**September 12, 2022**

The Ellettsville, Indiana, Town Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, September 12, 2022, at the Ellettsville Town Hall Meeting Room located at 1150 West Guy McCown Drive. William Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Kip Headdy led the Pledge of Allegiance followed with a prayer by Jimmie Durnil.

**Roll Call:** Members present were William Ellis, President; Dan Swafford and Pamela Samples. Trevor Sager was absent. Scott Oldham signed in late by Zoom. Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer, Michael Farmer, Town Manager were also present. Darla Brown, Town Attorney was present by Zoom.

S**upervisors participating:** Kip Headdy, Jimmie Durnil, Denise Line, Kevin Patton and Jeff Farmer were present.

**Approval of the Minutes**

William Ellis entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting and the Executive Session August 22, 2022 and the Budget Meeting August 30, 2022. Dan Swafford so moved. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carried.

**Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll**

William Ellis entertained a motion to pay Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll. Pamela Samples so moved. Dan Swafford seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carried.

**Open Bids for UV Lights at the Sewer Plant**

Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer opened the bids in the absence of Darla Brown, Town Attorney in person. The first bid was from BL Anderson in the amount of $286,010.00. Second bid was Trojan UV in the amount of $295,000.00. Dan Swafford made a motion to take the bids under advisement and vote at the next meeting. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carried.

**Resolutions**

**Resolution 14-2022 to Dispose of Surplus Property for the Fire Department – 1991 Pierce Dash**

**Kevin Patton**, Fire Chief explained it is a retired 1991 Pierce Dash fire engine they no longer use. He will sell it on Gov Deals. Pamela Samples made a motion to approve Resolution 14-2022. Dan Swafford seconded. Roll Call vote: William Ellis – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carried.

**Ordinances on Second Reading**

**Ordinance 2022-09 Certifying Ward Boundaries**

**Darla Brown,** Town Attorney presented another draft of Ordinance 2202-09 Certifying Ward Boundaries to council. Earlier confusion arose from the exhibits presented being difficult to read and what the Town’s intent was. Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer came up with a different exhibit that shows the Wards as they currently are and in this Ordinance the Town Council is exercising its authority pursuant to the relevant Indiana Code to certify the Wards as they are now so the Ward lines don’t have to be re-drawn. The language changed slightly; she added an additional introductory clause that makes it clear the Town Council uses a hybrid election system. She clarified to say anyone in the Town can vote for whomever they want anyway. There was only an increase of 277 people according to the last Census so the question is do you think there is a fair representation to allow the voters to vote fairly for whomever they want. Dan Swafford made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-09 Certifying Ward Boundaries. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll Call vote: William Ellis – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carried.

**Ordinance 2022-10 to Rename the Park and Recreation Donation Fund to the Department of Parks and Recreation Non-Reverting Fund**

**Darla Brown,** Town Attorney discussed at the last meeting there were some language changes. Section 3 stated that the Parks Department would handle the money and it was changed to the Clerk Treasurer**.** She also added Section 7 which clarified the council repeals the Ordinance establishing the Department of Parks and Recreation Non-Reverting Fund, the monies remaining in said fund shall be transferred to the Parks and Recreation Fund. Pamela Samples questioned why it had to be a non-reverting fund. Darla Brown explained those are the only choices under the statute and either the council can fund certain projects or the Parks and Rec Board can set up a non-reverting fund for projects and or to accept donations. A non-reverting fund ensures the money stays in the fund and doesn’t revert to any other fund at year end. There was confusion what the Ordinance was for specifically and Darla Brown explained this Ordinance was only for establishing the fund to accept donations and fees for a youth sports league. Pamela Samples expressed she was uncomfortable setting up a fund for something they haven’t voted on yet and explained council hasn’t approved the youth sports league so why do we need a fund until that is voted on. It was explained that the money isn’t the Town’s and will be used to collect for the youth sports not to revert back to the Town General Fund and will stay in place for day-to-day operations of the league. Pamela Samples is not comfortable with the liability and accountability. Michael Farmer ensured Pamela that this is all for the welfare of the kids and this is what we do for a living and is pretty mild compared to a lot of things council approves. The liability will be controlled with the department heads. Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer’s only concern is electronic receipts which means they will need access to the checking account. If this happens she will create another account for this as not to allow them into the General Fund. A question from the public was can the Town General Fund become liable for paying damages related to Park Recreational program accidents? Jimmie Durnil, Parks Board President explained they have their own liability insurance to take care of any of that. Sandra Hash explained the Town will have to take out more insurance. Darla Brown understands that if the Town is handling the youth sports league money the Town would need a Memorandum of Understanding that she thought the Town decided not to do. Michael Farmer clarified that at this point since basketball was starting they were going to run the league through the school and only collect the money and in the spring after things are more organized we will take over everything. Sandra Hash has another view of understanding and until someone is hired to handle it this cannot be done. William Ellis made a motion to table until the next meeting. The Motion failed for lack of a second. Dan Swafford made a motion to vote on Ordinance 2022-10. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Dan Swafford – no; Pamela Samples - no. Motion Fails.

