

# Council Meeting

February 19, 2014

7:30 P.M.

The Town Council of the Town of Markle, Indiana met in its meeting room at the Markle Fire Department Building on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014, at the hour of 7:30 p.m. in accordance with the rules of the Council and applicable laws.

Town Council Members present: Jeff Humbarger, Mark Hamilton, and Rick Bower. Clerk-Treasurer Shelley Monticue and (8) additional townspeople were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

First order of business were the minutes from the January 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting and February 13<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting. Councilmember Bower motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by President Humbarger. Motion carried 3-0, and Minutes were signed.

Next on the Agenda, Jan Williams of the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) gave a report on the services they provide to youth and young adults of Huntington County.

In 2013, the YSB serviced 3,300 youth and parents through 17 different programs and services, with most significant service to note being the increase in teen suicide prevention services. In providing a team approach, 56 teens were helped, which is an increase over the 37 youth assisted two years ago. The difference, however, is the numbers that were able to be helped prior to requiring inpatient care. Only 14 needed inpatient care, so the numbers of youth who are getting help faster is increasing.

The goal in 2014 is not only to use this team approach to help those who are contemplating suicide, but to assist the runaways and "throwaways" of society. With many kids being considered "legally responsible" for themselves at 18 years of age but not able to sustain themselves, many are being thrust into the world with nowhere to go. 658 youth and young adults ages 16 and up were assisted in 2013 with safe places, host homes, and crisis intervention during this difficult time. Two staff members are always available 24/7 to answer crisis phone calls.

The YSB is a nationally recognized fitting station for child car seats. The YSB is also working with Local Anti-Drug Coalition (LACE) and the Rx Drug Task Force to prevent drug use among the local youth. They also are instrumental in helping the schools get Terry Hall to teach students about body safety. YSB receives funding from state contracts, county funds, the United Way and annual fundraisers. While this amounts to approximately \$300,000 annually, this small amount assists thousands annually and the YSB is very frugal.

Ms. Williams stated that the YSB advertises through schools, civic organizations, and local public speaking. The YSB started as a residential program in 1987 but found more youth could be helped through a direct program using schools and safe places. Vice President Hamilton asked where the Town has safe places for youth. While Ms. Williams stated that there are 47 total safe places throughout Huntington County, Markle has two: one at Crossroads Pantry and another at the Library. She said that gas stations are critical for those on a violent date to make an escape, and while fire departments and police departments are always available, they are not easy to get to in crisis situations. Most of the YSB's crisis calls come from schools who are alerted to runaways.

Councilmember Bower requested that Administrative Coordinator Lara Ludlow link the Town's website to the YSB's webpage. Ms. Williams stated that the Internet is the best way to get to the kids, as "that's where they

## Meeting Minutes Continued | February 19, 2014

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are." They have even been able to prevent suicides through the YSB's Facebook page. On a final note, Ms. Williams said that they assist kids as young as elementary school to prevent future crisis calls.

Town Council has no correspondence for the month to report.

Next on the Agenda, Town Supervisor Rick Asher submitted his monthly report:

- Two main breaks have caused an unaccountable water loss amount of 29%. The Town has never had a loss of this amount. Since older mains were replaced years ago (where the average loss was 7%), the annual average has been 4-5%. Since the marked increase in the unaccounted water pumped monthly (March-April 2013), the Town employees, with the assistance of Indiana Rural Water Association, have been looking for the main breaks. When the water began coming out of the banks under State Road 3 on the south side of Town, they were finally able to locate the source of the water loss. Due to the amount of stone under the road, the main was bored five times before success was achieved south of Park Drive. A 4" valve was used at James Mossburg's home to "throttle down" the water loss for the duration of the repair and keep Greg Wilson and his tenant with water service. The cause of the break was approximately 25-30 feet deep, and Mr. Asher had the contractor install 8" casing over a 4" HPE solid pipe to tie into the west side of State Road 3. Add into this main break, the winter of 2013-14 has caused "havoc" with five feet of snow with frozen meters and two additional leaks.
- The new water tower was completed in line with the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. The Solar-B mixer is once again out of service. Water Superintendent Steve Jeffers and Mr. Asher met with the contractor, who has determined that it could be as simple as a loose wire on top of the tank. The contractor is "standing behind" the warranty and the mixer will be repaired.
- Mr. Asher submitted a claim of approximately \$7,300-\$7,500 to Huntington County Emergency Management in the hopes that the 10" snowfall in December 2013 will receive some reimbursement from FEMA.
- The wellhead pump required a new Lovejoy coupler. Mr. Asher stated that the motor was fine and pulling the same amps but Town General Assistant Mike Grant found the sparking and separation of the coupler. As of February 18<sup>th</sup>, the coupler was replaced and the pump is back in service.

Wastewater Superintendent Scott Spahr submitted his Annual Report at this time. A shear pin broke and froze on a clarifier. Since these are small and turn the whole unit, when ice froze on it, the pin broke. It will be repaired once the weather improves.

