



Town Council of the Town of North Judson
Regular Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2024 – 6:30 PM

The North Judson Town Council met in Regular Session at the North Judson Town Hall, 310 Lane Street, North Judson, IN on the above date and time with the following present: Council President Rowe, Council Vice President Brown, Councilmembers Felchuk, Young and Banks, Clerk-Treasurer Rowe and Town Manager Leszek present as well.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council President Rowe asked for approval of the agenda. Council Vice President Brown moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Young seconded the motion, and all Councilmembers present concurred.

Council President Rowe asked for approval of the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on March 18, 2024. Council Vice President Brown moved to approve those Minutes. Councilmember Young seconded the motion, and all Councilmembers present concurred.

Old Business:

Stellar Pathways Programs 2024 – Interlocal Agreement, LOI Update

Town Manager Leszek stated that Stellar Pathways has contracted with Troyer Group to set up the Letter of Intent (LOI). Leszek received an email saying that they were looking for our regional development plan, projects that we have completed and projects we wish to add. Leszek and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe will be working on getting that information together over the next several days and getting that back to the Troyer Group next week. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe directed the Council to look at the Resolution that Town Attorney Justin Schramm helped draft. Rowe was not sure what the official region name would be at this time since they must see if this will be all of Starke County or something else. Rowe noted that other than the regional name, the Resolution was done.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe put forth Resolution 2024-02: Interlocal Governmental Agreement, in accordance with Indiana Code 36-1-7-1, an agreement between local government entities related to the 2024 Stellar Pathways program.

Councilmember Felchuk made a motion to approve the put Resolution 2024-02: Interlocal Governmental Agreement, in accordance with Indiana Code 36-1-7-1, an Agreement between Local Government Entities

related to the 2024 Stellar Pathways Program. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors – 2024 Water & Sewer Utility: Financial Management Reports

Nicole Gryzbowski, a public finance representative from Baker Tilly, was able to come and present the Financial Management Reports to the Council. Nicole started off with Water Utility side to the reports. She started off by saying that the total fund balance rose from 2023 to 2024. They were expecting this increase due to the rate increases in 2023 and this was good thing to happen since the Utilities were struggling in 2023. She showed that in 2021 and 2022, the disbursements were outpacing the receipts and now in 2024 the receipts are finally outpacing the disbursements. Recommended reserves for the Water Utility outpaced actual reserves previously but after the rate increase those projections were not leveling out, and recommended reserves would reach the point which our bond obligations required after our 2018 Revenue Bonds were issued through the SRF Loan Program.

Similarly, the Town's Sewer Utility is also experiencing receipts outpacing expenses as was expected after the accelerated rate increase in 2022-2024. This allowed our actual reserve balance to match the recommended reserve balance required in the Town's agreement with the USDA Rural Development program entered into in 2019 when the Town undertook a major Combined Sewer Overflow/Wastewater Treatment Plant Project via a Rural Development Loan. The Town's ARPA funds helped alleviate the capital expenses for which the department would been responsible; this, along with other diminished capital expenses in 2023, amounts to a much healthier financial position for the department overall.

New Business

601 E. Talmer Avenue – Drainage Issue

The residents of 601 E. Talmer Avenue, Tom and Debbie Colbert, were present to discuss drainage issues facing their property. Debbie Colbert stated that there has been flooding since March, 2023. Colbert's have had several members of the Town come out to look at the standing water from rain showers. They have reason to believe that the construction of the new Family Dollar has caused the rainwater in the store's parking lot to flood in their backyard. The flooding had washed away their garden and now they are worried about their chickens that are placed in their backyard. They did inform the Council that the store had put in a drain, but the straw placed around it had plugged up the drain. Colbert reported that they have not seen anyone come out and inspect the drain since it was put in. Council President Rowe asked what the Colbert's believe the Town can do to remedy their flooding issues. Debbie Colbert believed the Town would know who they might need to contact from the company to try and work on cleaning up the drain. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe and Town Manager Leszek informed Colbert's that they would try and find who applied for the building permit and work to help them contact the owner/contractor associated with the project.

Recognition of Guest

Donna Henry was present on behalf of the Mint Festival Committee to discuss the progression of this year's Mint Festival. Henry stated that things were moving along smoothly. They had their final Mint Pageant sign-ups earlier in the day, April 15, 2024. Their next committee meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, April 18th, at the North Judson – Wayne Township Public Library and all are welcome to join.

Graham Max was present on behalf of the North Judson Baseball and Softball Program. Max informed the Council that there are currently 224 kids signed up and a total of 19 teams this year. They have wrapped

up the expansion on the concession stand, both of the dugouts are blocked in, one roof is already on the dugout and the other is ready to be installed this coming weekend. The main field was leveled out as well and is ready for the players. Max stated that they had a workday this past weekend that helped get the fences painted and the electric and plumbing updated inside the concession stand. They will also be having their members work at the concession stand to help save money.

Max brought up the concern of not having enough field space for all of the teams signed up for the program. Town Manager Leszek mentioned that because of the location of the Pickleball courts there would only be ten feet available to expand for playing space on the tee-ball field but that would not improve the issues the program is facing on that field. Max mentioned that he had got in contact with Mike Sharkozy from the NJ-SP School Corporation to approve the use of the school's Baseball and Softball fields to host the older league members. He stated that they would be able to figure out the limited space for this year, but they are concerned about where to host the teams if the program's numbers continue to grow in the years following. Council President Rowe believed the only real solution the Town could offer was the use of the Hidden Diamond. The Council would not be able to help restore the Hidden Diamond this year since Phase One of the Park Improvement Project is already set and in motion. They would also not be able to start new projects until Phase One was completed. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned in-kind labor matching could be a possibility in helping restore the Hidden Diamond. Graham noted that he wanted to see about putting power and water at the Hidden Diamond and the Council was not opposed to the idea. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned that Graham should attend a Park Board meeting to share this information with them as well.

Bill Brant brought up the concern of the continuous speeding on Vine Street. He noted he had been doing some research on the Pioneer Cemetery and he believes that there is enough historical evidence for the state to make it a State Historical Site. He noted that there are at least eighteen Civil War, one Spanish American War, five World War II, and one black Calvary Officer from the Civil War. He also wanted to mention that there are several headstones from the 1860s when the town was founded. Council President Rowe stated that Councilmember Felchuk is working with Venita Cunningham, the Town's representative on the Library Board and a member of the local historical society, on some of the thoughts which Brant mentioned. Brant mentioned that there are nineteen stumps and one dead tree that should be cleared up; this is also a project for which Leszek had previously worked on obtaining quotes.

Patricia Krauskopf wanted to discuss a call she received from the Town on March 20th, regarding a leak found on her property. She stated that someone from the Utility crew was able to come out to their house and inform them that they were using an unusual amount of water and were concerned that they had a leak. The Krauskopf's were informed that there was probably a steady leak and that they would need to call a plumber immediately. Krauskopf informed the Council that she was able to get a plumber out that day and they figured out there was an underground pipeline that was leaking. She stated that it was \$6,000 to get new pipes laid. She noted that she was grateful that the town was able to remove the sewer charge, but she was upset with having to pay a \$700 water bill. Krauskopf stated that she is very responsible for her water, and she was upset with the 'township' for not allowing her to see her water meter to see how much water she was using. She agreed that it was the homeowner's responsibility to get the leak fixed and pay for some of the water. She believed that if the Town had allowed her to see her meter so that she would be able to watch her water usage and would have been able to catch the leak sooner. Since the Town did not allow her to view her meter then she believes the town should be partly responsible for the cost of the bill. The Town does allow access to meters because they do not want the equipment tampered with by property owners or residents. Krauskopf stated that understood the concern, but she cannot be held completely responsible for the water if she was not allowed to view the meter. She requested that the Town cut their water bill in half

because, in her opinion, it was on the Town and the homeowner. Town Manager Leszek stated that even if the Town did give access to the meters, she would not realistically view the meter multiple times a day. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe noted that the decision was completely up to the Council if they wanted to make any adjustments to utility charges. Council President Rowe asked if the Krauskopf's knew how the leak occurred. Mr. Krauskopf stated that they had an excavator come out to look and they believed that Surf Internet might have hit the pipe during their recent work in the area. The excavator could not prove the leak was caused by Surf Internet without digging up their yard, so they did not press the issue any further. Council President stated that they should get in contact with Surf Internet since the Town has had multiple complains about Surf Internet. The decision to adjust the Krauskopf bill was left up to the Council and the Council decided not to make any adjustments. Bill Brant noted that a guy from Surf Internet stopped by his house asking if he had any damage caused by the installation of fiber internet lines. Brant expressed that he would give the Surf Internet number to the Krauskopf's so that they may try and contact the company.

Department /Representative Reports

Clerk-Treasurer - Andrew Rowe

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe then presented:

P.O. 2558 to Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC, Invoice BTMA24941, in the total amount of \$6,210.64.

Councilmember Felchuk made a motion to pay P.O. 2558 to Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC, Invoice BTMA24941, in the total amount of \$6,210.64. Councilmember Banks seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe informed the Council that the Environmental Management Residential Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be happening from 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 4th, 2024, at the Recycle Center in Knox. Rowe stated that he would put up the flyer at Town Hall as well. He also mentioned that Waste Management will be having bulk pick up as well but on Thursday, April 25th.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned that both himself and Council President Rowe would not be present at the next Council meeting on May 6th, 2024. Council President Rowe asked who would run the meeting in their absent. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe stated that Vice President Brown would conduct the meeting and Deputy Clerk Chaja would be talking the meeting notes in his place.

