

**COUNCIL MEETING  
(REGULAR)  
August 1, 2023**

The Council of the Town of Monon met for a regular meeting on **Tuesday, August 1, 2023**, at the Monon Town Hall. Members present were President Rosemary Cooley, Vice-President Ron Benakovich, Ken Hickman, Toni Onken and Chris Franklin. Also present were Attorney Rebecca Trent, Marshal Roger Young, Superintendent Tony Rodgers, and Clerk-Treasurer Stacy Selagy.

-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:**

-Toni Onken made a motion to approve the REGULAR meeting minutes from July 18th, 2023.

-Ken Hickman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ron Benakovich questioned the cost of grinding the brush pile and wondered if it would be more cost effective to purchase our own tub grinder. Superintendent Rodgers stated we typically only do the grinding every three years and that for the size of tub grinders and equipment they use, it is more economical to pay someone to do it. Rosie Cooley asked about a meter deposit refund for \$1500.00. Clerk Selagy stated this was an error on her part. A manual check was written for \$150.00, but when she entered it into the system, she inadvertently added a zero. This entry has been voided and corrected.

-Ron Benakovich made a motion to accept the bills – claims – payroll.

-Chris Franklin seconded the motion. The motion carried. \$118,431.21

**-MONTH END RECONCILIATION REVIEW / SIGN OFF...**None at this time.

**VISITORS: JOE ROGERS, WHITE CO AREA PLAN DIRECTOR...**Joe was present to explain how his office handles enforcement issues. His office will only take formal written reports from individuals, this is in case there are legal issues that arise. Their office has never been instructed by the White County Commissioners to be proactive on building issues. This is in part due to a lack of staff available to handle enforcement issues. If the town would like to see more proactive measures from the White County Area Plan Department, they should take concerns to the White County Commissioners. This would then involve increasing personnel. President Cooley asked if the complaint forms could be available at the Town Hall. Joe said he would send Clerk Selagy the form. Residents wishing to make a complaint can fill out the form at the Town Hall and take it to Area Plan or Stacy can email it to Area Plan.

**GABRIELLE, COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING...**1. Gabrielle stated the drying bags are now operational. She also presented an engagement letter for Barnes and Thornburg for bond counsel. Services not to exceed \$34,500.

Ron Benakovich made a motion to approve the engagement letter for Barnes & Thornburg.

Ken Hickman seconded the motion. Motion carried. President Cooley signed the agreement.

**ROSS HAGEN, BAKER TILLY...**1. Ross was present to let us know that while we will not be receiving any grants from SRF, there are still two options available to us. We can apply for the SRF spring pool program financing; this would be a 20-year loan. We can also go back to Rural Development (RD) and ask for an increased loan amount from them since we did not get SRF funds. Rural Development would be a lower interest rate and a longer term (40 years). Ross suggested that we apply for both, but if RD is willing to loan more that we should go that option. 2. Ross also spoke about the need for an Asset Management Plan (AMP). This would be a requirement to receive financing from the SRF. Baker Tilly has prepared an engagement letter to handle the debt issuance, multi-year capital asset planning, and agreed upon procedures. Clerk Selagy will send out the engagement letter to council members for review and consideration at the next meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**JAMIE MYERS, RESIDENT...**Jamie asked if there was a timeframe for when sewer will be available to the undeveloped lots on Greenwood Street. Jamie has purchased two of the lots and is trying to figure out construction details. Superintendent Rodgers stated this is still in progress and no set date is available at this time.

**UNFINISHED OR DEFERRED BUSINESS...**

**PROPERTY CLEAN-UPS...**Marshal Young stated that he sent out three certified letters today for property clean up. President Cooley thanked Diane Tribbett and Linda Griffin for their efforts in taking down the tree at 103 N Arch Street.

**TOWNSHIP & FIRE DEPT AGREEMENTS...**Attorney Trent has sent a letter to the Township Trustee requesting payment for 2023 park, EMS and fire services.

