

Town of Roachdale
Town Hall Meeting Room; 205 N Indiana Street, Roachdale, IN 46172
March 11, 2020 Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Roachdale Town Council held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 7:00 p.m. at the Roachdale Town Hall Meeting Room, 205 N Indiana Street, Roachdale, IN.

President Katrina Asher called the monthly meeting to order after recognizing that the agenda was posted pursuant to the Indiana Open Door Law and that a quorum was present.

Council Members Present: Katrina Asher, Holly Cook

Council Members Absent: None

Clerk-Treasurer, Town Marshal, Town Superintendent, Town Attorney

Guests Present: Rick Miles Sr., Troy Elless, Zach Bowers, Ronda Alexander, Phillip Everman, Dan Asher, Herbert Carey, Jim Cromwell, Heath Kerns, Christina Kerns, Corbin Cromwell, Nikki Brissey, Tonya Bowers, Kevin Spencer, Kevin Cook, Rick Miles Jr., Jennifer Trumbo, Yvonne Dickerson, Walter Hardesty, Brenda Kerns

- I. Town Council Vacancy – President Katrina Asher stated that Mike Mahoy resigned from his position on the Town Council effective February 14, 2020. The remaining Town Council members asked for letters of interest and received a total of eight letters of interest from Yvonne Dickerson, Walter Hardesty, Zach Bowers, Kevin Cook, Mike Arnold, Christina Kerns, Rick Miles Jr. and Phil Everman. All of the interested candidates were present, except for Mike Arnold. President Katrina Asher stated that she had met with Holly Cook and Town Attorney Peebles in a posted Executive Session prior to the Council Meeting and narrowed the eight down to three – Kevin Cook, Rick Miles Jr. and Christina Kerns. Each of those three briefly introduced themselves and stated what they hoped to bring to the Council as a new member. Holly Cook stated that she did not think it was necessary to question the candidates. President Katrina Asher and Holly Cook both stated that they were pleased with the number that had shown interest, it was a hard decision to make since they were all good candidates. President Katrina Asher encouraged all of the candidates to stay involved in the community. Holly Cook stated that she felt Zach Bowers and Kevin Cook had done a good job while they were on the council and worked to make our town great. Motion by Holly Cook, second by President Katrina Asher, to appoint Rick Miles Jr. to fill the vacancy of Michael Mahoy on the Roachdale Town Council. President Katrina Asher read Resolution 04-2020 A Resolution of the Roachdale Town Council Appointing a Council Member to Fill a Vacancy and to appoint Rick Miles Jr. to fill the vacancy of Michael Mahoy on the Roachdale Town Council. Motion by Holly Cook, second by President Katrina Asher, vote unanimous, to approve Resolution 04-2020 as presented. Town Attorney Dave Peebles stated that Rick Miles Jr. could take his seat, however, he would not vote on anything tonight and would be sworn in when Debbie received the oath from the Putnam County Voters Registration Office.
- II. Approval of Minutes – President Katrina Asher presented the following for approval: February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes and March 11,

2020 Memorandum of Executive Session. Motion by Holly Cook, second by President Katrina Asher, vote unanimous, to approve February 10, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, February 12, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes and March 11, 2020 Memorandum of Executive Session and as presented.

- III. Approval of Claims 02/11/2020 – 03/11/2020. Motion by Holly Cook, second by President Katrina Asher, vote unanimous, to approve Claims 02/11/2020 – 03/11/2020 as presented. Approval of Payroll 02/11/2020 – 03/11/2020. Motion by Holly Cook, second by President Katrina Asher, vote unanimous, to approve Payroll 02/11/2020 – 03/11/2020 as presented.