School Board – Doug Wilde

Doug Wilde had nothing to present at this time. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe was curious if the school had wrapped up all of their projects. Wilde confirmed that the school's projects were finished. Councilmember Felchuk questioned if the school's water issued was fixed from the last meeting. Utility Supervisor Kapp stated that the school's meter rolled over, so the numbers were entered into the system incorrectly. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe thought there was a leak at the Liberty Elementary school and questioned if that was taken care of; Kapp said there was a small leak on the Town's side of equipment the previous Friday and that the leak was fixed. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe asked which incident Councilmember Felchuk was asking about – Felchuk confirmed that she was talking about the meter incident. Kapp confirmed that both incidents were taken care of and resolved.

Building Inspector– Nick Radtke

Not present/nothing presented.

Code Enforcement – Deputy Marshal Derek Russell

Russell not present. Council Vice President Brown questioned if the Police Dept. was still checking if people were properly registering their chickens or other animals within town limits. Town Manager Leszek said that he had another ride-along with the Deputy Russell in the morning so he would see to it. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned that they would want to take the Town Ordinance with them to help enforce the policy.

Unsafe Hearing

Nothing Presented.

BZA/Planning Commission

Nothing Presented.

Redevelopment Commission

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe stated that there will be bills in the near future for which the Commission will need to grant payment. Rowe and Town Manager Leszek will be submitting the whole Troyer Group project billing and the first bill from the LWCF Park Improvement Project contractor when received. Rowe stated that the bills will then be done on a quarterly basis after the first reimbursement request is submitted. This will be done every three months going forward.

Park Board – Nick Radtke

Nothing presented/not present.

Police Department – Deputy Marshall Derek Russell

Town Manager Leszek presented the following information for Deputy Marshall Russell who was not in attendance. Leszek mentioned that the officers have been stopping citizens on their golf carts to remind them of getting the golf carts registered at Town Hall for the year. He mentioned that they had responded to 231 calls. Leszek also stated that they will be picking up the new police radios at Bartronics. There are no other current issues to address.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Todd Jackson

Fire Chief Jackson had nothing to present to the Council at this time. Councilmember Felchuk had questions about a recent brush fire the department handled; Jackson informed Felchuk that the fire was between 400 (W) and 350 (S). Felchuk also wondered how the dry hydrants work out in the fields. Fire Chief Jackson explained that the hydrants are drilled down in the ground near the water table levels and are not used very often. The hydrants must be flushed out with every use or else they will fill up with dirt and the department cannot send that through the trucks. Clerk-Treasurer mentioned that it is probably easier for the department to carry the water with them on calls and Jackson agreed.

Utility Department – Utility Supervisor Kimberly Kapp

Utility Supervisor Kapp stated that mowing season has officially begun. She wanted to remind everyone to not flush the “flushable” wipes as the Utility crew had to pull another pump on Oakwood Street. Kapp also stated that the Swifter Wet Jet pads are also not flushable because they have been removed from the pumps. Kapp stated that they were able to take care of the leak in front of Liberty Elementary School. They ended up removing the old pit that is no longer in use. When they re-pour their sidewalks, they won’t have to reform around the pit. When the Utility crew gets some time, they will be going out to the highway, at the

main and kill the service line there. Kapp explained that three years ago they had to fix a leak and had to replace a two-foot section, so they want to eliminate that line when they get a chance.

Kapp then presented:

P.O. 2552 to Flow Technics for Ras Pump 1, Invoice INV000010790, in the amount of \$532.50.

P.O. 2553 to BL Anderson for Quote No.040824-JWG for WWTP SCADA upgrade, in the amount of \$1,495.00.

P.O. 2554 to Northen Tool for Two Wheel Dolley and Torch Cart, Invoice 53370591, and Invoice 53383352, in the amount of \$554.98.

P.O. 2559 to Republic Services for Removal 2 Sludge Dumpsters, Invoice 0717-001613257, in the amount of \$3,855.20.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve:

P.O. 2552 to Flow Technics for Ras Pump 1, Invoice INV000010790, in the amount of \$532.50.

P.O. 2553 to BL Anderson for Quote No.040824-JWG for WWTP SCADA upgrade, in the amount of \$1,495.00.

P.O. 2554 to Northen Tool for Two Wheel Dolley and Torch Cart, Invoice 53370591, and Invoice 53383352, in the amount of \$554.98.

P.O. 2559 to Republic Services for Removal 2 Sludge Dumpsters, Invoice 0717-001613257, in the amount of \$3,855.20.

Councilmember Young seconded the motion and, and all members present concurred.