**OLD FERTILIZER PLANT...**Clerk Selagy spoke with Stephen Zims from SME regarding possible grant opportunities to do brownfield testing for the old fertilizer plant location. Unfortunately, the grant did not come through so this will not be an option. However, they are having a lunch and learn at KIRPC on August 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss some more options and have invited Clerk Selagy and any other board members who would like to attend to come and listen.

**BUILDING DONATION...**The title search has been completed and all that is left is the signing of the deed. Attorney Trent will coordinate with Dr. Henney and Dr. McGuire's widow to get the deed signed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2024 SALARY DISCUSSION...**Council members reviewed the salary comparison information provided by Clerk Selagy which shows that Monon falls behind neighboring communities and towns of similar size in most positions. Members will review the information further and discuss it again at the next meeting.

**2024 TRASH RATES...**The town is currently charged \$13.51/unit and we pass \$12.90 of that cost to the resident on their monthly utility bill, leaving the town's portion at around \$5,124.00 annually. Per our contract with Waste Management, trash rates will increase to \$14.05/unit. Clerk Selagy asked if the council would be increasing the amount we pass on to the residents. After a brief discussion, Ken Hickman made a motion to raise the trash rate to \$13.40 on January 1, 2024. Toni Onken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**SUPERINTENDENT TONY RODGERS...**1. Tony stated they have been working to prepare the sight for the wheelchair swing at the park. 2. The sludge drying beds at the wastewater plant are working well. Commonwealth will be here Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM to do a walkthrough of the plant. 3. Trent Whitaker, White County Building Inspector, gave Tony the name of the individual at the State to speak to regarding issues at the trailer court. 3. President Cooley asked Tony about the lots on Dorothy Street, if they were eligible for sewer hook up with us being on a sewer ban. Tony will talk to Brady at Commonwealth about these lots. 4. Tony stated that EJP will be offering an OSHA 10-hour course at the old school in Reynolds sometime during the month of August. The cost is \$30/per person and there is an option to become CPR certified.

**TOWN MARSHAL ROGER YOUNG...**Roger stated the number of incidents at the new 4-way stop at the intersection of US Hwy 421 and State Road 16 have decreased. He is talking to the State about putting the white strips across the north and south bound lanes.

**CLERK-TREASURER SELAGY...**Stacy asked the board if the following dates worked for the board members for budget meetings, Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for the public hearing and Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> for the adoption meeting. There was a consensus that these dates worked for a quorum. 2. Stacy distributed the evaluations for the Town Marshal and Town Superintendent to the council members and asked that they be completed and returned to before or at the next meeting. 3. Stacy has asked the AIM medical trust for a new quote for 2024. She will be meeting with them next week to get their quote. She will need to know if the board is going to make any changes to the employee insurance premiums for budgeting purposes. 4. Stacy checked with the EMT Director to find out if the runs list that was provided to the town at the last meeting were all the runs made or just the ones that she went on. She stated that was all the runs that she was able to find. The budget currently supports 2 full time EMT positions, so she asked the board to consider if that line item can be reduced. 5. There is a new direct provider care facility, Nexus Health Clinic, opening in Monticello next week. They called and invited us to come over and tour their facility before they open.

**MEMBER TONI ONKEN...**Toni asked about the open hole on the 300 block of Arch Street where the owner has sewer issues. Superintendent Rodgers said they are waiting on the homeowner to take care of it.

**MEMBER KEN HICKMAN...**Ken said Bob Hickman contacted him to see if the board had taken under advisement his proposal for a part time position in 2024. After a brief discussion, the board came to a decision not to pursue this option at this time.

**PRESIDENT COOLEY...**Rosie stated that she was approached by Devon Query on behalf of the Monon United Methodist Church. They are going to resurface their parking lot and asked if the town would help with the portion that is alley. After a brief discussion, the board did not take any action on this item.



Ron Benakovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Ken Hickman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:18 pm.

\*The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Rosemary Cooley

COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT: Ralph B. B.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Ken Hickman

COUNCIL MEMBER: Toni Duke

COUNCIL MEMBER: [Signature]

ATTEST: Stacy Shopp