

Town of Huntertown Utility Service Board Meeting Minutes for Monday, May 6, 2024
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A public meeting of the Huntertown Utility Service Board was held on Monday, May 6, 2024. The meeting was held at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. Members in attendance were board members Zachary Kerley, Anthony Ramey and Michael Stamets; Town Manager Hannah Walker; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Town Engineer Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc; Town Attorney David Hawk of Hawk Haynie Kammeyer & Smith; Financial Advisor Steve Carter of Krohn & Associates; Water Plant Operator Gabriel Brindle; twelve (12) members of the public and one (1) members of the media.

Anthony Ramey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD ACTION

Zachary Kerley made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2024, meeting as presented. Michael Stamets seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Michael Stamets made a motion to give conditional approval for new water and sewer service applications for the following addresses: 603 E. Cedar Canyons Road, 1055 Hathaway Road, and 17300 block of Kell Road; pending completion of applications and technical review by the town and its engineering firm. Zachary Kerley seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Zachary Kerley made a motion to approve an application to extend the ERU allocation for The Fens subdivision by 18 months. Michael Stamets seconded. Derek Frederickson shared with the board that the original application was approved on June 4, 2022, with a requirement to begin construction in two years. The development has sections that will begin construction after that two-year requirement and thus an extension has been requested. The town has received new plans and he noted that the review of those plans took longer than usual. He did not expect any issues with annexation and noted that the developer would need the entirety of the 18-months. After no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Zachary Kerley made a motion to approve payment to MC Wheeler & Sons in the amount of \$2,746.42 for additional expenses related to cleaning of wells 4 and 6. Michael Stamets seconded. Ryan Schwab said that the board approved payment in December in the amount of 12,798.00 for this project. The invoice came in higher by the amount requested. Water Plant operator Gabriel Brindle noted that some leaking check valves were also repaired. After no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Zachary Kerley made a motion to recommend to the Huntertown Town Council the elimination of the summer sprinkling credit. Michael Stamets seconded. Town Attorney David Hawk said the ordinance before council was created in an effort to curb water usage as the town is facing capacity issues at the water treatment plant. After no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Michael Stamets made a motion to approve USB Resolution 2024-001, a resolution approved the transfer of funds from the water operating fund to the water Bond & Interest Fund and from the Sewer Operating Fund into the Sewer Bond & Interest Fund. Zachary Kerley seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Zachary Kerley made a motion to approve the promotion of employee Tyler Arrowsmith from Utility #4 to Utility #2. Michael Stamets seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Anthony Ramey made a motion to not recommend Huntertown Resolution 2024-002 to the Huntertown Town Council for approval. Zachary Kerley seconded. Anthony Ramey questioned whether the ordinance would supersede the ordinances that are listed in it. Town Attorney said no, which made Ramey question why the resolution is needed? Hawk said the resolution was created as a statement to further express the town's policy

to help a local attorney understand the town's policies named in the resolution. After no further discussion, the motion carried 3-0.

Michael Stamets made a motion to approve an increase of \$25,000 to the not-to-exceed amount in the contract for the town attorney. Zachary Kerley seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Outside of the items listed under Board Action, the following new business was brought forth:

- Derek Frederickson reported the results of the Hathaway Road septic relief project bidding. Pinpoint Directional Boring was the lowest bidder at \$84,079.00. He is not recommending approval at this time as some right-of-way still needed to be acquired.
- Derek Frederickson reported the results of the Water Treatment Plant Firm Capacity Improvement High Service Pump bidding. Mason Engineering & Construction, Inc. was the lowest bidder at \$362,527.00. He is not recommending approval at this time as the town is waiting for approval of its IDEM permit.
- Derek Frederickson provided the board with a handout detailing the remaining capacity and long-term capacity plans for both the water and wastewater utilities.

OLD BUSINESS

Outside of the items listed under Board Action, no other old business was brought forth.

REPORTS

Town Manager Hannah Walker had the following report:

- She requested permission to post externally for a new utility employee, to replace one who recently gave notice.
- She provided the council with details on the Boil Water Advisory the town issued from April 28-30, 2024. She also provided the council with a list of potential vendors in case the town wanted to purchase a mass communication text alert system. The town received numerous complaints from residents who did not find out about the Boil Water Advisory until 12-24 hours after it was issued.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had no report.

Outside of items listed under Board Action, Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc. had no further report.

Town Attorney David Hawk had the following report:

- The town has received a request for a meeting from the Homebuilders Association of Fort Wayne to go over Hometown Ordinance 2024-005, which installed a \$2,500 system development charge per lot for new development. Following that meeting, the HBA would have 7 days to file a petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). He would like permission to seek an engagement letter from an attorney familiar with the Town and its past dealings with the IURC. He did not have an engagement letter to present at the time. He was given verbal approval to proceed.


PUBLIC COMMENT

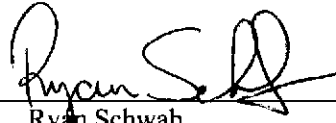
Tim Schobert, a Hometown employee and area resident at 1125 N. Walsh Street, Garrett IN, 46738, said he thinks it is a good idea to remove the sprinkler credit, but was concerned about customer backlash. He is out in

the community every day replacing and installing water meters and tends to get a lot of comments from residents about the issues they have.

Sheridan Payne, a town employee and resident at 13623 Copper Strike Pass, said the town should consider providing more of a warning to customers about the removal of the summer sprinkling credit and suggested waiting until the summer of 2025 to remove it.

After no further public comment was brought forth, Michael Stamets made a motion to adjourn. Zachary Kerley seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Attest: 
Anthony Ramey
President


Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer