

**Town of Silver Lake
Council Public Meeting Minutes
Silver Lake Town Hall
January 13, 2021
7:00pm**

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL:

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Hugh Murfin, Nichole Taylor, Gloria (Jean) Weller, Tonya Conley

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Jason McGlennen, Joey McNeal, John Conley, JT Prater (absent)

TOWN ATTORNEY

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Gloria (Jean) Weller made first motion to nominate Hugh as Council President, Nichole 2nd and Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Mitch Hansel spoke to the Council regarding the **Community Crossing Grant**. The grant has opened up for applications and will close January 29, 2021. The town should hear if the application is accepted some time in March. Fiduciary Letters needed signed by the council and signatures were gathered. The total amount is \$300,000.00 of which the town match is \$75000.00.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Nichole made first motion to accept the December 28, 2020 Year-end meeting minutes as written, Jean seconded the motion, Hugh all in favor motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

Façade Grant- Hugh informed those present that the town was working with KEDCo on a Façade Grant for the downtown businesses. As a next step in the process a **Structural Engineer** will need to evaluate the integrity of the buildings. Tonya said that she would get quotes from a few firms if the council agreed to move forward with this. The Council agreed to move forward.

OCRA Blight grant application for the old school building has been postponed until 2022 due to COVID and OCRA not opening the grant this year. Tonya stated she had received an email from Grant Writer, Shannon McLeod and she had asked if the Council would like to demolish the building in 2021 using town funds or if they would like to wait until 2022 and see if the grant opens up. Nichole said that she would like to wait until 2022 and if it doesn't open up then look into the demolition with town funds. Hugh asked for Tonya's opinion and she stated that if the town were to demolish it, it would deplete the fund set aside for that. She also stated that the two contractors she had look at the building gave estimates between \$225,000.00 to \$250,000.00 and then you have to add asbestos removal into that as well. She said she would also wait a year and agreed with Nichole she wouldn't go passed 2022 with it still standing. Hugh and Jean also agreed to wait on the grant in 2022 if applications are accepted.

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V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Town Attorney-** The town received two letters/resumes from the advertisement asking for interested applicants as the town attorney. Dana Leon with Rockhill Pinnick LLP submitted a letter stating their years of service to the town and the annual retainer will be \$6000 and litigation rate of \$220.00 per hour. A second letter/resume was received from Austin Rovenstine with Miner & Lemon LLP expressing his years of service as an attorney, his community service with the Kosciusko County and Austin stated that his retainer fee would be set at \$1250.00 per quarter and the hourly litigation rate would be \$200.00 per hour. Jean made first motion to accept Austin Rovenstine as Town Attorney, Nichole made a motion to stay with Rockhill Pinnick stating that we would be hiring a firm and would have more attorneys to work with, Hugh seconded Jean's motion to hire Rovenstine, Hugh all in favor, motion carried.
2. **MedStat** agreement was signed for the year of 2021. Nichole made first motion to accept the agreement for terms of service, Jean seconded, Hugh all in favor, motion carried.
3. **Nepotism Certification** was signed by Nichole and Hugh. Tonya stated she just put it on the agenda so that she wouldn't forget but the certification states that they did not hire or contract with anyone they are closely related in 2020. Both council members signed the agreement.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Jay Cole asked the Council about the DNR letter received regarding the lake level. Hugh said he read the letter and it appears the lake level will be lowered to the level it stands now and not the level sat back in the 1960s. Jay also inquired as to why the leaves were not picked up as usual last year. Joey told him that the leaf vac is not in service so the only way to remove the leaves is if they are bagged. Joey asked Jay if he can bag them, he will come and pick them up. Hugh explained that the leaf vac was in to much disrepair to be fixed and that a new one is expensive and was not in the budget last year. He said that the town would work on getting a new one this year if funds are available or a grant can be obtained.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

a) Jason McGlennen, Marshal Dept.:

- Call history
- Yearly call history
- Grant money that has been applied for can now be spent so the department will be using the funds.

b) Joey McNeal, Water Dept.:

- Geiger is going to come down and try and locate a shut off at Wabash Valley, if one cannot be found then one will need installed. The cost to install a shut off will be between \$3000.00 and \$4000.00.

c) JT Prater, Street & Sewer Dept.:

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➤ absent

d) John Conley, Fire Dept.:

- 5 runs since last meeting
- Gave the council a run sheet with the totals for 2020.
- The Fire Department has voted him in as chief for 2021 and the council needs to approve of the FD's decision. Jean gave first motion to accept John as fire chief, Nichole seconded, Hugh all in favor motion carried.

VIII. CLAIM DOCKET:

\$166999.16 in claims is to be paid. Tonya stated that a water bond payment, sewer bond payment and town liability insurance for the year are reasons for the high docket. Nichole gave first motion to accept, Jean seconded the motion, Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

IX. LETTERS:

Leak letters were received from four town residents. The adjustments they qualify for are as follows:

- b) O'Hara-\$24.35 sewer adjustment
- c) Streeter-\$8.03 sewer adjustment
- d) Ballentine-\$448.64 water adjustment and \$288.91 sewer adjustment
- e) Syndram-\$2.66 sewer adjustment

Nichole gave first motion to adjust all accounts as calculated, Jean seconded, Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

X. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a) **Next regular meeting** is scheduled for February 10, 2021 at the Silver Lake Town Hall beginning at 7:00pm.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Adjournment came at 7:32pm with Nichole making first motion, Jean seconded and Hugh all in favor, motion carried.

MEDARD MURFIN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

TONYA CONLEY, CLERK-TREASURER

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