

Two public hearings were held on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 7:00p.m. at Kirklin Town Hall. It was immediately followed by the regular meeting of the Kirklin Town Council at the same location.

The meeting was opened by Melinda Jobe. On the call of the roll, the following Town Council Members were present: Brent Stetler, Jerry Faucett, Melinda Jobe, and Walt Minnick. Craig Hudzinski was absent.

Also present were: Billy Walker, Brendon Bright, Sherry Stowers, Jay Hawley, Darren Wells, Linda Ward, Dwain Pitzer, Jenny Dunn, Dan Carlisle, Chris Perry, Rob Hobson, Kim Deck, Steve Brock, and Darryl Shoe.

The Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer were led by Melinda Jobe.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – The public hearing for the proposed 2025 Budget was opened by Melinda Jobe. Copies of the proposed budget were made available to those in attendance. There were no questions or opposition to the proposed budget. Seeing no comments or questions, the Public Hearing was closed.

**PUBLIC HEARING** – The public hearing for the proposed Additional Appropriation for the Sidewalk Enhancement Program in the amount of \$3,867.50 was opened by Melinda Jobe. Seeing no comments or questions, Brent Stetler made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation Resolution #2024-9-1 for the Sidewalk Enhancement Program in the amount of \$3,867.50. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and it passed with a unanimous vote.

**MINUTES** – Walt Minnick made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the Town Council Meeting held on August 12, 2024. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried with a unanimous vote.

**ROB HOBSON** – Rob was in attendance representing the Sheridan Community Recreation, Inc. (SCRI) baseball program. He explained that SCRI has been around for over 60 years and offers several sports for kids to be involved in. It is a volunteer-run organization. He stated that they have experienced so much growth that they are outgrowing their fields and are requesting to use the two fields located at Kirklin Park. Labor would be provided by SCRI on a volunteer basis to bring the fields back to playable condition so that SCRI could utilize them for the kids in the spring.

**SHERRY STOWERS** – Sherry was in attendance representing Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to inform the council of an upcoming Patriot Grave Marking taking place at the Old Town Cemetery on October 5, 2024 at 11:00am. She stated that there are five veterans buried in the Old Town Cemetery who fought in the Revolutionary War. Thomas Reagan will be DAR's first patriot to honor and the public is invited.

**MVH BUDGET REDUCTION** – Brent Stetler made a motion to approve Budget Reduction Resolution #2024-9-2 for Unrestricted MVH/Street Repairs & Maintenance Approp. #2201001362.00 in the amount of \$15,000.00 and Restricted MVH/Street Maintenance Approp. #2203001431.013 in the amount of \$25,000.00 to be appropriated in the 2025 Budget. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it passed with a unanimous vote.

**SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT** – Darren Wells with Commonwealth Engineering gave an overview of the bid tabulations for bids received by and opened on August 29, 2024. Steve Brock, the town's rate consultant from Therber, Brock & Associates, stated that he was informed that the Town will be in the Indiana State Revolving Fund (SRF) fall pool and that it is what he is recommending to the town council. Tara Walker asked how much the sewer rates would be affected by the project. Steve replied that the average user consumption is between 2000 – 3000 gallons per month. The current

minimum sewer bill based on 2000 gallons is \$41.42 and would increase by approximately \$7.00. Melinda Jobe is concerned that if the town does not proceed with the full project, and the town continues to have complications, that IDEM will begin to fine the town, especially since this smaller project is only for the critical needs and not even the entire needed rehabilitation. Steve stated that while the town did not qualify for an SRF grant this time, the town has a good chance to qualify for the next, larger sewer project that will be needed. Billy Walker stated that he hopes that this smaller project that Commonwealth has designed to fix the immediate, critical components of I & I elimination is enough for IDEM since they can fine the town and put us on a sewer ban which would prevent the town from growing as no other taps would be permitted until IDEM approves. After some further discussion, Melinda Jobe made a motion to accept the bid from Instituform Technologies USA, LLC for the total base bid plus all mandatory alternate bids to the mandatory alternate bid items in the amount of \$1,061,040.26. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and it passed with a unanimous vote. Melinda Jobe signed the Notice of Award for Instituform Technologies USA, LLC. Brent Stetler made a motion to approve the use of State Revolving Funds for the project. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and it carried with a unanimous vote. **INDOT** – Darren Wells reported that INDOT will not approve a permit to allow work on the sewer rehab project on US Hwy 421 or US Hwy 38 unless the town addresses storm water infrastructure issues. Darren recommended to the council that they apply for an OCRA planning grant to study stormwater infrastructure but there is no guarantee the town would receive any grant or funding and that it could require multiple application rounds. OCRA requires a two-system application and Darren stated that he would include water and storm water, but with an emphasis on the storm water system. The water portion of the study would focus on the distribution system. For an OCRA planning grant, the town would be liable for 10% of the cost, should the application be approved. Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve the submittal of an OCRA planning grant. The motion was supported by Brent Stetler and it carried with a unanimous vote. **Invoice** – Brent Stetler made a motion to approve the payment of Commonwealth Engineering Invoice #60623 in the amount of \$32,000.00 for final design at 90% completion. Walt Minnick supported the motion and it carried with a unanimous vote. **Attorney fees** – Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve the legal fees of \$2,500.00 to Jay Moore of Ryan, Moore, Cook, Triplett & Albertson, LLP and \$5,000.00 to Tom Pitman of Barnes & Thornburg, LLP for their services pertaining to the bond issue for the sewage works improvement project. The motion was supported by Brent Stetler and it carried with a unanimous vote.

