

April 8, 2019

The Ellettsville, Indiana, Town Council met for a work session at 8:00 p.m., on Monday, April 8, 2019, at the Ellettsville Town Hall Meeting Room located at 1150 W. Guy McCown Drive.

Members present were Brian Mobley, President, Dan Swafford, Scott Oldham and Scott Thomas. Mike Farmer, Interim Town Manager and Sandra Hash, Clerk-Treasurer, were also present.

Supervisors present were: Danny Stalcup and Jimmie Durnil

Scott Oldham introduced MaryAnn Rains, president of RBBYS, (Richland Bean Blossom Youth Sports). Scott explained the Town has an opportunity to partner with RBBYS Youth Sports. Currently the group is run by parent volunteers. The work pool for those volunteers has significantly decreased over the years. Typically once the baseball season is done, the volunteers are done. While the volunteers have done a stunning job maintaining the facilities, there is a great deal of work running it for not just baseball and softball, but basketball as well. The Town has a Parks Department and partnering with Richland Township and the school corporation, we can utilize properties we own we can really grow the program. Ellettsville continues to grow so our population is growing with many young families and that means kids, kids who play sports. There is currently 561 kids playing in RBBYS. With building new fields and absorbing RBBYS, we can bring in tournaments that will generate revenue. With those tournaments, the need for restaurants and hotels will grow to drive people to want to come to Ellettsville. "If we build it they will come".

MaryAnn Rains explained that with the current facilities, they are stagnant with scheduling any other events. All fields are at maximum capacity every night, 7 days a week. She has 9 people to help maintain everything. They had to make it a requirement to parents to participate in a "field day" just to get everything in order for opening ceremony. She had 70 plus people volunteer and it was the best she had experienced in the 6 years she has been involved. She is also very involved with travel ball through the USSSA, (United States Specialty Sports Association) in Columbus. The Town of Columbus brought in an additional revenue on top of the regular revenue by adding tournaments. The tournament in April brought in an additional \$517,000.00 in 3 days on 12 fields. The Rec league is self-sustaining to cover the basics, but RBBYS receives grants from Smithville Telephone every year that take care of the major expenses such as scoreboards, bases, nets, Gators and fencing. Those basic expenses leaves them with approximately \$2-\$3 per person, per year so without those grants they would never be able to continue. RBBYS is now to the point that they have to expand in order to allow any further growth in the leagues. The Town has those capabilities with the Parks Department. They can't even offer a Babe Ruth team for kids over 13 because of the size of the fields which leaves a 3 year gap before they are eligible to play high school ball.

Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer questioned the ability to build and maintain new fields with not having employees on the Parks Department. She reported that City of Bloomington does not turn a profit and they are a huge city. MaryAnn stated it is because they don't utilize the fields properly. Scott Oldham feels we have to start somewhere and we can provide a good start with having the land and department to bring to the table along with what the other boards from the USSSA and the school can offer. We have to be able to take a risk for the Economic Development of this Town.

Mike Farmer, Interim Town Manager feels that we don't have the accommodations just yet to be able to facilitate everyone, but that is where being a rural community to Bloomington can fill that gap until we are able to grow and fulfill those areas of need. There will also be grants available to assist with initial costs.

Sandra Hash, voiced concern regarding priority within the Town. She understands the vision but the Fire department is struggling to retain employees on the salary being offered and over the 20 years she has been with the Town they have made progress but we have to prioritize and find what is more important to our Town. Scott Oldham feels if we don't take some risks, we won't make progress if we can't raise our revenue. It will take the Township, the school corporation and the Town together to accomplish this goal.

MaryAnn further mentioned she does understand the needs of the Town and the importance of the Fire department over a bunch of kids playing ball. She stated that within a few years, because of the flooding and the creek, they will lose one of the ball fields minimizing what will can be offered due to lack of space. What she sees is we have the department already in place, whether there are employees in it or not, in a few years, once they start turning a profit you will be in a place to hire full time employees. Until then, we would have to depend on volunteers. When your kids are involved you will have volunteers. Smithville Telephone will continue to support RBBYS. The sponsors and registration money support what they have now and with money earned on concessions they average about \$6,000.00 a year profit.

Scott Oldham concluded the session by stating the question of are we interested enough to proceed with reaching out to the school, the Township and everyone involved and see where we are with it. At that point we can kill it if need be. We just have to be willing to explore the option and even if we do nothing else other than administration, we aren't out any money. Sandra Hash struggled with all the financials and understanding the administration, but Scott Oldham reiterated the fact that this is not a commitment, just a willingness to explore the options and later complete the due diligence and either kill it then or have an opportunity to expand Economic development and profit for the Town. It was in agreed to proceed with exploring the options only at this time for later review.

Adjournment

The work session adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.

Brian Mobley, President

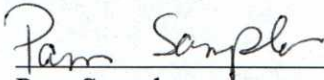


Dan Swafford, Vice President

Scott Thomas



Scott Oldham



Pam Samples



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