



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **POSEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**

***Date of Meeting: Tuesday January 10, 2023***

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Michael Baehl President at 5:30 PM.

**PRESENT:** Bruce C. Baker, Mike Baehl, Justin Rutledge, Council Attorney William Bender and Clerk Treasurer Christy Foster

### **Virtual Meeting held due to the Pandemic Virus, as well as in person**

**Virtual Attendee's: Jim Higgins, Derick Wiggins**

**In person Attendee's:** list attached to minutes.

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES December 27, 2022**

**Motion was made to approve minutes by Justin Rutledge 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce Baker**

**Roll Call Vote taken, Baker Yes, Justin Rutledge Yes and Mike Baehl Yes**

**CLAIMS WERE PRESENTED** at Town Hall at 12 pm on January 10, 2023

**Motion was made to approve the claims by Bruce Baker and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justin Rutledge**

**Roll Call Vote taken, Bruce Baker Yes, Justin Rutledge Yes, and Mike Baehl Yes**

**Bank Reconciliation**

**Motion was made to accept the bank reconciliation as presented by Justin Rutledge 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce Baker**

**Roll Call Vote taken, Bruce Baker Yes, Justin Rutledge Yes, and Mike Baehl Yes**

**Public Comment: NA**

**Posey County Commissioner:** Justin went to the court house and got documents for review by the council to see if council wanted to invite building commissioner into Poseyville. Mike explained that we do not have a building commissioner that comes to Poseyville at this time. The Documents that Justin presented showed potential rate charges and what the commissioners' responsibilities would be if allow to come to Poseyville. This is a county position. What this would mean to the town is if you had construction to your home, you

would need an inspection for permit to build. This would allow all complaints to flow through the county. With the new gas codes for gas being shut off for a year or more they would be inspected for the safety of our town and its residents. In order for this to be allowed a letter must be sent the homeland security.

**Motion was made to compose a letter to send to home land security by Justin Rutledge 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce Baker**

**Roll Call Vote taken, Bruce Baker Yes, Justin Rutledge Yes, and Mike Baehl Yes**

**Water Ordinance Bond 2022-12-13-01:** Ordinance was reviewed by the council and short discussion. This bond is to show SRF that we have a plan.

**Motion to accept Water Ordinance Bond 2022-12-13-01 by Bruce Baker 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justin Rutledge**

**Roll Call Vote taken, Bruce Baker Yes, Justin Rutledge Yes, and Mike Baehl Yes**

**Water Rate Ordinance 2023-01-31-01:** big increase with the hopes of rolling it back. Justin said we have money in the accounts. Why do we need more money. Jim Higgins financial advisor for the new nitrate improvements was on zoom to discuss the proposed rate study to the council. Mike asked the question if we secure more money later will it bring the rate down? Jim Higgins: Rate increase is crucial to cover construction costs which we do not have until the opening of and presenting of the bids. The cost of construction was increased by 10 percent to make sure there was enough to cover any additional money that might be needed from the bids on January 31 bid opening. Jim explained that the Study had to be done prior to the bid for the processing of the SRF paperwork. This study is a changeable rate after all the numbers come in. Currently with the unknow they wanted to overestimate rather than underestimate costs. Jim feels we will not need the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase and if SRF agrees the two bonds being spread /wrapped around that will also change the first phase along with knowing the true construction costs. This 20 percent increase can be amended most probably to a 10 percent increase. Jim said that once the cost come in and we get an answer from SRF about the spread of the bonds we will be able to amend the rate ordinance. We will be siding on the high side because if it goes up more than thought we cannot change rate to go up but we can always come down. Justin asked why do have to have a rate increase when our rates are already high. Jim responded we have to pay back \$1,999,000.00. Rates are driven by two things repayment and operational increases. Justin: will Current rates not pay for this new bond. Jim said oh no! it will not. Christy asked Jim if SRF had confirmed the spread for old and new debt. Jim said, no but he felt with providing them the rates and the impact to the community they would agree to the lesser amount per month for the two bonds. Mike had a conversation with Jim yesterday. Jim is hopeful that SRF will come up with some money left in the pool. Mike feels this is a good time to reach out to the legislators and voice your concerns. Since this is no fault of Poseyville we all need to be heard. We the people of Poseyville are being left to pay for a nitrate problem we are not creating. Which is nonsense. Mike has reached out to several congressmen and representatives hopefully going to get to say it too more. Please reach out and be heard. You can e-mail them call them or go on their webpage. Mike asks Jim Higgins if he was wrong in asking for help? Jim said he knew Mike had been talking to the right people because they had reached out to him for clarification. Mike has been heard. Jim said he feels that SRF is tapped out in their funds but there is money that can be allocated to this. Also, hopefully the bids will come in under the estimate. If that happens then the rate increase will roll back. Mike right now we have to go. Christy: the money in the account is to pay the current bond. That money is committed to the current bond. There is not an access of money in water account. Justin

