

MEETING MINUTES

POSEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Bruce Baker President at 5:30 PM.

PRESENT: Bruce C. Baker, Mike Baehl, Justin Collins, Attorney William Bender, and Clerk/Treasurer Christy Foster

Virtual Meeting held due to the Pandemic Virus

Bruce Baker spoke about his 30 years as president and 33 years as a board member. He thanked everyone for their help and God. Bruce offered a prayer to all who have served and will serve.

Bruce Baker called for election of officers.

A motion was made by Bruce Baker to elect Mike Baehl as President for 2021, 2nd by Justin Collins

Vote taken, Baker Yes, Collins Yes, Baehl Yes

Mike accepted the position. He thanked the members for the nomination. He said no one knows the time that Bruce has spent all these years. He thanked him for all he has done and continues to do.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

motion made by Justin Collins and 2nd by Bruce Baker

Vote taken, Baker Yes, Baehl Yes, and Collins Yes

CLAIMS WERE PRESENTED at Town Hall at 1:00 pm on January 12, 2021

A Motion was made by Bruce Baker to approve the claims. Seconded by Justin Collins.

Vote taken, Baker Yes, Collins Yes, Baehl Yes

OCRA Grant Phase III

Debbie Bennett with the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest was invited to speak concerning Phase III Small Business Grant for COVID 19 from OCRA. Debbie explained what is being offered. She explained the small business grant and who would be eligible. She said that this Grant had been extended to include a 2-mile area outside of Town limits. She also explained other option covered in this grant. Debbie explained that other towns were using a Matrix to score the new applicants. What changed on this round for businesses is that they will file for their employees within their applications. Bruce asked if the same businesses could apply. Debbie said yes. That there is a cap for each business not to exceed \$10,000. Application is due January 30th. Justin wanted to know the amount for the grant in total. Debbie said it was \$250,000. Council members discussed who would be included in the 2-mile limit. All agreed that should be include.

Debbie asked that we get 5 support letters to help with application process. Debbie will do media release.

Motion was made by Justin Collins to apply for the Small Business Grant from OCRA including the 2-mile limit. Asking for \$200,000 in grant money. 2nd by Bruce Baker

Vote taken, Baker Yes, Collins Yes, Baehl Yes

Mike will compose a letter to get out to the business to ask for their assistance with grant. Mike asked Christy Foster to assist with the composition of this letter.

WATERBOND/GRANT

New discussion concerning Water Grant was next topic Debbie Bennett with the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest. Started discussion. She explained her thoughts on what amount of money we could possibly be eligible for. She felt that we could get up to \$7000,000 for our project with a match our part of \$300,000. We are in a 53% low to moderate bracket. Allowing us this amount of money.

If we start the process, we would need to have application in by April 29th and we could be awarded in or around June 25th. If we do not get awarded in that round it allows us time to reapply Nov12, 2021.

Jim Higgins Financial Adviser he was asked what his thoughts where. He said he was at the council's pleasure. Jim had spoken with the engineering firm to see where they were at. His understanding is they were over 80% completed with the sewer work for the grant work, but we had put a hold on it due to the water project needs. He felt we were sitting in a great position to get a new bond and grant with no rate increases. We only had 4 years for pay off of current sewer bond.

Debbie felt that we could do both water and sewer grant. We could have 2 grants open at the same time if one was under construction. We would be allowed 7000,000 per project with our match

Justin Collins asked clarification." So, we can have \$1400,000 "

Debbie confirmed.

Bruce expressed his thought that water project should come first.

Jeremy Farrar Poseyville Superintendent was asked his thoughts. Jeremy said IDEM currently had only asked for an updated action plan that they did not have one on record since the incident in 2019 when nitrate levels were high.

Bruce felt that with the nitrate levels being an issue that we needed to prioritize the projects and water should come first.

Mike said he felt water was incredibly important. We need to concentrate on water to give proof to the state that we are taking action with the issue at hand. The sewer is 15 years old. Due to a good maintenance crew and care our staff gives, it can wait. If a problem arises, we can get a construction loan for needed repairs.

Justin did not want his comments to get mis construed. He does care about water quality. His concern is what if this water issue never comes to the level that attention is really needed. We have gotten \$1,000,000 bond/grant and is not needed.

Bruce, we need to act sooner verses later.

Jeremy stated he is working with soil and water conservation people. He is also working our pump rate. No compliant has been issued at this time. The concern is the levels continue to be high. Rates are at its lowest 5.5 highest right at 10. If we get to 10 it is a violation. He is working with state chemists and land quality over the fertilizer issue.

Bruce said we need to address the problem before it is serious. Grant will help address the problem.

Justin can we wait

Bruce we cannot wait, we may not get in first round for grant. It could take 8 months to a year to get a grant.

Jim Higgins you have to get grant paperwork moving then engineers. Without grant project could not continue. There is no commitment till awarded money. He has seen where the amount asked for is not received. We may only get \$500,000. That is when we will have to commit with construction when we know true dollar amounts.

Debbie said scoring would determine amount awarded. But ask for the \$700,000. We would not bid the work till we were granted money.

Justin asked Debbie if we get grant and do not use what happens?

Debbie replied they will take it back.

Jon Craig with Midwestern Engineering said that grant application will be looked at for need and capacity. He understands we need water tower work. If the tower was the stand alone project it would not get the grant. The grant is granted on a scoring system. The treatment for water will qualify. They will look at your match capability, who will you be working with loan or SRF bond for your match.

