

# MINUTES OF THE MIDDLETOWN TOWN COUNCIL

September 3, 2019

The Middletown Town Council met in the Public Meeting Room at 653 Locust Street, Middletown, Indiana at 7:00 P.M. Present were Council Members Dick Schwalm, Jake Smith, Gary Kendall, Donita Chambless and Dan Fountain.

1. Matt Spidel of Butler, Fairman and Seufert updated the Council on several projects. Robert E. Crosby, Inc has submitted change order #1 for work done at the Waste Water Plant in the amount of an additional \$4,723.00. It included coring of a sewer access hole to accommodate a larger pipe than was anticipated; upsize in the flow meter; extra cable for the flow meter; and sandblasting and painting the pipes in the interior. Gary Kendall moved to pay the additional cost and Donita Chambless seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. President Jake Smith signed the order.
2. Mr. Spidel said the lining of a section of the 10<sup>th</sup> Street sewer will begin on September 9. Baumgartner will begin paving 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets after the sewer lining. Superintendent Spears had asked about having a full time resident inspector on site during the reconstruction of 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets. Mr. Spidel presented a proposal to accommodate this request for a cost not to exceed \$10,900.00. After some discussion, it was determined that the inspector will spend parts of three days per week on site for \$120.00 per hour and be "on call" at Superintendent Spears' discretion.
3. Jake Smith asked Ryan Paschal, Waste Water Operator, about a pump in a lift station that might not be working. He asked if there is a test that can be done in house for such equipment. Mr. Paschal replied that there is a test and explained how it can be tested manually. He said that once clogged, flow can be dramatically slowed.
4. Ryan Paschal projected that the training classes for waste water lab work will take place on Tuesday and Thursday of the week of September 16, 2019. This will be two 4-hour sessions for utility workers so that every.
5. Steve Holmes explained that, regarding the radio read company's concerns about upgrading our computer equipment, that Carl has put the company in touch with Scott Emswiler to work out any problems. After they have met, they can come to the Council with whatever resolution might be necessary.
6. Dan Fountain's report on the Middletown Environmental Committee included 6 property owners he's talked to about problems such as tall grass. He said he is getting good feedback from these people. He is discovering more abandoned houses in town. By next meeting he will have pictures of all these properties. The one trash hauler issue is still in the works, but hasn't been publicized in the news yet. There a few issued for the attorney to address before the bid packet is ready to send out. Donita Chambless asked if anything has been done yet about the property at 503 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Steve Holmes recounted all the efforts the town has made so far and said he has sent a letter to the owners giving them 10 days to bring the property into compliance. Another abandoned property at 410 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street was cited as being in violation of code. It, evidently, was mowed within recent days.
7. Police Chief Amanda Kirby spoke about success in removing abandoned vehicles in town. Many were moved by the owners, but some were towed on the order of the Town. The department is ready for their second wave of tagging. Donita Chambless asked that a letter be sent to the both Barry and Dale Hanna regarding their properties on East Locust Street regarding the condition of the foliage.
8. Chief Kirby reported that a new full time hire for the Dispatch Dept. has been let go for attendance reasons. Part time dispatcher, Brian Reed would like to step into that position. Dan Fountain moved to move Brian Reed into the vacated position. Gary Kendall seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9. Chief Kirby attended a meeting in Daleville about the school safety plan. Each year they do a review and revision of their safety plan. Should there be an incident, Middletown would most likely respond, therefore Daleville thought it would be a good idea for the Town to be represented. Reciprocally, Chief Kirby will talk to Mr. Green at Shenandoah Schools about including Daleville in their school safety plan. Along the same line, Chief Kirby met with the head of the Nazarene Church's Women's Bible Study group who meet on Monday evenings. It was a meeting about a safety plan. This meeting draws about 300 women each Monday.
10. Dick Schwalm and Captain Matt Thompson reported about an August 27, 2019 meeting about the future of EMS radio service in the County. The County wants each Police Department to itemize their needs for mobile units, portable laptops and phones. The police radio on the Verizon tower should be turned on by mid September. All of the police radios will need to be reprogrammed at that time. Hopefully the County will program all phones. The new signal should make it possible for Shenandoah Schools to have radio communication.
11. Chief Kirby announced that Captain Thompson and Officer Puig have written a grant to Henry County Community Foundation for radar guns and also outfit a new truck for next year.
12. Donita Chambless remembers Chief Terry Marsh having a labeling system for creating inventory labels for assets. She wonders if we still have such a thing. Dan Fountain recognizes what she is talking about. Captain Thompson will look into acquiring something to identify all assets of the Town.
13. Tim Mundell asked for clarification of the contract the Town has with EMS for payment for the new ambulance. The contract calls for a set amount to be paid in two payments each year. The EMS LIT fund exceeded that amount this year. His question is: Do we pay the scheduled payment or do we give them all that is in the fund? Donita Chambless would like the question to be referred to Phil Chandler and the EMS Board of Directors.
14. Patty Schwalm announced that the grant to Henry County Community Foundation for the installation of a commercial sump pump in the elevator pit at the Civic Center. She registered some disappointment that the flower arrangements she installed at the Civic Center entrance have wilted and died because they weren't watered. She compared the Civic Center plants to those in front of the Municipal Building which are healthy and in full bloom because they are watered on a regular basis. One of the Utility Department's summer help from Shenandoah High School had been watering both areas, but when she went back to school the watering at the Civic Center stopped. Dick Schwalm suggested that perhaps the Parks Department and the Utility Department could share responsibility for caring for flowers in front of the Civic Center.
15. Ron Koons reported that customers are getting rid of their cable connections. In the long run this will mean a diminishment of franchise fees. He feels that the cable companies will still offer internet cable for which they will not have to pay franchise fees. These fees have become a standard source of income to communities across the country.
16. Donita Chambless asked if there is any regulation for motorized vehicles for the handicapped as we have for golf carts. Chief Kirby said that the Town might be treading on the American Disabilities Act by setting regulations for these vehicles. Chief Kirby offered to investigate what other communities do in this respect. Mrs. Chambless feels that for their own safety they should have, perhaps a tall flag or a flashing light so that drivers can see them on the streets. Mrs. Chambless suggested that the Town supply whatever is decided to identify these conveyances. The Town would offer the service so that the handicapped could be safer and more visible on the street. Chief Kirby will look at cost for either a flag or flashing lights.
17. Jake Smith has had a talk with Jeff Ray about the Stellar Project's grant which Knightstown and New Castle applied for; but the grant covers the whole county. Jeff's assignment is to go around the Henry County and find projects that can be included in the grant. The Grant winner can potentially get \$22,000,000.00. And even if Henry County were a finalist, it could get several hundred thousand. The