Marshal John Markley submitted his monthly report. The new Caprice has arrived and is in Marshal Markley's garage being prepared for service.

Next on the Agenda was time allowed for Public Comment. None was heard.

In Old Business, the 2001 Ford Crown Victoria was involved in an accident, and the insurance is willing to repair the vehicle. Town General Assistant Mike Grant suggested that since the Ford is an old MPD vehicle and is in need of repairs, it would be a good idea to use the 2008 Charger as the new Town Car. The Town is replacing the Charger with the new Caprice. Council agreed by consensus to sell the 2001 Ford in lieu of selling the 2008 Charger. The east water tower lot will be used to park the Ford for the duration of the sale in order to advertise.

## Meeting Minutes Continued | February 19, 2014

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Further in Old Business, the issue of the Employee Handbook was discussed. Employees are allowed to bank up to 60 sick/personal days, which are lost if not used by retirement. In order to use the banked time, employees must ask Council's permission and have a doctor's note. Vice President Hamilton asked if the word "sick" could be removed so that it could be used at the employee's discretion. Town Supervisor Rick Asher stated that it is already called "sick/personal." President Humbarger stated that at iAB Financial Bank, where he is employed full-time, personal time off (PTO) could be banked up to five days, and it is lost at time of termination or retirement.

Vice President Hamilton stated that the Town could begin to phase down the 60 days within the next year and then change the policy to no more than ten banked days per year. The issue at this time is whether to pay out the banked time or to phase it down. Prior to the March Meeting, Council would like to see Clerk-Treasurer Monticue develop a spreadsheet to break down the cost, minus retirement, Social Security, and Medicare employer matches, to pay out the banked days.

Town Supervisor Rick Asher would like to see the Town Employees be able to bank thirty (30) days. Councilmember Bower noted that with the Town Employees' low turnover rate, it would almost be a bonus in addition to the normal salary, and with that kind of loyalty, he "doesn't mind" the cost of paying it out at retirement. The discussion ended with President Humbarger stating that the policy should be changed to PTO with removal of the term "sick" and the provision requiring approval of the Town Council for use of banked time should be removed. The question will remain of "paying out" the banked time or "whittling it to 30 days or less" will be discussed at the March Meeting following the development of Clerk-Treasurer Monticue's spreadsheet.

Further in Old Business, the Summer Sprinkling Program was discussed. Vice President Hamilton noted that if removing the Program would either extend the date before rates need to be reevaluated and/or lower the amount of a future increase, it would be beneficial to remove the Program. Town Supervisor and Assistant Fire Chief Rick Asher confirmed that when the Markle Fire Department fills pools, Clerk-Treasurer Monticue will continue to withhold sewage treatment charges since the water will not be entering the treatment system. After discussing the service that the Fire Department uses to fill pools at a flat rate, it was proven that large pool owners would have an option to fill their pools without paying sewage treatment costs for the extra water. Vice President Hamilton motioned to discontinue the Summer Sprinkling Program in the hope to keep sewer rates low, seconded by President Humbarger. Motion carried 3-0.

Finally in Old Business, Town Attorney Mike Hartburg made changes to the proposed lease agreement between the Town and Broadband Networks d/b/a OmniCity. OmniCity has approved the changes. In alignment with the contract with OnlyInternet, the Town will forward the proposed lease agreement to OnlyInternet so that interference issues can be addressed.

At this time, Clerk-Treasurer Monticue delivered her report:

- A meeting with the Redevelopment Commission will be held prior to March 15<sup>th</sup> in order to approve the 2013 report prior to uploading to Gateway in line with TIF reporting requirements.
- The Huntington County Department of Community Development will be present at the March Meeting to discuss a proposed Subdivision Ordinance revision.


## Meeting Minutes Continued | February 19, 2014

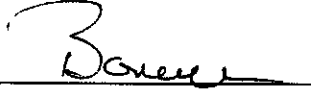
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Clerk-Treasurer Monticue submitted 115 regular vouchers in the amount of \$214,060.55 for approval: 61 vouchers from the General Fund in the amount of \$132,521.33, 36 from the Water Fund in the amount of \$68,971.60, and 18 from the Wastewater Fund in the amount of \$12,567.62. Councilmember Bower motioned to approve all regular vouchers, seconded by President Humbarger. Motion carried 3-0, and vouchers were signed.

Clerk-Treasurer Monticue submitted six Tracy Street Right-of-Way acquisition vouchers in the amount of \$64,460.00. Councilmember Bower motioned to approve all Tracy Street Right-of-Way acquisition vouchers, seconded by Vice President Hamilton. Motion carried 2-0, with President Humbarger abstaining. Vouchers were signed.

Upon hearing no other business, President Humbarger motioned to adjourn at 8:40 P.M.

By   
Jeff Humbarger President

By   
Rick Bower Councilmember

By   
Mark Hamilton Vice-President

Attest:   
Shelley Monticue Clerk-Treasurer