**Old Business**

**Affordable Septic and Repair Request to use Ellettsville Wastewater for Disposal – Steve Phelps**

**Jeff Farmer** presented a septic pumping agreement prepared by Darla Brown, Town Attorney Section 4 explains the Town reserves the right to terminate any and all dumping privileges at any time, for any reason and without prior notice to the septic hauler. If the Town WWTP operator believes that the amount of waste being dumped is detrimental to the WWTP, The Town reserves the right to limit the amount of waste from the septic hauler at any time. In the event the WWTP operators believes that it is in the best interest of the Town to limit the waste accepted from septic service providers, the Town’s WWTP operator will make every effort to enforce limits on the contractors according to seniority. He feels we are accepting as much as we need so at this time we should not accept any more septic haulers. He also presented a summary of the 2021 from the haulers. Jeff explained the amount that is getting dumped is 1.2% of the annual flow into the plant and the haulers are paying 53% of the total hauling costs and tipping fees at the landfill. That significantly reduces the cost to the rate payers in Ellettsville. Jeff is still working on improvement costs on the existing dump station. Jeff explained that he feels they shouldn’t accept any further haulers until improvements are made at the existing dump station and at that time those will be brought before the council to vote. Dan Swafford was concerned about conflict of interest since Bynum Fanyo has the authority to turn people away and decide what’s best for the preservation of the plant since they dump there. Darla Brown feels there is not a conflict as long as they are putting themselves on a percentage basis along with everyone else and they are hired to do what is best for the preservation to the plant. Jeff stated he isn’t in competition

with these other companies and will always have potential haulers come before the board for approval to dump. Darla Brown feels the agreement should be revisited to establish an emergency procedure and future haulers who request to dump. Sandra Hash expressed her opinion that Jeff manages the plant and we are overtaxing our system, why it is a debate to take on more people. Dan Swafford feels it should be revisited also for future haulers, but definitely needs a system in place for tracking

and will be a no vote until then. Pamela Samples made a motion to approve voting on Affordable Septic and Repair Request to use Ellettsville Wastewater for Disposal – Steve Phelps. Dan Swafford seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – no; Dan Swafford – no; Pamela Samples - no. Motion Carried.

