Town of Monroe

Town Board Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

February monthly expenses were reviewed and approved.

February 2025 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Those in attendance at tonight’s meeting: Mike Geels, Josh Geerken, David Bard, Rachel Tague, Justin Shaffer, AJ Bertsch, Kris Burkhart, Steve Bailey, both newspaper journalists for the Witness and Decatur Democrat, resident Dana Bowman.

Town Attorney Clayton Lengerich was absent at tonight’s meeting.

**New Business**

Nothing new to present

**Old Business**

Nothing old to present

**Town Superintendent**

Justin started the meeting with discussing paving for this year. Brooks with be working on paving Bahner Dr, Polk St, W Andrews, W Jackson, N Van Buren. Next year there will be continues work on next year Keller and E Andrews to include widening and curbs.

David asked that Justin or Rachel put up on the towns plans for the street projects that are coming up so that everyone can be aware.

There are still some force main issues with the connection from Monroe to Berne. There may be some build up in the pipes so Justin is working on finding a way to clear any debris that may be in the way. He’s hoping that is all that’s needed to see the flow improve.

Justin has been working on putting together a parks division exclusively for the town. He’s looking for anyone who would like to volunteer their time to help with ideas and projects that the town would like to see put towards our town park located on W Andrews and Park St.

Justin is asking council to think about adding a salt spreader to the town’s equipment next winter. Since Karthon takes the white work truck home, which carries the only salt spreader for the town minus what the dump truck does, Justin would like to add a salt spreader to the dump truck just in case the white truck isn’t available.

Baker Tilly was planned for tonight’s meeting to go over the sewage credit/rate increase however they were not able to attend. Justin is hoping that next month, he’ll have all the info needed to go over with council the pros and cons and what the expect.

Justin would like to offer Karthon the option to attend an apprenticeship program put on by a water association in Indiana. This association is offering a grant for certain participants which Karthon is eligible for. This course offers 288 hours and also going over various safety training. It’s a 2 year program but does require quarterly raises to be given to the student. All the paperwork is done by the association and Rachel will have to be trained for payroll purposes since this is free to the town. The cost of this apprenticeship is roughly $1,500.00 per semester. David Bard made a motion to accept. Josh seconded that motion. Motion passed 3-0.

Justin announced heavy trash pickup will be held March 24-28. Hydrant flushing will take place April 7-18 but they will be turning valves so it may take a bit longer to get through all the flushing.

**Town Marshal**

AJ was present and has asked council if he may attend a Indiana Marshal conference down in Indianapolis on April 3-5. The cost is $75 for the conference plus hotel stay for 2 nights. Council asked that they have time to think about this and it was tabled for now.

**Fire Department**

Kris Burkhart was present and said that one of the fire trucks had been in an accident during an icy weather event while on a fire run. No one was injured and the truck is due for repair in the next couple of weeks.

Kris told council that Rachel Tague has been looking for a painter for the interior of the fire station. As of this meeting she’s only been able to get 3 quotes. He’d like to get a few more quotes and will present at a future board meeting.

Kris mentioned that Rachel had come to him with a request to add a foyer light in the front of the building. It’s very dark in this area and anyone coming in to pay at the window may have a hard time seeing. Kris has had a few electricians come in to give some quotes but nothing definite has been planned yet.

Since the State is mandating all council meetings to be live streamed, Kris has been working with Justin to make plans for this in the board room. They plan to use Innovative Concepts to install the necessary equipment. Kris said he and Justin have been trying to keep the cost down while getting the equipment both departments can use.

**Clerk-Treasurer**

Rachel asked council what their thoughts were for announcing the garage sale dates. She suggested June 12, 13, 14, 2025 as the town wide garage sale dates. Josh made a motion to accept this. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Rachel notified council that the towns Animal Care and Control agreement has expired as of Dec 31, 2024. Clayton emailed Rachel a new agreement to present to council. She would like to renew the contract and get it signed by council. Steve Bailey spoke up to help Rachel explain more of what the contract is good for and noted that the cost hadn’t changed since the prior year. Josh made motion to accept, David seconded. Motion passed 3-0

**Other Business**

Steve Bailey spoke up and said they are working on an Adams County planning for the future organization. This will help all of Adams County to put their minds together and see what they would like to see in each town or cities future. He’s looking for someone to represent the Town of Monroe. Meetings are set begin in April.

With nothing further to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.

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Town Board President

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Clerk-Treasurer