

A meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Williamsport was held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at the Town Hall with the following officers present – Mike Hutchison, Council President and Council Member Jim Lanham. Also present were Bill Lucas, Clerk-Treasurer, Amy Cushman, Ted Latoz, Kevin Strickler, Mark Hutson, Justin Davis, Will Holycross, Tommie Purcell, Dustin Whalen, John Acton, Tyleigh Henry, Steve Smith, Michele Stucky, Miles Stucky, Stephanie Knosp, Brian Jordan, Valerie Jordan, and Danny Kincade.

Mike Hutchison called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Mike Hutchison asked if there was anyone in attendance for the Disconnection Hearing. Tyleigh Henry was in attendance, as agreed upon at the January meeting, to discuss her arrears amount and set up a new payment agreement to catch up her outstanding balance. The Council agreed to allow Tyleigh Henry to continue to pay \$150.00 every Friday towards her outstanding balance and she should attend the March Disconnection Hearing to discuss her outstanding balance again.

Mike Hutchison made a motion to approve all remaining unpaid accounts up for disconnect. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed. Due to the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting being postponed until February 13<sup>th</sup>, water service will be disconnected for unpaid accounts on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> and electric service will be disconnected on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Smith was in attendance to discuss plans for cleaning up and enhancing the areas around the Falls. Steve presented the Council with plans for a sign for the Falls and requested permission to install it, with assistance from the Town's employees. The sign and all material to put the sign up will be donated and would require no maintenance.

Michele Stucky further discussed plans being considered for the Falls and the areas around the Falls, including surveying for mapping out foot trails, clearing out brush, and possibly adding an access point to trails from River Road. Michele requested permission for their Trails Committee to begin cleaning up the Falls area, surveying for foot trails, and, having Town assistance in putting up the sign Steve Smith will be making.

Mike Hutchison questioned the liability to the Town for the work the Trails Committee will be doing. Michele Stucky stated she had already spoken with Lee Kay at the Warren Agency and Lee stated she could come to a meeting to discuss this. Jim Lanham stated he would get in touch with Lee Kay to discuss liability and the possibility of coming to a meeting.

Jim Lanham made a motion to allow the Trails Committee to go forth with their plans to apply for grants and clear brush at the Falls area. Mike Hutchison seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Bill Lucas asked how the Trails Committee worked with the Park Board for the Town. Miles Stucky was in attendance and stated the Park Board would work with the Trails Committee in their efforts.

Dustin Whalen with HWC gave an update on the Wastewater project. The SRF loan closing date has now been moved to March 6<sup>th</sup>. Midwest Mole has agreed to extend their bid time at no additional cost to the Town.

Will Holycross introduced the three new volunteer firefighters: Tommie Purcell, Mikayla Davis, and Toby Ellis.

Will Holycross asked what could be changed on the firefighter's pay so a 1099 would not have to be issued. Mike Hutchison stated if \$600.00 or more is paid in the year, a 1099 has to be issued. This may be discussed further at a future meeting if the firefighters would like this changed.

Kevin Strickler gave an update on the completed OSMOSE pole inspections. Out of the Town's 878 poles, 126 poles were rejected. Out of the 126 rejected poles, 103 are restorable. Kevin proposed that the Town replace all of the rejected poles instead of restoring them, over a four to five-year period. Four of the worst poles have already been replaced.

Kevin Strickler discussed a request to bury new and existing electric service on and around Greg McGowen's property. There are going to be two new houses built that will require the new service. The cost to the customer is estimated to be \$1,600.00 and the cost to the Town is estimated at \$5,000.00.

Mike Hutchison made a motion to approve the request to bury the electric service. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Kevin Strickler discussed the deteriorating condition of the Bingo Stand at the park and proposed that it be torn down.

Kevin Strickler discussed replacing the street signs in Town. Kevin provided the Council with a quote for all the signs (213 total) and brackets that came in at \$8,749.00. No decision was made at this time.

Kevin Strickler discussed the security lights in Town and the Town's electric policy. The Town's current policy is to not install new security lights. Amy Cushman stated that there is a resident in Town that would like a security light put up on their property and is needing to know if an exception can be made to put a security light up or if the policy can be changed. Bill Lucas stated the Town's policy also says that the Council can waive the policy on security lights if there are special circumstances. Kevin will talk to the customer requesting the security light prior to a decision being made to install the light.

Kevin Strickler stated that at the last IMPA Commissioner's meeting, they discussed the Town's contract with IMPA currently running through 2042. An IMPA representative would like to attend a meeting soon and discuss extending the contract to 2050.

Ted Latoz discussed getting a mobile dispatch system and internet in both of the police cars. Ted provided the following quotes for both services:  
First Net through AT&T-\$30.00/month per car for unlimited data  
Mobile Hot spots in each vehicle-\$0.99 per car  
GPS Receiver-\$30 per car

Jim Lanham made a motion to purchase the equipment needed and start the service for the mobile dispatch system and internet in both vehicles. Mike Hutchison seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Bill Lucas discussed a utility customer's concern from the January meeting regarding a late fee assessed. The majority of the arrears amount was due to the customer paying less than the actual bill amount due. Only \$0.96 was assessed as a penalty.

Bill Lucas questioned the current billing ordinance and the deposits required for large businesses. The Council will review the current ordinance and make a decision at a future meeting.

Amy Cushman presented the Council with leak adjustments.

Mike Hutchison made a motion to approve leak adjustments as presented. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Bill Lucas advised the Council that a decision needs to be made prior to the March meeting concerning the Town employee's insurance premiums. He also asked the Council if the Town could provide Life and AD&D insurance to employees that would like to take it when they opt out of the medical insurance, and if they can, what would the Town charge for it. No decisions were made at this time.

Bill Lucas advised the Council that two of Kevin's crew, Ron Turner and Nate Tarter, have both received their CDL's. He is requesting a motion to increase their pay by \$1.00/hr, as they were advised when they hired in once they obtained their CDL.

Mike Hutchison made a motion to increase Ron Turner and Nate Tarter's wages by \$1.00/hr effective February 1, 2020. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Bill Lucas discussed part-time employees for the Town. Mike Hutchison will look into information concerning part-time employees.

Danny Kincade asked if he could have someone look at the Bingo Stand at the park to see if it may be salvageable. The Town has no objections to this; however, Kevin Strickler did advise that, in his opinion, it is not salvageable and it should be taken down.

John Acton requested permission to close an alley in Town that is no longer in use, so that he may put up a fence. The Council will look into this and discuss it further at the March meeting.

Mike Hutchison made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Mike Hutchison made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Mike Hutchison made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Mike Hutchison made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Lanham seconded the motion.  
Voted and passed.

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

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
President

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Member

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Member