

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
July 22, 2021

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dave Fox at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:
Kyle Taylor-Absent
Matt Stewart—Present
Travis LeMaster—Present
Dave Fox—Present
Chuck Briede-Present

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Matt Stewart.

II. **Minutes**

Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2021, meeting as written. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Absent
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Dave Fox made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as written. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Absent
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

Roy Carter of 111 S. Main expressed concern about the vehicular traffic on Main Street traveling at excessive speeds. Mr. Carter recommended a stop sign be placed on Main St. at the trail crossing. He also recommended that a tree near the crossing be trimmed or removed as it obstructs the view from the road of people on the trail approaching the crossing. After discussion, Dave indicated the town will have the tree trimmed and consider the stop sign request later.

V. **Department Reports**

Police Department — Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance.

- Ryan reported that he had met with local EMA director about emergency personnel staffing for the Sesquicentennial. Ryan had hoped to have four people to help with the parade and traffic control, but EMA thinks they will be able to provide only two. Ryan will have them lead the parade and halt traffic on State Road 18 when the parade disperses. EMA will provide two 12' electric signs for use on Main Street. Ryan said he will be meeting again with EMA prior to the event to firm-up the plans for the day.
- Ryan reported that Deputy John Gavin's hiring process had been completed.
- Ryan said that he was preparing for the annual IDACS (Indiana Data and Communications System) audit scheduled for next week.
- Ryan recapped the department case activity the past two weeks (170 calls).
- Ryan said he was considering scheduling a deputy for an occasional third shift due to some reported late night and early morning issues.

Maintenance Department — Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Devin introduced Eric Woodmansee from AME Consulting. Eric's engineering firm is currently working with Swayzee on some projects and Eric said they focus on smaller communities. Devin has asked Eric to develop an estimate for the remaining Sweetser street and storm water repairs. Chuck asked about the PAZER rating process and costs. That led to a discussion of the Asset Management Plan for the roads and utilities.
- Devin reported the sidewalks along Main Street have been completed as well as the railroad pedestrian crossing. The path of the pedestrian crossing had to be altered to avoid a railroad junction box. He said he went through the punch list with the contractor. The contractor has re-seeded some areas. Addressing some homeowner concerns regarding the quality of the seed and the height of the dirt fill along the new sidewalks, Devin said the seed used is per State specs and that the soil was not compacted and would settle eventually.
- Devin said the contractor had completed installing a driveway at the dog park. This was provided to the town in exchange for the town allowing the contractor to use the area for equipment storage during the project.
- Devin said due to a miscommunication between the town and INDOT, the sidewalk near State Road 18 and the old dress shop has not been completed. To make sure the water drains towards the shop, the sidewalk is going to have to be raised 6-8 inches. That results in the town needing to raise approximately 20' of private sidewalk in front of the old dress shop. Devin will get a quote from a contractor for this work.
- On the CCMG resurface project, the curbs are in, and the milling and paving could begin as early as next week.
- Devin said he has located a 46' 2008 International bucket truck for \$18,000 at Diehl's Truck Sales

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the purchase of the 46' 2008 International bucket truck for \$18,000 from Diehl's Truck Sales. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Absent

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Devin requested an extension of the shop at the wastewater plant to store the town equipment (vac truck, mowers, bucket truck, tractor and attachments, sewer camera, other trucks, and trailers).
- Devin said he was going to meet with Gaunt Asphalt to get a quote for some patch work on Laura, Nancy, and Catherine streets.
- Devin said when we have the bucket truck in our possession, he and Jeff will remove the trees in front of All Things Custom. He said they could rent a stump grinder to take those stumps out as well as the one by town hall.
- Devin said he wants to install Hometown Hero Banners on the black light poles. He has seen banners on similar poles in other towns.
- Devin asked on which poles the Christmas Lights were to be installed. Chuck said it will have to be on the light poles because the decorations will need a source of electricity.
- Chuck asked Devin to install new ropes and pulleys on the Veteran's Memorial flag poles before the Sesquicentennial.
- Chuck said he had put marker flags at the dog park to indicate holes that need to be filled. Devin said they will take of it.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve distributed copies of the Heartland Magazine that contained an article featuring the Sweetser Switch Trail.
- Steve said the three flags and brackets he is going to purchase are on back order.
- Travis reported that some trail signs at 700 have been vandalized.
- Steve said Don Hatch was going to volunteer some time to perform some work along the trail.

- Steve reported that he and his grandson had painted the stop signs on the trail asphalt. Travis asked if the paws could be painted in yellow or gold. Steve said that could be done with spray paint.
- Matt suggested that some of the brush encroaching on the trail needs to be cut back as it is possibly harboring some deer ticks. Steve said some of overhang is a hazard for mowers. Devin said it also a potential issue for bikers and that Jeff has been working on removing some of the overhang.
- Steve said he would like to purchase side mirrors for the tractor because when operating it you cannot see people coming up behind you.

VI. Continuing Business

- Town counsel Michael Hotz presented an amended lease agreement with Dan Newhouse for the use of his properties for the Sesquicentennial event: the original draft of the agreement did not include a lot that the town will be using.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the amended lease agreement with Dan Newhouse for the use of his properties for the Sesquicentennial for \$1. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Absent

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Michael requested an update on the nuisance ordination violation notices that had been sent and asked if further action was warranted. Dave said he did not think additional steps were required at this time but that he would take pictures of the properties and send to Michael and the other council members for review.
- Michael reported that Deputy John Gavin had issued a speeding ticket. Ryan said he would get a copy of incident report to Michael.
- Michael said the revision of the traffic sign ordinance was on hold. There was brief discussion of the proposed revisions. Michael and the clerk said they would review the prior discussions and circulate the information to the council members.
- Chuck asked if we could revise the traffic sign ordinance to limit or eliminate non-local large truck traffic through town. After discussion, Michael said he would survey what other towns are doing about regulating large truck traffic. Dave said there was some urgency to the matter as the Main Street paving will be done soon. Matter tabled until the next council meeting.
- Michael reported that he still working on the Bragg Street property tax warrant issue.
- Travis reported the next Sesquicentennial committee meeting is Monday, July 26. Travis and Chuck reviewed and reminded people of registration deadlines for the various events. The opening of the time capsule will be at 3:00 pm. Chuck said the vintage baseball game is a go, but they are looking for a few more players. Devin asked if we were going to be using the town's generators for the event. Chuck said we would not as we would be renting them from SunBelt Rentals.
- Stu Savka of Fleis & Vandenbrink was in attendance via Zoom. Stu reported that the SWIF grant applications had been submitted and that IFA (Indiana Finance Authority) had already responded indicating some possible interest in a sanitary sewer project.
- Stu suggested setting-up a capital projects workshop with the council, Steve Brock of Therber & Brock, and himself, to discuss and plan future projects, budgets, and funding options and ideas. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 5, 5 pm at town hall.

VII. New Business

- Dave presented the proposed 2022 fire protection agreement for the town with the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department. The cost to the town would be \$10,804 for the year, due in two installments of \$5,402 (July & December).

After discussion, Dave Fox made a approve the 2022 fire protection agreement with the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department for \$10,804. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Absent

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
