

**Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana**  
**Monday, July 17, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road**

A public meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, July 17, 2023, at Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road, Huntertown, IN. Present were board members Michael Aker, Tina McDonald, and Brandon Seifert (P); Town Manager Beth Shellman; Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab; Resource Officer Brandon Reichert; Derek Frederickson of Engineering Resources Inc.; Jay Stankiewicz of GAI Consultants; three (3) members of the public and one (1) member of the media. Board member Brad Hite attended the meeting virtually through Zoom. Absent was council member Patricia Freck.

Brandon Seifert called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COUNCIL ACTION**

Tina McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2023, regular meeting. Michael Aker seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve the General, Water and Sewer claims dated July 17, 2023, in the amount of \$569,908.13. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to introduce Huntertown Ordinance 2023-006, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 154 of the Town of Huntertown, State of Indiana Ordinance. Brad Hite seconded. Sarah Jones, representing the Allen County Department of Planning Services, provided the council with a document entitled "2023 Huntertown Zoning Ordinance Technical Amendment Summary" which broke down the updates to the ordinance, which go into effect on September 1, 2023. Brandon Seifert asked about keeping "sexually oriented businesses" out of Huntertown and wanted to be certain that those types of businesses could not categorize themselves as "Private Clubs" in order to gain entry to Huntertown. Jones assured Seifert that sexually oriented businesses are covered in this ordinance and are not permissible under any category. After no further discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2023-020, extension of water and sewer service for a 125-lot subdivision plat to be known as Creekside Crossing. Brad Hite seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve Huntertown Resolution 2023-021, extension of water and sewer service for an existing residential home at 15137 Dunton Road. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Tina McDonald made a motion to have town attorney David Hawk update the current Northeast Regional Force Main agreement with Oakmont Development to include an additional \$200,000 to reimburse Oakmont for its expenses on the Rolling Oaks lift station serving the area. Michael Aker seconded. Derek Frederickson provided the council with an expense analysis for the lift station and noted that the \$200,000.00 proposed addition represents the non-Oakmont related lots that are served by the lift station. The remaining cost of the construction of the lift station was paid for by Oakmont Development and did not need to be included in the agreement. He also noted that the utility board approved the same at its meeting earlier in the evening and is making the recommendation to the council. After no further discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Michael Aker made a motion to approve an interlocal agreement between Allen County, Indiana and the Town of Huntertown concerning the contract for remediation of former Irene Byron Hospital property. Tina McDonald seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

- Thomas Pittman, an attorney with Barnes and Thornburg, spoke to the council about the process of creating an Economic Development Commissions, which he viewed as an “advisory body” to the Town Council. He discussed how and who appoints the members to the 3-person board. He addressed the pros and cons of starting an EDC versus using the county’s EDC; and what the role of an EDC would be. Brandon Seifert stated his desire to form a town EDC and not use the county, citing past issues with County representatives not having Huntertown’s best interests in mind. Tine McDonald said she spoke with someone who advised the town not to waste its time and money on an EDC and just use the county. An Ordinance to create an EDC was introduced on May 15, 2023. Council members decided not to vote on the ordinance with one member being absent.
- Beth Shellman reported that she, along with reps from Engineering Resources Inc., attended a meeting with the homeowners along Hathaway Road that are impacted by a septic relief project in the area. The town is paying for the entirety of the estimated \$275,000.00 project instead of spreading the cost to the 12 homeowners impacted. The homeowners have also requested the waiving of connection fees (\$575 for water and \$3,775 for sewer) to the town. The project will also require voluntary annexation from the homeowners. The Utility Service Board at its meeting agreed, without a formal vote, not to waive the connection fees.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Outside of items listed under Council Action, the following Old Business was brought forth:

- Beth Shellman reported that the town’s scoring committee has submitted its scores for three engineering firms for Construction Engineering on the Kell Road Bridge project and that INDOT is still reviewing those scores. The town will be able to approve an engineering firm and reveal the best scoring firm once INDOT finishes its review.

## **REPORTS**

Brandon Seifert had the following report:

- He would like to attend the AIM Ideas Summit in French Lick, IN on August 22-24 and wanted to see if other council members wanted to attend before registering.

Resource Officer Brandon Reichert had the following report:

- He provided the council members with a copy of New Haven’s noise ordinance and continues to work on a new ordinance for Huntertown.
- The Woods Road reconstruction project continues to have traffic issues with residents driving through peoples’ yards to avoid taking the detour. He will continue to police the area for violators.
- With Huntertown Heritage Days about a month away, he said that Lima Road will likely be closed from Shoaff Road to Woods Road for the parade most of the morning of Saturday, August 12, 2023. Additionally, Lima Road from Trinity Street to Gump Road will likely be closed most of Saturday, August 12, 2023, for the HHD car show.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab had the following report:

- The DLGF has approved the town’s CCD rate change.
- He shared his budget timeline with the council. The current plan is to present the information in August, hold the Public Hearing at the September 18, 2023, meeting and then adopt the budget on

October 2, 2023. He noted that Brad Hite, as a volunteer firefighter for the Huntertown Fire Department, cannot vote on the budget. He also said that the town's electronic meeting policy does not allow for voting on the budget electronically. All council members must be present to vote.

Town Manager Beth Shellman had the following report:

- She received an email from Kristen Guthrie, VP of Marketing and Communications for Visit Fort Wayne who was interested in learning more about tourism opportunities in Huntertown. Shellman said she would like to include other Huntertown entities like the Heritage Days Committee, the Huntertown Rotary Club, and the Huntertown Chamber of Commerce before setting a meeting.
- She attended a pre-construction meeting on July 5, 2023, for the Carroll Road reconstruction project. Work on the west side of State Road 3 is set to begin this week. Derek Frederickson said the contractor would like to fully close the road, using Hathaway Road from both SR 3 and Bethel Road as the detour, however with Woods Road using Carroll Road as detour, he wanted to see if the council wanted two east-west roads fully closed at the same time. It was pointed out by audience members that road closure signs are already posted along Carroll Road and that a business and a subdivision on the south side of the road would be completely closed off if the road were fully closed. Shellman said the road closure was not discussed at the pre-construction meeting. Council members said they would wait until its next meeting to decide whether to close the road or not.

Derek Frederickson had no further report.

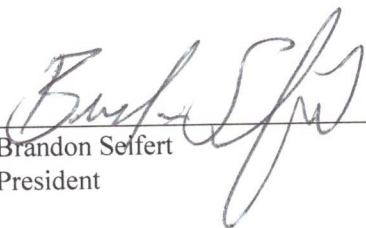
Jay Stankiewicz of GAI Consultants had no report.

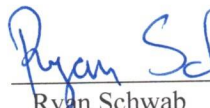
#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None were brought forth.

Tina McDonald made a motion to adjourn. Michael Aker seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Attest:

  
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Brandon Selfert  
President

  
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Ryan Schwab  
Clerk Treasurer