

Town Council Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2013
6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Monday, September 9, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

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

President Hoffman thanked everyone for coming.

Members answering roll call were: Councilman John Drybread, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Vice President Curtis Rooks, Councilwoman Kami Ervin, and President Ron Hoffman. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston and Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda were the minutes of the Council Meeting of August 26, 2013. Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said claims were next on the agenda and handed it over to Clerk Treasurer Finley.

Clerk Treasurer Finley said everyone should have received the normal claim docket. He said he had signed off on all the claims in the docket and handed them over to the council for approval. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the MA Metal tax abatement CF-1. He asked Building Commissioner Wade Watson to explain the abatement.

Mr. Watson said MA Metal had forgotten to file their CF-1 for two years and the assessor's office caught the omission and asked if the town had received a CF-1. He said he had contacted MA Metal and found that it was an oversight on their part. He recommended approval on the abatement.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the abatement as submitted. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

Council Comments

Councilman Drybread wanted to update everyone on the situation with the dam. The town is still pursuing different possible agencies to help with the funding needed to repair the dam. The town had received another quote on a temporary dam at \$184,000 which was a little more expensive than the first quote.

Clerk Treasurer Finley gave the council another update on the budget. He handed out a packet for the council to look over with some suggestions for the budget. He said the budget had been advertised in the papers on September 6 and will again advertise on September 13. The public hearing would be on September 23 and the final adoption would be on October 14. He explained that in an ideal balanced budget the total budgeted receipts should equal the total budgeted disbursements. As the budget sits currently it is approximately one million dollars out of balance. There are two ways to get the budget into balance: cut the budgeted disbursements and/or increase the budgeted receipts. The council had previously talked about adding a storm water utility fee, a hydrant fee, and a payment in lieu of taxes from the electric and water departments. According to the representatives from Umbaugh the electric department can afford a payment in lieu of taxes to the general fund of about \$28,000 and the water department can afford about \$103,000 for a total of \$131,000. That will increase the budgeted receipts to \$4.1 million. As for cutting budgeted disbursements, if the council were to change the storm water utility to a user fee at about \$3 per month it would remove \$96,000 from the street budget where it is currently getting paid from. If the council also decided on a hydrant fee of about \$8.25 per customer it could remove \$267,000 from the council budget. These two things would bring our budgeted disbursements to \$4.8 million and get the budget closer to being balanced. He showed the council what the circuit breaker has been over the past few years. It averaged about \$800,000 per year the town was losing in tax dollars. He explained how much the tax caps have affected the budget. He said in the next couple of years trash removal could also become a user fee. As of now, Edinburgh is the only city or town in the county without a storm water utility fee.

Councilman Rooks asked if we could get information on what other cities and towns are using for hydrant fees and storm water fees.

Mr. Finley said he has been communicating on an ILMCT thread with other communities and found out similar sized communities are charging between \$3 and \$5. Umbaugh has said around \$4.80 for storm

water would be a good benchmark for the town to shoot for and \$8.25 would be a good benchmark for hydrant fees. The industrial users would be hit a little harder because the fees would be based on meter size.

Councilman Drybread said he had spoke with Strand Engineering about getting numbers for the town's estimated residential units (ERU's). He said he would look over what they had given him and get that started in the coming week.

President Hoffman said the fees could be charged with the utility bills or on a completely different schedule.

Councilwoman Ervin said she thinks it would be best to just add the fees as a line item on the utility bill. She recommended the council look into this and set the second year rate to come up about the time garbage would be added.

President Hoffman said the council needs to make a motion to allow Mr. Huddleston to draft ordinances for these fees. The council would then discuss the ordinances during a meeting and decide if it what the town needs. Councilman Rooks made a motion to allow Town Attorney Huddleston to begin drafting ordinances for user fees for hydrants and storm water. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

Wade Watson said the town had been awarded the CCF funds to do the demolition on the grain elevator. August 30 the award was announced and there will be an award ceremony that the council will be invited to attend. The date has not been announced yet but it will be announced in the coming weeks. The town will then receive a grant agreement that will need to be reviewed and signed by the council and sent back to OCRA. After that a meeting will be set up with Kenna Consulting and Mike Buering to discuss a timeline for the project.

President Hoffman asked what the amount of the grant was.

Mr. Watson said it was a \$127,000 grant with a \$27,000 local match.

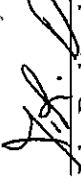
Chief Allen Smith said ISO would be in town in the coming weeks to visit the fire department and the water department. The town should be in better position now with the new water towers and more water pressure.

Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL


Ron Hoffman, President

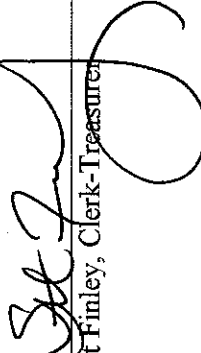

Curtis Rooks, Vice President


John Drybread


Kami Ervin


Jeffrey A. Simpson

ATTEST:


Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer