

November 12, 2019

The Ellettsville, Indiana, Town Council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the Ellettsville Town Hall Meeting Room located at 1150 W. Guy McCown Drive. Dan Swafford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Pamela Samples led the Pledge of Allegiance followed with a prayer by Jimmie Durnil.

Roll Call: Members present were Dan Swafford, Pamela Samples and William Ellis. Brian Mobley and Scott Oldham were absent. Darla Brown, Town Attorney and Sandra Hash, Clerk-Treasurer were also present. **Supervisors present:** Mike Cornman, Jimmie Durnil, Danny Stalcup and Kevin Tolloty.

Approval of Minutes

Dan Swafford entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on October 28, 2019. William Ellis so moved. Pamela Samples seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll

Dan Swafford entertained a motion to pay Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll. Pamela Samples so moved. William Ellis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolutions

Resolution 20-2019 transfer of funds – MVH Restricted Fund

Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer, explained this is a transfer of appropriation in the Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted Fund to cover road repairs. The restricted fund is 50% of the MVH (Motor Vehicle Highway) distribution and the State requires we spend that 50% solely on road repair or equipment for road repair. The funds are isolated in a special fund and she is transferring \$300.00 from employee salaries to Roads and Alleyways. William Ellis made a motion to approve Resolution 20-2019 transfer of funds – MVH Restricted Fund. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried.

Ordinances on First Reading

Ordinance 2019-21 to Amend Chapter 73.03 Schedule IV adding a Yield Intersection at a Through Street – Guy McCown Drive (tabled from October 28th meeting)

Jimmie Durnil, Town Marshal, explained he prefers not to have a sign. The road in question is not a road but only a driveway to the police station. He mentioned they have an existing stop bar and after discussing the matter with Kip Headdy, Street Department Foreman, they believe adding a 100-foot yellow line in the curve that indicates the main road comes back to the Townhall and then the stop bar will indicate that you will yield to the east and westbound traffic. They received some backing from Laura Slusher, LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program) through Purdue University. They provide technical assistance to Towns to foster safe and efficient transportation systems. Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer explained her issue with the original amendment was that you need to have a yield street and a through street and Guy McCown is only one street so they can't yield to each other. It was agreed that this would be a simple solution and Dan Swafford made a motion to withdraw the motion to approve Ordinance 2019-21 to amend Chapter 73.03 Schedule IV adding a Yield Intersection at a Through Street – Guy McCown Drive and proceed with the suggestion of Jimmie Durnil and Kip Headdy Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried.

Old Business

Agreement between the Town of Ellettsville and RBBCSC (Richland Bean Blossom Community School Corporation) to fund an additional School Resource Officer

Jimmie Durnil, Town Marshal explained this is a contract is for an additional SRO (School Resource Officer). The contract is the same as the first SRO except the responsibility of the \$75,000.00 will be on RBBCSC to be paid quarterly beginning January 1, 2020 to August 1, 2020. Darla Brown, Town Attorney verified the contract is the same other SRO except it is made clear that there is a second SRO and RBBCSC is responsible for funding it in the amount of \$75,000.00 payable in 4 equal quarterly installments. William Ellis made a motion to approve the Agreement between the Town of Ellettsville and RBBCSC (Richland

Bean Blossom Community School Corporation) to fund an additional School Resource Officer. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried.

New Business

Fire Department request to hire a Part-time Firefighter – Cayden Walker

Mike Cornman, Fire Chief, began discussion to hire Cayden Walker. Cayden is currently a volunteer firefighter at Switz City and he is also a full time EMT with Greene County Emergency Ambulance. Mike explained, fire department is currently down on part-time staff and will be losing 2 to 3 regular part time positions. Two will be leaving for other full-time employment and the third position is scaling back on hours due to a second part time firefighter position elsewhere that will most likely result in a full-time position with them. He further explained that it is not an additional position, it is within funds already established and will realign the current positions before hiring replacements for the other positions. Pamela Samples made a motion to approve the motion to hire a Part-time Firefighter – Cayden Walker. William Ellis seconded. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried.

Dog Park Grant – Denise Line

Denise Line, Assistant Planner, was pleased to announce the Town of Ellettsville was awarded a grant from Smithville Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$8,156.00 to construct a dog park at the Tecumseh pocket park located at Tecumseh Drive and South Deer Run intersection. It was designated a pocket park in 2017. The funds will construct the dog park, with amenities, on a portion of the property measuring a 420 linear feet perimeter and approximately 11,000 square feet. It will serve Arrowhead, Arrowhead Point, Greenbriar Knolls and Halcyon Heights. Preliminary site work will begin in the fall of 2019 with seeding and grading. Installation of a water line for a dog fountain will begin in the spring of 2020. She has a deadline of November 18, 2019 to submit the signed agreement. She asked for council to approve for Brian Mobley, council president to sign the agreement after review from Darla Brown, Town Attorney. Dan Swafford inquired about it being a 100% funded grant. Denise further explained she didn't receive everything she asked for, but it is a 100% funded grant. The black chain link fence surrounding the park is the biggest expense and that will have to be done by a contractor. It will have 2 gates, one for the dogs to get acclimated and the other gate to enter the park. There will be a grass turf with a 6-foot gravel path around it. There will be a side gate for mowing equipment to enter. Benches were not included but can hopefully be added next year with the help of the Parks Department. It will be open to anyone and there will be no charge or yearly membership. The park's purpose is to bring some green space into the older neighborhoods to get people out and walking their dog's. Dan Swafford commended Denise for her work and expressed what a wonderful idea it was. Pamela Samples said it is already being used for dog walking and she uses it herself but has some concerns. William Ellis inquired about the yearly maintenance. Denise feels it won't be costly since the Street Department already mows the area and it will only need re-seeded a couple of times a year. Other than that, only if it were vandalized would it need maintenance. Dan Swafford made a motion to approve the grant for the dog park pending Darla Brown's review, requiring Brian Mobley's signature. There was no second. Darla Brown asked for concerns on the matter. William Ellis expressed his concern was the ongoing cost. Pamela Samples said the additional cost isn't necessary, people already use it as a dog park and some even use it as a training area. Dogs can drink from the creek when it's hot and the maintenance would be an un-necessary cost. Darla Brown explained that if the funds are not used for this purpose it will have to be returned. Denise Line further explained that a survey was conducted in 2015 and the desires were green space, trails and recreational facilities in Ellettsville rather than going to Bloomington and Monroe County. Also, the Humane Society is willing to give vouchers to people using the facility to get their dogs spayed or neutered. Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer expressed this is an unfortunate situation. They have already received the grant but obviously this is the first the Council is hearing of it. Discussing grants before rather than after would avoid this problem in the future. Denise apologized and stated that she had spoken to the Town Manager regarding this and didn't realize she should go to the council beforehand. Pamela Samples mentioned she likes to be informed on any matter beforehand that she votes on, so she has time to process everything and not waste anyone's time with the grant process if it isn't agreed upon. William Ellis asked if it would likely impact future grants if it's turned down. Denise feels

it would. Sandra Hash mentioned that Smithville Charitable Foundation have been very generous to the town awarding grants for the website and all new street signs. It was mentioned that the Police reserves received a grant in the amount of \$18,000.00 for body cams and AED's for cars and the Ellettsville volunteer fire department received \$40,000.00 for mobile radio repeaters in the fire trucks. William Ellis reiterated his concern about the maintenance cost. He also expressed concern that he doesn't like the fact that it is changing the rules midstream and nobody knew they needed to inform the council they were working on a grant. He likes to be consistent and needs the heads up. Denise further explained that Michael Farmer, Town Manager, estimated the cost of a 50 to 100-pound bag of grass seed was only around \$10.00 and the gravel would only have to be kicked back on occasion so not much maintenance would be necessary. The property is already being mowed by the Town so there is no additional cost for that. Even though the motion wasn't seconded, the council agreed to public comment.

Valerie Dewar inquired about liability insurance required on the park. Per Darla Brown, it would be added to the Town's property to be insured after establishment. She explained that it should work like any other Park and if a child was injured it would be covered. She feels the Town is covered legally and in good hands with the Parks Department.

Dan Rarey feels like it would be a slap in the face to all who have worked on it and Smithville to not move forward with it. He understands the concern for the cost but feels it would be minimal. He is in favor of it and feels anytime you give someone something to do for free, that encourages being outside and exercise, it will enhance the perception of the community and the sale ability. It could possibly even eliminate issues with property owners providing a place to walk their dogs and not on sidewalks or streets.

John Samples, Pamela Samples husband, spoke and expressed his opinion that it was an unnecessary expense. He has seen many times, tire tracks through that property that would take down a fence requiring repair that wouldn't be accounted for or paid for by the one responsible for the damage. People drive recklessly around the corner and could also be a safety concern for anyone in the park at the time. He feels it is already a greenspace and used for that purpose and it would only add expense for the Town. He also expressed it was a slap in the face to the council that it wasn't mentioned before applying for the grant and believes Smithville will understand the reason for denial once they explain the process and misunderstanding.

Jimmie Durnil, Parks Board President, feels it would be great for the community and would hate to see all the hard work wasted. He defended her actions stating sometimes you just get caught up in the process and forget and she would certainly learn from it and follow protocol next time. Sandra Hash suggested a different location but Kevin Tolloty, Planner said had to be used as assigned in the grant application. He also mentioned this has been in the works way before any of them came on to the council and he was sorry they were not in the loop. William Ellis seconded the motion mentioning again his remaining concern for ongoing costs, but the town needs to know consistency and not do things mid-stream thinking they are playing by the rules. Pamela Samples asked if it would be advertised. Denise explained it would be advertised in the paper, the Town's website and will become part of the Parks and Recreation Department inventory and listed on their Facebook Page. The Humane Society will also advertise due to their volunteer involvement. Parking will be available at the new parking lot at the old Turtleback pool location. Pamela Samples expressed further concern for the lot being full in the summer with all the ballgames causing people to not have places to park. She feels the area is just in a bad location for it. Roll call vote: Dan Swafford – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples – no. Motion carried. Darla explained the motion passed since contracts only require a majority of the members present as opposed to an Ordinances which need 3 votes to pass.

Council Comments

William Ellis asked Denise Line to keep the council informed on insurance for the dog park and he thanked her for her work on it. He apologized for not doing his due diligence on the matter before being discussed at the council meeting.

Dan Swafford asked all the departments to try to keep newer council members informed on pending projects that might have occurred before they came on. He also thanked the Street Department for the great work clearing the streets after the recent snow.

Pamela Samples further explained her reasoning for voting no to the dog park. She has just witnessed a lot of the happenings in that area over the years since she lives close by and is afraid it will just get worse and be vandalized as many things are, at the Town's expense. Kids already use it as a hangout doing donuts in the parking lot and leaving a bunch of litter. She is concerned for her and her neighborhood.

Supervisor Comments

Jimmie Durnil also thanked the Street Department for their hard work after the snow. He mentioned they would be interviewing for the full time police officer position and he will have 2 names at the upcoming November 25th meeting announcing who will be the second School Resource Officer (SRO) and who will be the new full time officer to fill the opening from the move to SRO.

Mike Cornman wanted to make the council aware of a grant they had received from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) called the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG). They apply every time it is available, but this time they were awarded the National Firefighter Protection Association (NFPA) grant for the purpose of compliant health physicals. In the past they have only done bare minimum physicals required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and if they would have used the compliant physicals, it would more than likely detected an issue with one of the firefighters who suffered a heart attack while fighting a fire last year. Luckily, he made a full recovery, but they are the only fire department in the county that does not do the NFPA compliant physicals. They were awarded \$41,000.00 from the Federal Government that will allow them to start the physical fitness program starting with the medical physicals that range from \$900.00 to \$1,100.00 apiece. There is a small matching part, but he has budgeted for it. He also mentioned a Department of Natural Resources grant he has applied for that is a 50/50 grant used for firefighting equipment up to \$10,000.00 total. He always reserves \$5,000.00 in the equipment line Cumulative fund for that grant. It is ongoing and the way they have always done it in the past. The Ellettsville volunteer fire department has their own 501C3 and have applied for grants with the Smithville Charitable Foundation. Further information will follow for those grants. They have received grants in the past for an 800-megahertz radio system, personal protective equipment and fire gear. They do apply more than they receive but are all informative things to make the council aware to follow in line with the theme of this meeting.

Sandra Hash asked for copies of any Federal Grants that are being applied for. She has to do preliminaries to all her reports and one thing she is always asked about is federal grants. If they awarded over \$250,000.00 then we are required to have a more in-depth federal audit. There is a lot of reporting required on grants, so she just needs to be informed and up to date. She concluded with asking if the council was aware of the large grant being applied for through the DNR for a trail system. Council was not aware of that.

William Ellis appreciated all the information of existing applications but explained he mostly concerned about grants that will impact the Town with long term maintenance costs. He requested information on the Trail grants to better inform himself of the costs.

Jimmie Durnil mentioned that once the dog park is established, if there are ongoing issues, they can address them at the time with Ordinances. He also mentioned that he knows the park has been in the works for some time and knows there was awareness with some of the past/older council members but will do his best to keep them informed of upcoming grants.

Adjournment

Dan Swafford made a motion to adjourn. William Ellis seconded. Dan Swafford adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Brian Mobley, President

William Ellis

Pamela Samples

Dan Swafford, Vice President

Scott Oldham

Sandra C. Hash, Clerk-Treasurer, IAMC, MMC