.

**TOWN MARSHALL ROGER YOUNG .....**1) The Prosecutor's Office generously donated a new bulletproof vest to the department. 2) The department has recently started attending monthly security meetings with other towns and school resource officers. 3) Bowsher IT donated \$1,000 towards the Flock Camera system. Marshall Young is actively working to secure additional donations to cover the \$3,000 annual fee. He also highlighted the value of this service to our community, noting that the annual fee provides access to over 14,000 cameras. 4) Marshall Young reported that the radar trailer had been placed at four separate locations. This equipment provides statistics on average speed, traffic count and recommends times based on the data that the location should be monitored.

**STREET COMMISSIONER ROGER YOUNG...** 1) reported that the water main break at Lincoln & Monroe has been fixed. Accu-Dig was called in overnight for emergency repair due to dropping water pressure. 2) Invited the council to stop by the water plant to see the progress that has been made on the painting project. 3) A heater at the plant has been replaced. 4) The brine tank float system needs to be replaced. Commissioner Young is obtaining quotes. 5) The roots blower needs to be replaced. One quote has been received (\$2,273.25). 6) Tanner Fluke recently repaired the east clarifier. The west clarifier is now experiencing issues. 7) There were approximately 40 new meters installed without the additional radio read devices under the previous supervisor. EJP (previous supplier) has offered their leftover devices at a reduced rate of \$151/unit for a total of \$6040. Following discussion between the council, clerk and street commissioner it was decided to hold off on this purchase for now since there are multiple issues currently being addressed at the plant.

**CLERK-TREASURER ANNETTE SIPKEMA...**1) 2024 Annual Financial Report was submitted on February 24<sup>th</sup>. 2) Clerk Sipkema shared that all members received the 2024 Cash Reserve spreadsheet. While there was a slight increase in the monitored cash reserves from 2023, we still have a considerable way to go before reaching the recommended levels. 3) Please note the clerk will be attending the IILMCT Conference in Plainfield March 18-20<sup>th</sup>.

**ATTORNEY REBECCA TRENT...**letters to obtain easements for the Greenwood Street project have been sent to property owners.

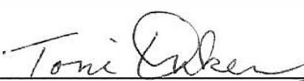
There being no other business to discuss,

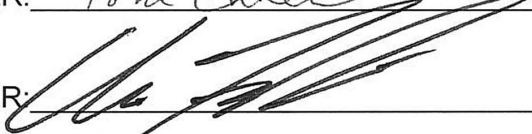
Ron Benakovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Chris Franklin seconded. Meeting adjourned @ 7:30 p.m.

A Public Hearing will be held Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. followed by the regular monthly meeting.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: 

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

COUNCIL MEMBER: 

ATTEST: 