**New Business**

**Excess Levy Appeal Petition and Certification**

**Sandra Hash,** Clerk Treasurer presented the following print outs to the council and explained in 2019 the Assessed Valuation (AV)increased by 7% and in 2020 10%, 2021 13%, 2022 15% and 2023 25%. Overall, that is 70% and the growth Quotient that the state allows is overall 21%. In summary we have grown 70% but only allowed to increase tax by 21% so the Town is struggling to keep up with their growth. Ellettsville over the last 5 years has decreased the tax rate by .2614. Out of all the taxing units in Monroe County no one has reduced their tax rate that much except for Bloomington Township and that was due to them joining the Fire District.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Assessed** | **Value** |  | **Percentage of** | | **Growth Quotient** |  |
|  |  |  |  | **Growth** |  |  |  |
| 2019 | $218,198,789 | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | 7% |  | 4% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2020 | $241,395,337 | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | 10% |  | 3.40% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2021 | $276,724,694 | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 13% |  | 4.20% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2022 | $324,590,229 | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 15% |  | 4.30% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2023 | $433,322,775 | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 25% |  | 5% |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Totals** |  |  | **70%** |  | **21%** |  |
|  | **The Assessed Value has grown by 70%** | | | |  |  |  |
|  | **Taxes have grown by 21%** | | |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Growth needs resources to provide essential services** | | | | | |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tax Rates** | | |  | |  | |  | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | Amount of |
|  |  | **2017** | | **2018** | | **2019** | | **2020** | | **2021** | **2022** | |  | Change | |
| Ellettsville (Richland Twp.) | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCSWD | 0.0287 | | 0.0291 | | 0.0289 | | 0.0286 | | 0.0277 | 0.0272 | |  | -0.0015 | |
|  | Library | 0.0964 | | 0.0957 | | 0.0972 | | 0.0969 | | 0.092 | 0.0924 | |  | -0.004 | |
|  | Monroe County | 0.3832 | | 0.4109 | | 0.4113 | | 0.4105 | | 0.3986 | 0.3916 | |  | 0.0084 | |
|  | RBBCSC | 1.1159 | | 1.2404 | | 1.0011 | | 1.007 | | 1.0854 | 1.0782 | |  | -0.0377 | |
|  | Richland Township | 0.03 | | 0.0332 | | 0.0324 | | 0.0312 | | 0.0291 | 0.0279 | |  | -0.0021 | |
|  | Ellettsville | 0.8861 | | 0.8622 | | 0.8302 | | 0.7806 | | 0.7058 | 0.6247 | |  | -0.2614 | |
| Total | | 2.5403 | | 2.6715 | | 2.4011 | | 2.3548 | | 2.3386 | 2.242 | |  | -0.2983 | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | | | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | | | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | | | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | | | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