**ARPA** – The council discussed the purchase and installation labor of new fire hydrants using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Brent Stetler made a motion to approve Utility Pipe Sales Invoice #3197183-00 in the amount of \$30,657.54 for six fire hydrants and related materials. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried with a unanimous vote. There were two companies who provided a quote for installation labor of six fire hydrants. Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve the quote from Alliance Excavating in the amount of \$25,740.00. The motion was supported by Jerry Faucett and it carried with a unanimous vote. Billy stated that there may be additional miscellaneous costs if unforeseen issues arise over and above what is included in the quote. Billy stated he has found some inaccuracies in pipe sizes on some of the old water maps once excavated. Tara Walker reminded the council that there are still ARPA funds remaining that must be spent or obligated by December 31.

**PARK BOARD** – Kim Deck updated the town council on what they have been working on, including that a gravel walking path has been completed and some trees planted. Chris Perry stated that signs are in the process of being made with the name of Traveler's Trail and distance of the walking path. Kim Deck then read items that the park board has accomplished before stating that the park board members collectively resign. Melinda Jobe stated that the walking path was put on Bill Brock's property and provided photos of it. Jerry Faucett stated that when it was approved to remove the old fences, he made a suggestion that they leave the headposts on each end and put a steel post with a white PVC pipe in it. He stated they would have seen the line but that it was not done. After further discussion, it

was decided that the town will find out what the setback requirements are and ensure the walking path is moved off of Bill Brock's property. Melinda Jobe made a motion to approve three invoices from Ostler Farm Services in the amount of \$29,484.26. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and it passed by a unanimous vote.

**UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT** – Billy Walker provided the Town Council with a written report prior to the meeting. He is still waiting to hear if the town will receive any Community Crossing Grant Matching (CCMG) funds this round.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Brendon Bright reported that KPD had 20 service calls, 3 ordinance violations and 29 traffic stops, 10 of which were infractions, 1 felony arrest and 1 misdemeanor arrest. He is still trying to find an instructor for the new tasers.

**CLERK-TREASURER** – Tara Walker provided the following reports to the Town Council prior to the meeting for month ending August 31, 2024: Appropriations, Payroll Allowance Docket, Adjustment Register; and the Accounts Payable Register through September 5, 2024. Seeing no questions, the Town Council members signed the Adjustment Register, Payroll Allowance Docket and the Accounts Payable Register. Melinda Jobe reviewed and signed the sewer and storm water bank statements prior to the meeting. **Renewal of General Liability and Workers Comp policies** – Tara informed the council that there was an increase of \$1,762.00 for general liability and worker's comp insurance for the renewal period of August 31, 2024 – August 31, 2025. Property deductibles increased to \$5,000.00 and there was a \$25,000.00 wind/hail deductible added. **Trash Contract** – Tara informed the council that the contract with Smith Trash Service will end as of December 31, 2024. Tara will send the an ad to the newspaper soliciting bids and they will be opened at the November council meeting. **AIM Medical** – Tara provided the council with 2025 policy options prior to the meeting. Tara informed the council that there is only a 3% increase in premiums for 2025. Melinda Jobe made a motion to keep the same Aim Medical policy option #5. The motion was supported by Walt Minnick and it carried with a unanimous vote. Melinda noted to the council that Tara should be receiving the same benefits as the previous Clerk-Treasurer, including her medical and life insurance. She stated that Tara has been on Billy's medical plan and that they have been paying \$120.00 for her policy as a spouse. Her predecessor's insurance was fully paid by the town as a full-time employee and Tara is eligible for that benefit as well. She said that the town is saving a lot of money since Mary retired and that the town should be paying the \$120.00 per month and wants Tara to find out if she can also be added as another life insured on Billy's policy.

**JERRY FAUCETT** – Jerry stated that he would like to see something done about the house that burned a few years ago located at 309 E Jefferson St. Jay explained what would be required and that it would end up costing the town some money. He does not feel like the town should be fining someone for not mowing their grass while at the same time allowing this house to sit like it has been.

Seeing no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

---

Melinda Jobe, Town Council President