

A Special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Williamsport was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 at the Town Hall with the following officers present – Dave Banta, Council President and Council members Dick Briles and Traci Latoz. Also present were Bill Lucas, Clerk-Treasurer and Nancy Litzenberger, Town Attorney, Emily Albaugh (KIRPC), Eric Smith (HWC), Kevin Strickler, Amy Cushman, Greg Taylor, and Michael Hutchison.

The purpose of this special meeting is to discuss the rate study conducted by Therber, Brock, and Associates for the Town's Water, Sewer, and Storm Water systems.

Dave Banta called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Steve Brock of Therber, Brock, and Associates was unable to attend this special meeting.

Dave Banta spoke about the sewer rate study and the plan for the sewer project. If the town does not make the improvements needed to the sewer system, a minimum rate increase of 34.3% is needed just to keep the sewer plant operating. If the town does the sewer project with an OCRA grant and an SRF loan, a rate increase of 48.8% is needed.

Proposed: \$600,000 OCRA Grant and \$800,000 SRF Loan

Eric Smith stated we could implement a two step rate increase in which the 34.3% increase could go into effect first and the remaining 14.5% increase could go into effect once the SRF loan is here.

Emily Albaugh spoke about the SRF loan and the OCRA grant. Proposals are needed by October 5th, 2018 and the application deadline is November 30th, 2018.

If the grant is here in January, engineering could start and be done by June 2019 for bids.

Greg Taylor asked if the Council went for the 48.8% sewer rate increase now, could the revenue be held for the project.

Mike Hutchison asked if the 48.8% sewer rate increase was done now, would no other increase be needed.

Dick Briles asked if the new lines can be tested once they are in. Eric Smith said they will be checked and re-worked if necessary.

Dave Banta made a motion to have Steve Brock proceed with drafting a sample ordinance utilizing a one step rate increase to the sewer rates of 48.8% with the OCRA Grant and SRF Loan. Dick Briles seconded the motion. Traci Latoz asked if the ordinance could be amended to the two step increase. Eric Smith said it could. Voted and passed.

Dave Banta spoke about the water rate study and water project next. A 17.6% increase is needed to cover expenses now. If we want to go ahead with the water project using the OCRA Grant with wrap, the water rate increase would need to be 21.8%.

Emily Albaugh stated that the town could not have two OCRA grants in process at the same time, so if the sewer project is the priority, we would need to wait to apply for the second OCRA grant for the water project until the sewer project is under construction.

Greg Taylor asked what wrapping the loans would save if we chose the option to do the OCRA Grant with wrap for the water project.

Greg Taylor said he sees the problems with the water pressure at the fire hydrants.

Dave Banta made a motion to have Steve Brock proceed with drafting a sample ordinance for a 21.8% water rate increase with OCRA with wrap. Dick Briles seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Dave Banta made a motion we start a storm water utility at a rate of \$4.00 per month per customer. The council will ask Steve Brock to draft an ordinance now. Emily Albaugh stated that the rate needs to be between \$3.00 and \$5.00 to make the point system. Dick Briles seconded the motion to start a storm water utility. Dave Banta and Dick Briles voted for this. Traci Latoz voted against the motion to start a storm water utility.

Eric Smith will get with Steve Brock on this.

Emily Albaugh said the state has started round one for 2019 projects. KIRPC is asking communities to answer a survey on utilities. This is 2018 and 2019 projects.

Dave Banta said he got an email from WHIN in Tippecanoe County. He gave it to Steve Eberle with the county.

Amy Cushman asked when new rates may start. The town implemented budget billing for its utility customers this year that runs through March 2019 and there is concern that beginning rate increases prior to the end of the cycle will negatively impact those customers on budget billing.

Traci Latoz made a motion to adjourn. Dick Briles seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

With no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST _____, _____,

President

Member

Member