thinks this is a lot of money. Mike has been preaching this is not our problem. But we are having to pay for it. Jim thought it might be a good idea to write a letter for people to cut and paste. Mike and Christy will write the letter tomorrow and post it on the webpage.

Mike asked Derick Wiggins with midwestern engineers if he had many responses to the bid package? Derick said he had a couple hoping to get some more. Plans, specs, and permits have been submitted and are now under consideration. Turn around is 60 days for permits.

**Police Department:** Officer Carter said we have had several fraudulent calls. The callers are asking for bank information in order to receive refunds. Use caution, they are good at what they do.

**Utility Dept: NA.**

**Fire Dept:** Fire Chief Mike Crawford reported on the ISO report. We went up one point. Not sure this helps the residence with insurance rates but it is an improvement.

Fire truck chassis should be at Wilderman's in April. The Fire Department has thus far raised \$50,000 in donations from business and local farmers. They are also looking into grants. FEMA may have one they can apply for training. Mike had gotten quotes for training. One quote was \$2,200. If they are awarded a FEMA grant the fire department would have only a 5% match. Mike said other grants they are looking into are Winn Energy and Toyota. If anyone knows of others, please reach out to the fire department. Justin asked the timeline for training. Mike said potentially April, 6-7 people will be involved in the training along with other people from other area fire houses.

There will be in February an Emergency Responder course. It will be offered to the police 6 people per class \$150,000 each

**Street Dept:** Christy reported, The Street Department is preparing for the snow. They have been doing maintenance on the snow blade and getting it ready, just in case. After all it is winter.

**Parks Dept: N/A**

**Community Center:** Christy reported for Bernie, the new thermostats will be installed January 19th. Refrigerator repair has been done with local labor at the cost of \$150.00. It was repaired by Effinger's

**Cemetery: N/A**

**Misc. Business:** Old Town Hall William Bender reported that his research showed IC code 36-1-11-5 disposal or Sale. Since it was a Sale, this would fall under this code. No appraisal will be needed since the property is less than \$6,000. The Assessed value is only \$2,800 for the old town hall filed at the assessor's office. A bid is to be published to move forward. Mike commented that we did not have a bid the last time we attempted to sell the property. Bill confirmed this comment. Justin would like to see this move forward due to the deterioration of the building and the cost to the town. Mike agreed it is a cash cow currently.

**Motion was made by Justin to proceed with the sale of the old town hall publish notice of sale in pursuit of IC code 36-1-11-5 d or cost of the public to (1) the highest and best use of the tract is sale to an abutting landowner; (2) the cost to the public of maintaining the tract equals or exceeds the estimated fair market value of the tract; or (3) it is economically unjustifiable to sell the tract under section 4 of this chapter. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Baehl**

Bill made it clear that not required to sell it is determined it is the best action. But it does not preclude any other action.

Justin, wants it to be known that the parking lot is not included that the property is just outside the building 2-foot parameter

**Roll Call Vote taken, Bruce Baker Yes, Justin Rutledge Yes, and Mike Baehl Yes**

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Poseyville Town Council for 2022 will be held **Tuesday January 31, 2023** at 5:30 PM, This will be a in person and virtual meeting. Special Called meeting for Water Ordinance 2023-01-31-01 public hearing and Opening bids for improvements to water plant nitrate treatment.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS**, the meeting was adjourned.  
**With a motion made by Justin Rutledge and 2nd by Bruce Baker the meeting was closed.**

**Roll Call Vote taken, Bruce Baker Yes Justin Rutledge yes and Mike Baehl Yes**

Respectfully submitted,

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Christy Foster, Clerk/Treasurer

**ATTEST:**

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Michael Baehl, Council President