| Ellettsville (Bean Blossom Twp.) | | | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCSWD | 0.0287 | | 0.0291 | | 0.0289 | | 0.0286 | | 0.0277 | 0.0272 | |  | -0.0015 | |
|  | Library | 0.0964 | | 0.0957 | | 0.0972 | | 0.0969 | | 0.092 | 0.0924 | |  | -0.004 | |
|  | Monroe County | 0.3832 | | 0.4109 | | 0.4113 | | 0.4105 | | 0.3986 | 0.3916 | |  | 0.0084 | |
|  | RBBCSC | 1.1159 | | 1.2404 | | 1.0011 | | 1.007 | | 1.0854 | 1.0782 | |  | -0.0377 | |
|  | Bean Blossom Township | 0.0204 | | 0.0215 | | 0.0219 | | 0.0224 | | 0.0224 | 0.0216 | |  | 0.0012 | |
|  | Ellettsville | 0.8861 | | 0.8622 | | 0.8302 | | 0.7806 | | 0.7058 | 0.6247 | |  | -0.2614 | |
| Total | | 2.5307 | | 2.6598 | | 2.3906 | | 2.346 | | 2.3319 | 2.2357 | |  | -0.295 | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
| Richland Township | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCSWD | 0.0287 | | 0.0291 | | 0.0289 | | 0.0286 | | 0.0277 | 0.0272 | |  | -0.0015 | |
|  | Library | 0.0964 | | 0.0957 | | 0.0972 | | 0.0969 | | 0.092 | 0.0924 | |  | -0.004 | |
|  | Monroe County | 0.3832 | | 0.4109 | | 0.4113 | | 0.4105 | | 0.3986 | 0.3916 | |  | 0.0084 | |
|  | RBBCSC | 1.1159 | | 1.2404 | | 1.0011 | | 1.007 | | 1.0854 | 1.0782 | |  | -0.0377 | |
|  | Richland Township | 0.1673 | | 0.1697 | | 0.1685 | | 0.1666 | | 0.1744 | 0.176 | |  | 0.0087 | |
| Total | | 1.7915 | | 1.9458 | | 1.707 | | 1.7096 | | 1.7781 | 1.7654 | |  | -0.0261 | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
| Bloomington (Richland Township) | | | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCSWD | 0.0287 | | 0.0291 | | 0.0289 | | 0.0286 | | 0.0277 | 0.0272 | |  | -0.0015 | |
|  | Library | 0.0964 | | 0.0957 | | 0.0972 | | 0.0969 | | 0.092 | 0.0924 | |  | -0.004 | |
|  | Monroe County | 0.3832 | | 0.4109 | | 0.4113 | | 0.4105 | | 0.3986 | 0.3916 | |  | 0.0084 | |
|  | RBBCSC | 1.1159 | | 1.2404 | | 1.0011 | | 1.007 | | 1.0854 | 1.0782 | |  | -0.0377 | |
|  | Richland Township | 0.03 | | 0.0332 | | 0.0324 | | 0.0312 | | 0.0291 | 0.0279 | |  | -0.0021 | |
|  | Bloomington | 0.8627 | | 0.8854 | | 0.8962 | | 0.8978 | | 0.8769 | 0.8726 | |  | 0.0099 | |
|  | Bloomington Transit | 0.0354 | | 0.0361 | | 0.036 | | 0.0359 | | 0.0353 | 0.0351 | |  | -0.0003 | |
| Total | | 2.5523 | | 2.7308 | | 2.5031 | | 2.5079 | | 2.545 | 2.525 | |  | -0.0273 | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
| Bloomington (Perry Township) | | | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCSWD | 0.0287 | | 0.0291 | | 0.0289 | | 0.0286 | | 0.0277 | 0.0272 | |  | -0.0015 | |
|  | Library | 0.0964 | | 0.0957 | | 0.0972 | | 0.0969 | | 0.092 | 0.0924 | |  | -0.004 | |
|  | Monroe County | 0.3832 | | 0.4109 | | 0.4113 | | 0.4105 | | 0.3986 | 0.3916 | |  | 0.0084 | |
|  | MCCSC | 0.6468 | | 0.6415 | | 0.6313 | | 0.6205 | | 0.6142 | 0.6332 | |  | -0.0136 | |
|  | Perry Township | 0.0224 | | 0.0233 | | 0.0228 | | 0.022 | | 0.0222 | 0.0207 | |  | -0.0017 | |
|  | Bloomington | 0.8627 | | 0.8854 | | 0.8962 | | 0.8978 | | 0.8769 | 0.8726 | |  | 0.0099 | |
|  | Bloomington Transit | 0.0354 | | 0.0361 | | 0.036 | | 0.0359 | | 0.0353 | 0.0351 | |  | -0.0003 | |
| Total | | 2.0756 | | 2.122 | | 2.1237 | | 2.1122 | | 2.0669 | 2.0728 | |  | -0.0028 | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
| Bloomington (Bloomington Township) | | | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCSWD | 0.0287 | | 0.0291 | | 0.0289 | | 0.0286 | | 0.0277 | 0.0272 | |  | -0.0015 | |
|  | Library | 0.0964 | | 0.0957 | | 0.0972 | | 0.0969 | | 0.092 | 0.0924 | |  | -0.004 | |
|  | Monroe County | 0.3832 | | 0.4109 | | 0.4113 | | 0.4105 | | 0.3986 | 0.3916 | |  | 0.0084 | |
|  | Bloomington Township | 0.0251 | | 0.0254 | | 0.0258 | | 0.0255 | | 0.0188 | 0.0253 | |  | 0.0002 | |
|  | Bloomington | 0.8627 | | 0.8854 | | 0.8962 | | 0.8978 | | 0.8769 | 0.8726 | |  | 0.0099 | |
|  | Bloomington Transit | 0.0354 | | 0.0361 | | 0.036 | | 0.0359 | | 0.0353 | 0.0351 | |  | -0.0003 | |
| Total | | 2.0783 | | 2.1241 | | 2.1267 | | 2.1157 | | 2.0635 | 2.0774 | |  | -0.0009 | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
| Bean Blossom Township | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCSWD | 0.0287 | | 0.0291 | | 0.0289 | | 0.0286 | | 0.0277 | 0.0272 | |  | -0.0015 | |
|  | Library | 0.0964 | | 0.0957 | | 0.0972 | | 0.0969 | | 0.092 | 0.0924 | |  | -0.004 | |
|  | Monroe County | 0.3832 | | 0.4109 | | 0.4113 | | 0.4105 | | 0.3986 | 0.3916 | |  | 0.0084 | |
|  | RBBCSC | 1.1159 | | 1.2404 | | 1.0011 | | 1.007 | | 1.0854 | 1.0782 | |  | -0.0377 | |
|  | Bean Blossom Township | 0.0979 | | 0.1017 | | 0.1025 | | 0.104 | | 0.1043 | 0.1015 | |  | 0.0036 | |
| Total | | 1.7221 | | 1.8778 | | 1.641 | | 1.647 | | 1.708 | 1.6909 | |  | -0.0312 | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
| Perry Township | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCSWD | 0.0287 | | 0.0291 | | 0.0289 | | 0.0286 | | 0.0277 | 0.0272 | |  | -0.0015 | |
|  | Library | 0.0964 | | 0.0957 | | 0.0972 | | 0.0969 | | 0.092 | 0.0924 | |  | -0.004 | |
|  | Monroe County | 0.3832 | | 0.4109 | | 0.4113 | | 0.4105 | | 0.3986 | 0.3916 | |  | 0.0084 | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCCSC | 0.6468 | | 0.6415 | | 0.6313 | | 0.6205 | | 0.6142 | 0.6332 | |  | -0.0136 | |
|  | Perry Township | 0.0224 | | 0.0233 | | 0.0228 | | 0.022 | | 0.0222 | 0.0207 | |  | -0.0017 | |
|  | Fire District | 0.154 | | 0.1554 | | 0.1633 | | 0.163 | | 0.389 | 0.3002 | |  | 0.1462 | |
| Total | | 1.3315 | | 1.3559 | | 1.3548 | | 1.3415 | | 1.5437 | 1.4653 | |  | 0.1338 | |
|  |  |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
| Bloomington Township | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |  | |  |  | |
|  | MCSWD | 0.0287 | | 0.0291 | | 0.0289 | | 0.0286 | | 0.0277 | 0.0272 | |  | -0.0015 | |
|  | Library | 0.0964 | | 0.0957 | | 0.0972 | | 0.0969 | | 0.092 | 0.0924 | |  | -0.004 | |
|  | Monroe County | 0.3832 | | 0.4109 | | 0.4113 | | 0.4105 | | 0.3986 | 0.3916 | |  | 0.0084 | |
|  | MCCSC | 0.6468 | | 0.6415 | | 0.6313 | | 0.6205 | | 0.6142 | 0.6332 | |  | -0.0136 | |
|  | Bloomington Township | 0.679 | | 0.4008 | | 0.4001 | | 0.3561 | | 0.0188 | 0.0253 | |  | -0.6537 | |
|  | Fire District |  | |  | |  | |  | | 0.389 | 0.3002 | |  | 0.3002 | |
| Total | | 1.8341 | | 1.578 | | 1.5688 | | 1.5126 | | 1.5403 | 1.4699 | |  | -0.3642 | |

The following expressed their opinions.

Michael Farmer, Town Manager discussed if we maintain the current level and the AV goes up it brings additional revenue. This bridges the difference between how we have grown in our revenues and how the Town has grown. Baker Tilley the Town’s financial consultant has strongly recommended the excess levy appeal.

**William Ellis** feels happy we have a fully funded budget without this and don’t need the increase to fund our needs. The majority of the growth is from what is already here and not new construction. The taxes are still going up on average of 5% and with the levy appeal it will be 11%. This year we collected $88,000 more than last year and will collect more next year at the standard levy rate. Maybe they will do an appeal next year. He doesn’t want to fall behind and he is confident in the Town’s growth but wants to see more horizontal growth with businesses and the AV is growing not just from property becoming more valuable but actually adding millions more to the tax roles and we will see the money increase

**Sandra Hash** added that it is hard to determine what part of the AV is from existing homes but KeHE is a $22,972.00 increase in AV, Ellettsville Storage is $1,934,000.00, Richard’s Small Engine has grown and are $735,400.00, Starbucks $1,171,500.00, Curry Buick $232,000.00 and Mad for Your Dog $416,500.00. William Ellis explained some of these will

hit the tax role next year and Sandra commented the 2022 AV grew by $108,000.00 and is the most Ellettsville has ever grown in a 12-month period.

**Jeff Farmer** understands concerns but also understands that the growth with the new construction of apartments and businesses that we have not counted will offset the levy appeal.

He also understands that just because we let our tax rate go down does not prevent the other entities from seeing the opportunity to raise their tax rate. We will only fall behind if we wait. He stated there are only 5 tax levy appeals allowed by the state. There used to be 14 so opportunities are limited. We are currently at .62 ½ cents per $100.00 of assessed value, if it stays at 62 ½ cents and a property is assessed at 200,000 next year and the following year is assessed at 250,000 you are going to pay more. If we do nothing it drops to .50 and just doing the levy only and not the bond, it drops to .54. With the 5% and the levy appeal it would be an increase of $225,000. That is needed for resources for our Police and Fire departments. He feels passing on this it would be a mistake.

**Michael Farmer** added that in reference to building the new Blue Building. The goal is to house the Street Department and the Utility department in one modern building that doesn’t flood and is safe and healthy for everyone. The bond would be helpful in achieving that goal.

He feels the timing is right and access to a revenue stream will help with that. Jeff Farmer added that we could go into next year and keep the same tax rate and have the ability to raise $148,000 with an excess tax levy and in addition to that without increasing the tax rate, the Town could get a $2.8 million bond over 10 years.

There were several back-and-forth comments and statistics shared. Sandra Hash added that unless we appeal the levy we will not benefit from the growth. Due to the growth the tax is spread out amongst more people causing the rate to go down. For example if the state says the growth to the levy is a 5% increase and we get $100,000.00 this year, the next year we get $105,000.00. The 5% increase is tied to the levy previously received not the assessed value. The levy increase next year is $80,825. Of that the general fund will go down by $56,861 because MVH needs more money. MVH is funded but we can’t continue without increasing so we moved some of our levy to them. Point is that yes we increase $80,000 but the general fund where we pay for Police and Fire are going down in order to give more money to Streets and Parks. She feels if we didn’t get the LIT money we would be falling behind.

**Michael Farmer** mentioned that everyone has a list of capital projects that need attention. Utilizing the bond would help take care of a lot of items. Kevin Patton, Fire Chief stated part of the issues with waiting is that ordering trucks it is taking 24 to 36 months to receive when the need is urgent it makes it worse. He also needs to increase staff and we need to consider the growth and how to cover the area. Police Department is experiencing the same thing, not enough staff to cover needs. Jimmie Durnil confirmed he is in the same situation being short on personnel and equipment we need.

**Scott Oldham** agreed with the supervisors, we have put off and put off. He doesn’t want taxes to go up but doesn’t want to fall behind. He doesn’t want to not do anything for another year but doesn’t want to go for the max levy. In the long run the levy increase needs to go forward with the intent that it will stave off other levy increases in the next year.

**Dan Swafford** usually is in favor of levy appeals but is very upset with the budget this year. He feels the LIT money addressed a lot of issues. It’s time to give the taxpayers a break this year. Unless the budget gets cut he is not in support of it or the budget.

**Michael Farmer** is hesitant to go against the board but feels that for something of this importance they should wait until there is a full board to vote. He also suggested that the levy appeal be put in the Gateway and to get around the deadline. This gives people an opportunity to vote and not lose the chance. He feels a strong sense that we need to do this and this is his suggestion.

Pamela Samples made a motion to vote on the excess levy appeal. Dan Swafford seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – no; Dan Swafford – no; Pamela Samples – no; Scott Oldham was unclear what they were voting on. Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained there were two choices, move to table or a motion to approve the appeal petition or deny the petition. There was confusion on the motions. Dan Swafford expressed frustration with the motions and having to re-vote. Sandra Hash amended the motion to approve the excess levy appeal and certification. No re-vote was necessary except for Scott Oldham’s vote. Scott Oldham – yes. Request failed.

**Police Department request to move Jarod Koon form Part-time to Full-time**

**Jimmie Durnil,** Town Marshal explained Jarod Koon has been a reserve officer and a part-time officer and has completed his training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Academy

With an honors diploma. He has almost completed his field training and should be ready **to** go out on his own in a couple of weeks. His request is to move Jarod Koon from a part-time officer to full-time after review of the physical review and approval from PERF.Scott Oldham disagreed and stated this has already been approved when they approved him to go from reserve to part-time. Kevin Patton confirmed and stated that once Sandra Hash gets the approval from PERF he will just be full-time and doesn’t need a vote. Jimmie Durnil withdrew his request.

**Chamber of Commerce request a Proclamation for Smithville Recognition Day on November 4, 2022**

**Jill Thurman** from Ellettsville Chamber of Commerce read a letter on behalf of board of directors of the Ellettsville Chamber of Commerce requesting Smithville Telephone be recognized by proclamation on November 4, 2022. Request stated Michael Farmer or a Town

Council read the Proclamation in recognition of Smithville’s history of innovation and the importance of the contribution they have made to Ellettsville and the State of Indiana at the Power Luncheon Friday November 4, 2022 at noon. William Ellis made a motion to approve November 4, 2022 as Smithville Recognition Day. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carried.

**Supervisor Comments**

**Jeff Farmer** presented 3 bids for resurfacing the blacktop drive at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP):

**Milestone Contractors, L.P $108,900.00**

**E&B Paving $80,500.00**

**Lentz Paving $66,525.00**

He has reviewed them and they all require 1 ½ number 11 surface and mill edges and a smooth transition. He proposed accepting the lowest bid. Dan Swafford approved to accept the bid from Lentz Paving in the amount of $66,525.00 to pave the blacktop at the WWTP located at 7568 N. Redhill Road, Ellettsville, Indiana. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carried.

**Jeff Farmer** presented bids for painting needed at the WWTP. One bid was considerably higher than the other. Bids were:

**Sims Painting $33,175.00 to include Labor and materials to paint the building, stripes, doors, framing, safety ballards, water pipes/hydrants, pressure wash all areas to remove loose paint and debris. Remove and re-tuck eroded corners on the concrete walls.**

**DOCO Coatings $289,192.00**

Pamela Samples made a motion to approve Sims Painting estimate in the amount of $33,175.00. Dan Swafford seconded. Roll call vote: William Ellis – yes; Dan Swafford – yes; Pamela Samples - yes. Motion Carried.

**Kevin Patton**, Fire Chief requested a short Work Session before the next council meeting to discuss an Aid Agreement with a neighboring department with the council. Darla Brown, Town Attorney agreed it could be done at a Work Session. It shouldn’t be more than 30 minutes.

**Denise Line**, Planner announced that Terry Baker, Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals member had passed away. He had been a Plan Commission member since May 4, 1992. She asked for everyone to remember his wife Fran during this difficult time.

**Sandra Hash**, Clerk Treasurer thanked everyone for letting her speak and try to persuade them without getting angry concerning the levy appeals. William Ellis thanked her for everything she does.

**Michael Farmer**, Town Manager announced the upcoming weekend is the Monroe County Fall Festival, Thursday, September 15, 2022 through Saturday, September 17, 2022. He encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities of this long-time tradition to the Town.

**Denise Line**, Planner also mentioned that the Food Truck Wednesday wrapped up another season last week. It was very successful and she is excited for next year.

**Adjournment**

William Ellis, Council President adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

William Ellis, President Trevor Sager, Vice President

Scott Oldham Pamela Samples

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dan Swafford Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer, IAMC, MMC