Derick with Midwestern Engineer discussed the work already done for the sewer project. He said he was 95% completed at the time we put a hold on the project. There is minimal work need to finish once we give go ahead. We just need to decided what avenue we will take for bond payment.

Water project has not started. Derick feels that local loan is faster for this project but SRF loan would also work just a long time for application process. If SRF is used due to application time process we would not be able to have a Spring start date.

Debbie SRF is a 6–9-month process for applications. Since there is no started application it will take that time.

Jim Higgins all have valid points. the Town will have Sewer bond paid off in 4 years so this puts the sewer in a good place. We could have one ready to go and one ready. All depends when engineers can get it turned. PER will come from them. This is needed for the OCRA grant application. Water has a bond that can influence the funding. Matching can be a problem. Jim will be able to tell us more once we get more information.

Justin, the grant for \$700,000 with the new rate structure will this keep the rates the same? How will we absorb?

Jim, this is what the engineers will do for us. They will determine the cost or savings for the project. It is understood that no rate increase is going to be done.

Debbie, open market for sewer water was a better option. She will look into it more.

Bruce, in the past OCRA was for expansion not maintenance correct?

Derick, energy efficiency is also a good point for loans.

Debbie, for SRF not OCRA

Jim, the Water will need the grant. Sewer with pay off in 4 years not as much need, due to the construction needs.

Mike, we need to do water, this nitrate problem effects our babies and children. We do not want the state coming in on us. We need to be proactive.

Justin, what about the cost of up keep 1,500-2,000 a month. Where will we fund this? Christy?

Christy, at this time I do not have an answer.

Motion made by Bruce to apply for water grant, Justin Collins 2nd contingent on PER

Vote taken, Baker Yes, Collins Yes, Baehl Yes

Mike will get with Jon and Jeremy to discuss project. Jeremy's help is valuable in this project. There is a need for documents for water agreement. Jeremy's work needed on this to assist with engineers.

Justin asks Jim if we needed to engage him tonight? Jim said to wait on engagement papers till we got an idea of cost from engineers.

COMMUNITY CROSSING GRANT 2021

Jon Craig requested all council members sign the INDOT agreement it keeps process flowing. Specs are ready when did we want to open bids?

Mike wants to open bidding on our March meeting. We are going to do bidding virtually. Pre bidding was scheduled for March. All council members agreed this was a good plan of action. When INDOT gets contract to us Christy or Jamie is to forward to Jon Craig.

Cemetery: Donna Nash was representative for the cemetery board. Mowing for cemetery was discussed. Mike has asked the cemetery board if they were okay with the town doing cemetery mowing. Donna said that Myron Westfall and herself said that was in compliance. They have no problem with town taking over the mowing.

Justin voiced his concern with too much work for town workers.

Mike said since he was retired, he was not afraid to help weed eat if needed.

Police Dept Report: NA

Utilities: NPDES permit has been renewed. Jeremy also wanted to add concerning OCRA that on the sewer project he is adding a desludging machine. This will make application look better.

Fire Dept: Caption Austin Ahrens reported 6 new candidates Derek Collins, Trenton Englert, Reed Heathcott, Jace Brandenstein, Levi Hyatt, and Dalton Cox. The Sob was also presented with changes for board approval.

A motion was made by Bruce Baker to except SOB updates and 2nd by Justin Collins

Vote taken, Baker Yes, Collins Yes, Baehl Yes

A motion was made to accept 6 candidates to the Poseyville Volunteer Fire Dept. Names read.

Motion was made by Bruce Baker to accept new candidate's 2nd by Justin Collins

Vote taken, Baker Yes, Collins Yes, Baehl Yes

Austin then asked to buy 2 new sets of turn out gear. Confirmed he had \$5,000 budgeted for 2021

Christy Foster requested an estimate of pricing on turn out gear prior to purchase.

Motion was made by Justin Collins to approve 2 new sets of turn out gear 2nd by Bruce Baker

Vote taken, Baker Yes, Collins Yes, Baehl Yes

Austin also addressed a bill for towing from Tri-State towing. The fire dept thought they would wave cost. When called (Tri-State towing) confirmed they expected payment.

Mike asked about lighting timer. Austin had not checked in a couple of weeks. He would check it to see if timer was set appropriately. Austin would get with Mike.

Street Department: NA

Parks Dept: NA

Community Center: Bernie Fehribach had presented year end stats. Christy Foster read stats and commented on with pandemic numbers were better than thought.

Mike would like to have a conversation with Bernie about using the community center concerning Covid 19 vaccination. Mike wanted to see if we could get it in the north part of the county. So many people cannot get out.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Christy Foster ask board members to complete the Nepotism and internal control paperwork and view the videos provided on paperwork. Fill out and return no later than January 30th

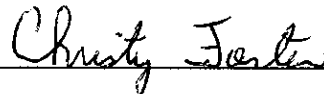
NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Poseyville Town Council for 2021 will be held **Tuesday, February 9, 2021** at 5:30 PM, This will be another Virtual meeting.

Public Comments:

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, the meeting was adjourned. With a motion made by Bruce Baker and seconded by Justin Collins the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,



Christy Foster, Clerk/Treasurer

ATTEST:



Michael Baehi, Council President