Town Manager – Joe Leszek

Town Manager Leszek mentioned that Park Project construction has begun. They are currently starting to work on getting the paths in by the pickleball and sand volleyball courts. Councilmember Rowe wanted to confirm that there is no room to move fences for the Baseball and Softball leagues and Leszek confirmed that there is no room to give because of the placement of the pickleball courts. Leszek said that if they are really looking for another field to host games then the only option would be the hidden diamond. He also stated that he got in touch with Nick Radtke to give him the paint samples for the park colors. Leszek said the colors would be decided at the Park Board meeting on Thursday, April 25th and then they would get back to the Town so that the Utility crew could start painting the buildings.

Town Manager Leszek stated that he had been working on some INDOT quarterly reports. Leszek said that he would be in an INDOT quarterly meeting tomorrow. He also stated that we have gotten some vouchers in so we will be seeing reimbursements soon from some of the Town's projects. Leszek noted that he was in the process of getting his ERC (Employee in Responsible Charge) certification. The INDOT system was having some glitches but he mentioned that it should be figured out so that will be able to finish getting his certification.

He restated that the Police Department got a couple new 800MHz radios and that they would be taking an old radio to Bartronics so that they could set up the new radios with the exact template as the previous ones. Town Manager Leszek said we are currently waiting on Datacrates for information so that we can finish email transition and things for the website.

Leszek stated that he had a meeting with USI Consultants earlier in the day. The Town was awarded the CCMG Matching Grant to help with maintenance of the Town's roads. They are planning for a May 8th opening of bids and hoping to make the bid award the same day. The Local Match will amount to \$15,000

and the remainder of the project cost (\$37,499.87) will come from the State. USI wanted to go over the Town's Comprehensive Plan from five years ago in order to act as the consultant hired to update the plan. Leszek noted that USI was eager to get the Town's business to help them build a new Comprehensive Plan. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe noted that HWC was the company who helped them with the previous plan. Leszek noted that USI was going to look up the previous plan online and informed USI that they needed to bring a formal quote in front of the Council. Leszek stated that it could also fall under the Stellar project as well. This could potentially help the town get reimbursed if awarded the Stellar grant.

Leszek stated that had spoken to Town Marshall Fisher about when she would be returning. She stated that she was waiting to be cleared by the doctor and that she had an upcoming appointment. He also mentioned an electric vehicle charging station near the Norwayne Field area and having it be a paid charging station for anyone to use. Fisher had mentioned that the Chevy dealer in Knox has a charging station. Leszek noted that he was going to get into contact with Chevy and see if it was something worth getting for the Town. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe noted that he got a call from someone from the USDA to see where the Town was at with getting a charging station because there is an organization looking to give away dollars to put in the stations. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe noted that he will be getting more information emailed to him soon and he asked for Leszek to be copied in the email as well so they can both do the research on this particular project. Rowe noted that it would be nice to implement the station locally with financial assistance from the state or other organizations.

Leszek then presented:

P.O. 2556 to Fleis & Vandenbrink for DES #2003029, Invoice 69034, in the amount of \$8086.28.

P.O. 2557 to Uline for 2 Downtown Reception L Desk and shipping, Invoice 176433763, in the amount of \$2,344.75.

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to approve:

P.O. 2556 to Fleis & Vandenbrink for DES #2003029, Invoice 69034, in the amount of \$8086.28.

P.O. 2557 to Uline for 2 Downtown Reception L Desk and shipping, Invoice 176433763, in the amount of \$2,344.75.

Councilmember Young seconded the motion and, and all members present concurred.

Leszek stated that he would be riding along with Deputy Marshal Russell the next day. He has already ridden with Deputy Quail and now he will be doing a night shift ride with Deputy Menke later in the week. Leszek stated that he wants to learn their day-to-day tasks and see what needs to be improved. He stated that he would pass along the ordinance issues to Russell and get the radar trailer out of storage to be put on Vine Street. Leszek also mentioned that the Durango's are able to move the radar and they do not need to rely on the Utility staff to move it.

Legal Updates – Town Attorney Justin Schramm

Nothing Presented.

Additional Business Deemed Necessary by the Council:

Nothing Presented.

Payment of Claims:

Council Vice President Brown made a motion to pay Payment of Claims in the amount of \$124,982.07. Councilmember Young seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

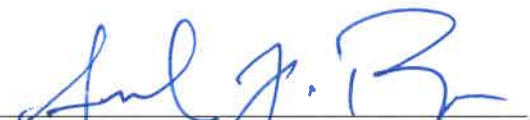
Councilmember Felchuk made a motion to adjourn, Council Vice President Brown seconded the motion, and all members present concurred.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 P.M.



John Rowe, Council President

Attest:



Andrew J. Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer

Next regular scheduled meeting – Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:30 P.M.