

**COUNCIL MEETING
(REGULAR)
April 5, 2023**

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Wednesday, April 5, 2023**, at 6:00 pm at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Rosemary Cooley, Vice-President Ron Benakovich, Ken Hickman and Toni Onken. Also present were Marshal Roger Young, Attorney Rebecca Trent and Clerk-Treasurer Stacy Selagy.

Member Kirk Quasebarth was absent.

-President Cooley started our regular meeting @ 6:00 pm & led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment-of-silence.

-MINUTES, PAYROLL, BILLS & CLAIMS:

-Ron Benakovich made a motion to approve the REGULAR & SPECIAL meeting minutes from March 15, 2023.

-Ken Hickman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

-Toni Onken made a motion to accept all the bills – claims – payroll as presented.

-Ken Hickman seconded the motion. The motion carried. \$171,982.73

-MONTH END RECONCILIATION REVIEW / SIGN OFF... President Cooley reviewed and signed off on the bank reconciliations.

VISITORS: JOE ROGERS, WHITE COUNTY AREA PLAN DIRECTOR... Joes stated they have found the need to provide an alternate to Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) members as hearing variances with a short Board can be problematic. The County Commissioners have appointed Gayle as an alternate to their two members and Joe is asking the town to approve Gayle as an alternate to our appointment, Stan Minnick.

Toni Onken made a motion to approve Gayle Rogers as Monon's alternate to the BZA board.

Ken Hickman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Joe also stated that the housing subcommittee has proposed that five miles of subdivision road be paid for by the county to promote new developments and has presented that to the County Commissioners for consideration. They are also assembling a task force to address housing issues in the county and are looking for volunteers to represent their communities on the task force. Their first meeting will be in June, please contact the Area Plan office if you are interested. President Cooley asked if any mention had been made of government subsidized housing be added, Joe stated there have been no talks of that yet.

GABRIELLE, COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING... Gabrielle stated that the CAD design team is assembling the project drawings and the IDEM WWTP construction permit is being assembled. Commonwealth is evaluating potential solutions for the gravity sewer design for the Mabel Horton sewer extension project.

PROPERTY CLEAN-UPS... There is a lot of clean up to be done with the strong storms that came through last week. It will take several weeks to get all the brush and debris cleaned up. President Cooley thanked Marshal Young, Superintendent Rodgers, and the town employees for their efforts in cleaning up the downed trees from the storm.

TOWNSHIP & FIRE DEPT AGREEMENTS... Attorney Trent stated the revised agreements have been sent to Township Trustee Garling and she is waiting on a response to see if he can enter into an agreement with the Town and Monon Volunteer Fire Department.

FIRST READING-ORD. 2023-02, WATER UTILITY INCREASE... President Cooley read the ordinance into the record. This is a proposed increase of 6%. Reconnect fees will be a flat amount of \$50.00 and must be paid before the service will be reconnected. The public hearing will be held on April 19th, at 5:30 pm.

FIRST READING-ORD. 2023-03, SEWER UTILTIY INCREASE... President Cooley read the ordinance into the record. This is a proposed increase of 6%. The public hearing will be held on April 19th, at 5:30 pm.

BAD DEBT RESOLUTION... Clerk Selagy presented the list of debts that her and Deputy Clerk Beasley had determined to be uncollectible and asked the board to consider writing off as bad debt. The accounts flagged were older than 12/31/2020 and totaled \$9,209.47.

Ken Hickman made a motion to approve the Authorization to Write Off Bad Debt.

Toni Onken seconded the motion. Motion carried. Resolution #2023-03

AIM MEDICAL TRUST PROPOSAL... Clerk Selagy presented information from AIM (Accelerate Indiana Municipalities), regarding the medical trust plan. The trust is composed of counties, cities, and towns across Indiana. There is a benefit to smaller communities such as Monon, because it would allow us to spread our claims over a larger pool and keep our premiums costs lower. The average annual increase for the trust over the last three years has been 2.03%. Our current insurance has increased an average of 18% in the last three years. The trust does require a three-year commitment and then it becomes a year-to-year renewal after that. President Cooley expressed concern regarding the three-year commitment. Vice-President Benakovich asked if someone from AIM could come in to give more information. Stacy said she would try to get someone to come to the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT TONY RODGERS... 1. Tony stated that they have been busy cleaning up from the storm. 2. EJP has installed two new meters at the school. 3. The water line at the water plant has been fixed by Young and Sons. 4. The window on the skid steer has been busted and will need repair. 5. They recently had an Alliance class at the fire station, they had about 25 people from the area attend. 6. 811 contact information has been updated. 7. A pillar at the park has a twisted cap, Tony will fix it.

TOWN MARSHAL ROGER YOUNG... 1. Roger stated they had the Ford Explorer serviced. 2. He has been subpoenaed by Newton County and will have to go there when needed. 3. Roger also spoke about the possibility of receiving FEMA funds. He was told it is a lot of time tracking information and the likelihood of getting anything was low as it will only pay for uninsured property. President Cooley said she would be willing to do the tracking.

CLERK-TREASURER SELAGY... 1. Clerk Selagy notified the board she had been contacted by resident Naomi Schleman at 600 Maple Street who asked that the board consider doing her sidewalk because with the school buses no longer doing town pick-ups, she has a lot of kids going past her house. She also asked if the town had a plan for train derailments and possible chemical spills like what happened recently in Ohio. While the town does not have a plan, it should be covered under the White County Emergency Plan. 2. Stacy stated the amount available for sidewalk work this year is \$62,000. Other locations mentioned were the Webb and Hubbard properties, the remaining part of the east side of South Market St, across from the school, and adding a sidewalk to the Monon Family Clinic. Mary Tucker at 408 Railroad also asked the town to consider her street. 3. Stacy stated there are 82 meters in town that were installed prior to the year 2000 and 343 installed in 2006. Old meters can result in lost revenue and should be on a replacement schedule. Stacy presented a quote from EJP for radio read meters. 100 meters, 100 transmitters, software upgrade and training totaled \$40,450. We do have some meters on hand that have not been installed that would only need the transmitters that could lower that cost.

Toni Onken made a motion to approve the purchase of 100 radio read meters.

Ron Benakovich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. President Cooley had mentioned that Alliance Bank is offering an 18-month CD at 4% interest, which is better than what we were getting, and asked if we should look into it. The two CD's that we moved to TrustIndiana are currently getting a 4.8396% daily yield. The money in the trust can be moved at any time, so Stacy asked if the board wanted to open a CD with Alliance. After a brief discussion, the board decided to leave the money in the trust.

ATTORNEY REBECCA TRENT... Nothing at this time.

MEMBER RON BENAKOVICH... Ron stated Waste Management has been knocking over this trash tote and trash is going all over. President Cooley told him if he sees it happening to call the town hall and they can try to contact Waste Management to radio the driver to come back before they leave town.

MEMBER ROSIE COOLEY... 1. Rosie stated the empty lot north of the town hall is a mess and needs to be seeded. She asked Marshal Young if he would look at it. 2. Rosie shared an invitation from the United Way for their annual reception to be held May 3rd.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to adjourn.

Toni Onken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned @ 6:58 pm.

*The public hearing on the water and sewer rate increases will be held on Wednesday, April 19th, at 5:30 pm. The regular meeting will follow at 6:00 pm.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Rosemary Cooley

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: _____

COUNCIL MEMBER: Ken Hilsman

COUNCIL MEMBER: Eric Ocker

COUNCIL MEMBER: _____

ATTEST: Stacy Slag