IV. Old Business

- A. Property Clean Ups – Marshal Lepine gave an update on property cleanups and stated that he was still looking for direction from the Council on how to proceed. President Katrina Asher stated that the Council needs to look at the current ordinances and Holly Cook stated that there needs to be a way to quantify what cleanup needs to be done. Marshal Lepine stated that he will continue to serve notice and that it is up to the Council to follow through. Ronda Alexander stated that the Council needs to throw the ordinance out if it is not being followed. Holly Cook stated that it is used as framework. President Katrina Asher questioned how much money the town wants to put toward property cleanup and what does the Town do if the owners do not reimburse the Town for the expense of cleaning up their property. Town Attorney Peebles stated that lots of towns put money aside every year for property cleanups. Ronda Alexander ask if there was any way that penalties could accrue and then turn it over to the Putnam County Auditor to have a lien put on their property and added to the owner's property tax. Attorney Peebles explained the procedure and steps if property cleanups are put on an owner's tax bill. Ronda Alexander stated that if the ordinance is not followed, the owner should at least be fined and the amount added to their property taxes. Walter Hardesty stated that lots of properties are rental properties and the renters do not have respect for the property and the landlord doesn't care as long as they are receiving their rent. Ronda Alexander stated that Roachdale has cleaned up a lot but it still needs work. Holly Cook stated that we need to have steps in place for cleanups. Jim Cromwell stated that the Town has issues as well since the Town did not take care of issues and houses are full of mold because of drainage problems. Holly Cook stated that the Town has looked at the problems and water drains to a low point, Superintendent Miller is working on the issue. Jim Cromwell stated that he spent \$11,000.00 to fix his issue so he knows that it can be fixed. Jim Cromwell said that the Town should have fixed the sidewalk and that when he did it fixed the problem. Holly Cook stated that the Town had cleaned and looked at the pipes and that there was nowhere for the water to go. President Katrina Asher tabled the issue and said the Town will come up with a plan to handle nuisances. Holly Cook stated that it will not be a quick fix, but the Town will continue to work on it. Holly Cook stated that the Council would need to assign priority on what the problems are. Holly Cook said that there will need to be several Executive Sessions to discuss and Zach Bowers asked on what because it could not be discussed at an Executive Session. Holly Cook then stated that each Council member could individually come up with ideas for property clean ups and then those ideas would be discussed at a Council meeting.

- B. Endeavor Communications Update – President Katrina Asher gave an update on Endeavor Communications and stated that there are currently 31 people signed up and Endeavor required that 178 people be signed up before they will proceed. President Katrina Asher stated that we need to get community members to volunteer to go door to door to pass out flyers. It was stated that TDS requires a landline in order to have internet services, but Endeavor does not. Endeavor representatives are willing to come to a meeting to answer questions that public may have.
- C. Ordinance Codifications – President Katrina Asher stated that she had contacted American Legal Publishing to see if she could get the price reduced and was not able to. The Town will receive ten copies of the Code of Ordinances books, all ordinances will be online and you will be able to pull up ordinances and it will link you to the law associated with the ordinance. The basic price is \$5,995.00 and it will be an additional \$2,850.00 to include the zoning ordinance. President Katrina Asher suggested doing the basic only at this time. Holly Cook questioned if they would be able to get all ordinances included in their 250 page limit and President Katrina Asher stated that they were confident that they could and that would also include the links into our website. Holly Cook questioned if there was a possibility of having individual pamphlets as well. Debbie requested that the ordinance numbers be included and stated that they are not in the current Code of Ordinance book that the Town has. Motion by President Katrina Asher, second by Holly Cook, vote unanimous, to start the project with American Legal Publishing with the regular ordinances at a price not to exceed \$5,995.00.
- D. Ordinance 01-2020 An Amendment to Ordinance 2-2016 An Ordinance of the Town of Roachdale, Indiana Approving a Town Personnel Policy – Motion by President Katrina Asher, second by Holly Cook, vote unanimous, to rescind Ordinance 01-2020.
- E. Town of Roachdale Open House – President Katrina Asher stated that the original date selected was not good and it will now be changed to April 26th from 2:00 – 4:00 at the Community Building.
- F. Share Box – President Katrina Asher stated that Rachel Fenton had attended the Town Council Meeting last month and the Town Council had approved for Niagara Water to donate a share box and books. Rachel and the Town Council had originally talked about having the share box at Roachdale Elementary, by Rachel would now like to have it at the Community Building. The share box and books will be delivered tomorrow and Superintendent Miller will install it at the Community Building as requested.

V. New Business

- A. Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Continuation of Small Customer Agreement No. 11500 – Motion by Holly Cook, second by President Katrina Asher, vote unanimous, to continue with Panhandle Eastern Pipeline for three years.
- B. 12 Point Technology – Debbie presented a quote from 12 Point Technology for a new server in the amount of \$925.00, two new computers for the Town Office at a total price of \$1,672.00 and three Surface Pros with detachable keyboard and stylus pen for the Town Council to use at meetings for a total cost of \$3,315.00. Motion by President Katrina Asher, second by Holly Cook, vote unanimous, to approve the purchase of the new server and two

new computers, and to leave off the Surface Pros. Debbie stated that she did ask about videoing Town Council Meetings and was told by 12 Point Technology that the Town would not be able to do that with their current internet provider. Yvonne Dickerson stated that she had not been able to sign up for Endeavor and was provided the information to do so.

- C. Zoning – Permits. President Katrina Asher asked if the Town Council wanted to consider expanding the current Inter Local Agreement with Putnam County and have them handle all permits. Holly Cook stated that some communities pay the County to handle all permits. Debbie stated that the County already thinks it handles all permits as they had issued several to residents. It was discussed who serves on the Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals and it was stated that neither had met for several months. President Katrina Asher asked if the Council wanted to research the option and come back at the next meeting and discuss further. Zach Bowers stated I dare you to scrap zoning and see what happens. Zach Bowers further stated that the town will become a mess and people will build whatever they want to and if it is scrapped and he will put a trailer in his back yard. President Katrina Asher stated that everyone has expressed concern over the length of time that it takes to get a permit from the Town. Ronda Alexander questioned if we did away with the zoning ordinance if it would do away with property clean ups and President Katrina Asher stated that that is a separate thing from zoning. Holly Cook stated that zoning is in place to protect property owners but there is a fine line.

- VI. Public Comment Time – Ronda Alexander asked about the property cleanup at Jack Simpson’s property located at 110 W Railroad Street, she said that it has been a disaster for years with trash, brush, and cars and trucks which do not run. Holly Cook stated at the last meeting Jack Simpson was given a timeframe to clean the property up and he stated that a deadline of April 1st would give him enough time to do so and it is on record that he stated that and the Town can proceed if he does not follow that timeframe. Zach Bowers stated that there was a court order against Jack and Glenda Simpson. President Katrina Asher stated that the Town had spent money to take them to court and it was still not cleaned up. Zach Bowers stated that Jack and Glenda Simpson should not have been given an extension. Attorney Peebles stated that the Council is in charge of those decisions. Zach Bowers questioned President Katrina Asher’s properties and Holly Cook stated that they are not looking at those. Ronda Alexander stated that the property at 207 N Railroad has scrap mowers sitting in the yard, 207 N Rush Street is empty and in disrepair, 204 E Grove Street and 13 N Meridian Street are both vacant. Ronda Alexander stated that she is afraid the Council will do nothing on property cleanups. President Katrina Asher stated look at all the money that the Town has been spent on the Ruby Bell property and it is still not clean. Holly Cook stated that she had a conversation with the owner of 13 N Meridian Street and he was going to remove the trailer at 13 N Meridian Street after harvest. Further discussion on property cleanups was tabled until the April 8, 2020 Town Council Meeting. Jim Cromwell questioned not for profits using the Community Building for free and stated that he had checked with other towns and they charge not for profit groups to use their buildings. Jim Cromwell further stated that any Board member should not use their position to benefit themselves, their friends, or any organization they belong to and if they did

they should resign from the Board. Zach Bowers stated that Holly Cook had never done that and Jim Cromwell told him he was not talking to him. Holly Cook stated it has never been her intent to use the Community Building for that purpose. President Katrina Asher stated that the intent for not for profits referred to was for scouts, 4H clubs, etc., not RRCA. Holly Cook stated that RRCA had no intent on using the Community Building for Rib Fest and Debbie stated that they would not be allowed to even if they wanted to because of the food permit. Debbie stated that it was always discussed that boys scouts, 4H clubs etc., would be allowed to use the building for free and not RRCA or Roachdale in A.C.T.I.O.N. and if any not for profit was using it to make a profit then they would be required to pay the same as everyone else. Debbie also stated that the community buildings he checked with were not owned by their town, however, the Town of Roachdale owns their community building. President Katrina Asher stated that the current lease agreement would be reviewed and clarification would be included on not for profit groups.

Jennifer Trumbo, Hatchet House BBQ, stated that they would like to have a Town of Roachdale 2nd Saturday event May – August. She has had a good response from local businesses, except for one. It would be up to business owners to put up their own food stands or other booths, President Katrina Asher stated that she would be open to try it. Jennifer Trumbo stated that she would have further information at the April 8, 2020 Town Council Meeting.

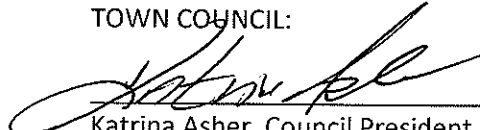
- VII. Town Marshal Report – Marshal Lepine presented his monthly report. Marshal Lepine stated that the GPS has been installed in both vehicles and is working. Marshal Lepine stated that he will be doing Academy Standard Training in the near future.
- VIII. Town Superintendent Items – Superintendent Miller presented information on plans for completing additional gas certifications. They are currently working on 16 certs and will build up to 28 certs. Their certifications will not include underground. He reported that they are currently working on their water and wastewater certification requirements. Superintendent Miller stated that they are installing meter and currently have ten left to install. He had previously been told that all meters did not need antennas, however, they do so they are currently installing those. Superintendent Miller reported that they are also working on putting stone in alleys.
- IX. Clerk – Treasurer Items – Debbie presented adjustments totaling \$120.31 for approval. Motion by Holly Cook, second by President Katrina Asher, vote unanimous, to approve the adjustments as presented. Debbie asked if the Council could let her know a date at the next meeting for a Spring Clean Up Day.
- X. Items from Town Council Members
Holly Cook – No items
President Katrina Asher – President Katrina Asher stated that she had met with Troy Elless and Midwestern Engineers in regards to water and wastewater. The Town of Roachdale has been under an IDEM Agreed Order since 2016 and has to have a compliance plan in place. The Town

was dinged on inflow and infiltration and has to have a plan in place to resolve the issue. Funding options were discussed since a preliminary engineering report and flow monitoring had been done. The Town is also looking at funds for water as well. The Town could go in for funding in 2021 with construction in 2022. A water study will need to be done outlining improvements to water quality. President Katrina Asher stated that a timeline will need to be established with priorities established. President Katrina Asher stated that a committee needs to be formed to interview for a Grant Administrator for the Town. The committee would include a Town Council member, Debbie and other citizens and would decide if we want to keep our current Grant Administrator or go with someone new. President Katrina Asher stated that we would need to know before our next meeting how we want to proceed with funding.

Debbie asked if a date had been set for the Spring hydrant flushing and it has not.

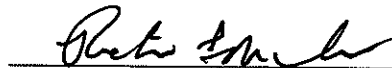
Motion by President Katrina Asher, second by Holly Cook, vote unanimous, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

TOWN COUNCIL:




Katrina Asher, Council President

Holly Cook, Council Member



Rick Miles Jr.

Attest



Debbie Sillery, Clerk Treasurer