

**Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, June 12, 2023**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, June 12, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

President Ryan Piercefield called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members answering roll call:** Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Vice President Dawn Graham, and President Ryan Piercefield. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, Interim Town Manager Wade Watson, and Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston.

**Minutes** – Executive meeting minutes of May 22, 2023, council meeting minutes of May 22, 2023, executive minutes of May 22, 2023, special meeting minutes of May 31, 2023, and executive meeting of June 5, 2023. *Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.*

**Claims** – The council received a copy of the claim docket in their council packet. The total for the docket was \$556,668.37. Mr. Finley said he had signed off on all the claims in those dockets and presented them to the council for approval.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.*

**Resolution 2023-11 Rescinding Resolution 2023-10** – Mr. Huddleston said the council approved Resolution 2023-10 which authorized the town manager to sign documents for the easement. The state has asked that the resolution state the name of the individual to sign the documents. This rescinds the original resolution.

*Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve resolution 2023-11. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**Resolution 2023-12 Granting State of Indiana Temporary Highway Easement** – Mr. Huddleston said this resolution replaces the rescinded resolution 2023-10 and names Wade Watson as the signatory.

*Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve resolution 2023-12. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**Town Manager Contract** – Mr. Huddleston said this is the contract for the proposed town manager, Kevin McGinnis. This contract approves Mr. McGinnis to start tomorrow, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the Town Manager Employment Agreement. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried. President Piercefield abstained from voting.*

**Resolution 2023-13 Amending Personnel Policy** – Mr. Watson said our insurance carrier has requested that we amend our personnel policy relating to abuse and molestation. The language was sent to Mr. Huddleston, and he drafted a resolution to amend the policy. The policy requires a more extensive background check for employees working with minors and document annual training.

*Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-13. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**Town Property/Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal** – Mr. Watson said Andy Brown of Gregory and Appel is present to explain the insurance renewal. A spreadsheet was included in the council packet. The overall premium increase is just 1.3%. The big savings will be in workers' compensation as our experience mod has started to drop.

Mr. Brown said the town's carrier is Selective Insurance. With Selective Insurance and Gregory and Appel, the town gets a full insurance team. Anyone can place coverage, but Gregory and Appel also work as risk managers for the town. Average increases are 10-12%. He said the only insurance he is recommending changing is cyber. Overall cyber claims are down. He has brought two options with a \$1M ransomware coverage that are lower than what the town is currently paying.

Mr. Watson said he had Director of Administrative Services Mary Patterson provide a document showing the levels of service we have had with Gregory and Appel. The claims turnaround time is so much quicker than what we have had in the past.

Councilwoman Graham asked if we could do this process on 3-year basis rather than every year.

Mr. Brown said it does not do the town any good to go to the market each year. Insurance companies will see this and realize there is a risk they will lose the client every year. Gregory and Appel is here to make sure the town is getting the best coverage at the best rates. If he believed there was a better option, he would have taken it back out to the market. The big savings for the town will be focusing on the workers' compensation mod.

Mr. Watson said there would still be an annual renewal, it just would not go to the open market each year.

President Piercefield asked what the premium was for the dam and if it steered carriers away from the town.

Mr. Brown said he does not know what the exact cost to cover the dam is but is under the liability portion. There have been carriers that have turned down quoting due to liability concerns with the dam.

*Councilwoman Graham made a motion to approve the insurance renewal with the change to cyber and crime coverages and put insurance out to bid in the open market every 3 years. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

*Councilwoman Graham made a motion to allow the Town Manager to sign the necessary insurance renewal documents.*

**Butler Fairman & Seufert Curb and Ramp Inventory Proposal** – Mr. Watson said he would like to table this until the next council meeting. David Meihls has provided a quote, but the town is in the process of getting another quote from Crossroads Engineers.

**Niagara Industrial Park Transformer Purchase Agreement** – Mr. Watson said the council approved the purchase of the transformer from Niagara. Their schedule does not allow for delivery until 2026. They have had an issue getting the performance bond with their bank. In lieu of the performance bond, they have made some concessions. They are deferring all payments until 30 days after we receive the transformer. They agreed to the liquidated damages portion but asked for 3 additional months for uncontrollable delays. Without the performance bond, the town's risk is time rather than money. Mr. Watson said he fears that if we push back too much, they have so much business they may just decide not to do the project. He and Alpha Engineering recommend approval of the contract.

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the Niagara Industrial Park Transformer Purchase Agreement. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to allow President Piercefield to sign the agreement on behalf of the council. Councilwoman Rooks. Motion carried.*

**Wessler Invoice for Water Treatment Plant** – Mr. Finley said the council has before them Wessler invoice 41606. This is for engineering services related to the water treatment plant. The total was \$33,706.82. Upon approval this will be sent to SRF for processing.

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Wessler invoice 41606. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to allow President Piercefield to sign the invoice on behalf of the council. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**Police Car Purchase** – Assistant Town Marshall Hector Mercado said he is looking to purchase a new vehicle to replace the one that was totaled in April. The town received around \$16,000 for that vehicle from insurance. He is looking at a 2023 Dodge Durango as Fletcher has some on the lot. It is a different color than the others, but the vehicle is a necessity. The department has been approved for two new hires and with the loss of that vehicle they will be short a vehicle.

Mr. Watson said he and Mr. Mercado talked about getting a used vehicle but they are \$35,000 with 100,000 miles on them. New is \$42,000 so used does not make sense.

Discussion was held regarding the police department's budget.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the replacement vehicle purchase from Fletcher. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.*

**Wastewater New Hire Discussion** – Wastewater Superintendent Robert Jessie said he has worked for the town for the majority of the last 30 years, and he takes pride in his job and the department. The collection

system is not getting the attention it needs due to a lack of staffing at the department. Some of the lines are 75 years old. If he had two full-time people jetting lines, it would still take years to complete. The department has 37 miles of sewer lines, 16 lift stations, and 400 catch basins. The state wants those stations checked once a week and the catch basins cleaned monthly. Recently, the department has been getting about 150 locates per month, which is almost a full-time job in itself. In 2019, the department was told by the state they were short by 2 employees for a department of our size. Safety is also a concern when working with a short staff. He would like to add one employee to the department.

Mr. Finley said he has reviewed the department's finances and it looks like the department is operating at a very minor surplus. The current operating balance is about 30%. The department could afford a new employee but would operate at a small deficit until the bond pays off in July of 2024. After that, there will be ample funds for the employee.

Councilwoman Rooks said she would like to have the new town manager review the needs of the department.

Councilwoman Graham and President Piercefield agreed they should move forward with hiring the position.

*Councilwoman Buck made a motion to approve the addition of one additional wastewater position. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried 3 to 2 with Councilman Simpson and Councilwoman Rooks voting nay.*

**Pay for Medic Hire** – Interim Fire Chief Chuck Ridpath said he has a new medic ready to come on. He would like to start the employee at \$28 per hour. He explained the recent increase in run loads and the advantage of having paramedics on staff versus just EMTs.

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve Stephen Johnson as a paramedic at \$28 per hour. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

### **Other Business**

The council welcomed Kevin McGinnis to the town as Town Manager.

Interim Town Manager Wade Watson said we have signed a contract from Backbone the line conversion. They signed the contract that was in the bid packet. We need authorization to allow Mr. Huddleston to review the contract, correct it, send it back to Backbone, and authorize President Piercefield to sign the document.

*Councilman Simpson made a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to review the contract with Backbone, correct it, send it back to Backbone, and authorize President Piercefield to sign the document. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

Mr. Watson said we have received bids for the light posts for Timbergate. There is a 14-to-16-week lead time. The cost is \$96,167.

*Councilwoman Rooks made a motion to approve the purchase of light post for Timbergate for \$96,167. Councilman Simpson seconded. Motion carried.*

Mr. Watson said we had a 10-inch sewer line collapse on Memorial Drive. We are currently using a manual bypass until we can get it repaired. It will pump from 8am to 10am. The one estimate we have is about \$9,000. This is just for the council's information. It will be taken care of as soon as possible.

Mr. Watson said the town has been having some issues with our plant supplier. We have been disappointed with the flowers we received. We were not able to get what we wanted, and our only option was to accept what they sent.

Mr. Watson said Timbergate has had a great year so far. Last year was a record year and the department is above those numbers for this time last year.

### **Departmental Comments**

Water Superintendent Bill Jones gave an update on the new plant. It should be online by the end of September.

Community Center Director SaraBeth Drybread thanked Town Marshall Doyne Little for his presentation about senior safety. She thanked the Yard of the Week judges who selected 711 East Main Cross as the first Yard of the Week.

**Public Comments**


Michell Burton of 522 Memorial Drive said she would like to see the control of animals ordinance changed to allow chickens in town. She received a notice regarding the chickens she has. She wanted to know what her options were.

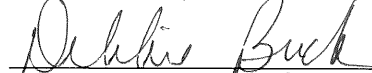
Mr. Watson said the council passed an ordinance years ago prohibiting chickens in town. The council can review that ordinance. She can also petition the BZA for a variance. Ms. Burton has been served notice due to a complaint from a neighbor.

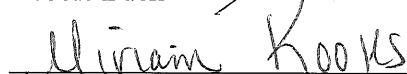
Ms. Burton said there are numerous people in town that already have chickens.

*Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.*

**EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**
  
 Ryan Piercefield, President

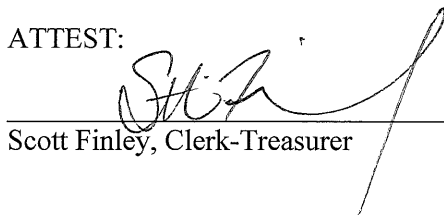
  
 Dawn Graham, Vice President

  
 Debbie Buck

  
 Miriam Rooks

  
 Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:

  
 Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer