

TOWN OF SILVER LAKE  
PUBLIC/COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 11, 2021  
SILVER LAKE TOWN HALL  
7:00PM

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ROLL CALL:**

***ELECTED OFFICIALS***

Hugh Murfin (joined via phone), Nichole Taylor, Gloria (Jean) Weller, Tonya Conley  
\*It should be noted that Hugh muted his phone for listening purposes but did join in a few conversations. A counted vote is not allowed without physical presence of the member.\*

***DEPARTMENT HEADS***

Jason McGlennen, Joey McNeal, John Conley

***TOWN ATTORNEY***

C. Austin Rovenstine

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Kelly Gardner and Chad Reynolds from Alliance of Indiana Water came to explain the Apprenticeship Program. The program is for two years and consists of 4000 hours of job training and 288 hours of classroom training. The program will prepare the applicant for IDEM licensing. The courses include confined space training, mathematics, IDEM rules and regulations, and systems operations. Currently the pass rate for the IDEM licensing is 33%. The apprenticeship program costs \$7000.00 but funding is available through Work One and the Indiana Finance Authority. Kelley stated she will work with Tonya to try and get funding. Carol Elliot asked why they must be an apprentice for 2 years before being a licensed operator and Kelly told her that IDEM requires it. Chad also explained that system operations are complicated, and it is not just about lab testing of water samples. The licensing that IDEM requires for Silver Lake's Operators requires that they have knowledge on other systems that Silver Lake does not have. There is a lot to learn, the Council decided to investigate funding for the program prior to deciding. Chris Craft will be the employee joining the program.

**III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Jean made first motion to accept meeting minutes for July 14, 2021, and August 4, 2021, meeting minutes, Nichole seconded and all in favor, motion carried.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Easement Vacation, Ordinance 08-01-21** was passed with Jean making first motion, Nichole seconded and all in favor, motion carried. A brief discussion took place prior to the vote with Chris Parker's attorney, Steve Snyder, and all questions posed determined that vacating the easement would not cause undue harm to the public. Elizabeth Johnson who is purchasing a parcel of property from Chris Parker posed questions because a garage is

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setting partially on the easement. Steve assured her that the easement will be divided into two with one side vacated to north and the other vacated to the south lot. Currently, Chris Parker owns all parcels on both sides of the easement to be vacated. Steve will have the ordinance recorded and will email a copy to Tonya.

2. **Façade Grant Finalization** was approved with Nichole making first motion to accept the applications, Jean seconded, Nichole all in favor, motion carried. The town teamed with KEDCO to offer a Façade Grant to Silver Lake's local businesses. Two business owner's that own two buildings each submitted applications. Whetstone's Woodenware will receive in total \$11,542.71 and Lakeview Liquors will receive \$12,057.72 for both buildings.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **RV waiver request** for Dale Burbank was petitioned to the council. The RV as requested is to be placed at Bowman's Landing. The town has an ordinance preventing RV's from being residents in town limits and the ordinance was discussed about being revised for seasonal trailer parks. Dale offered to remove the wheels and place a skirt around the bottom of the RV and stated that it will be a permanent structure and not pulled in and out. Tonya spoke about the town's IDEM permit not allowing for dumping so it will have to be permanently hooked into the water and sewer and cannot be removed. The subject was tabled until the ordinance can be either revised or a decision made to deny the request. This request will be on the September agenda. Dale stated that he has already purchased the RV and has a second option for the placement, but he would rather be in Silver Lake.
2. **2022 Wage/Salary increases** were discussed. Nichole suggested that Kendra and Eric receive 4% because they are the lowest paid and Tonya asked about Chris also receiving the 4%. Nichole added him to the 4%. Hugh joined the conversation by phone and said that Chris's 90 days will be up soon, and a wage increase should be decided for him then. Tonya told Hugh that the increase on the agenda was for 2022 and whatever is decided for increase between now and then is fine, but this is the percentage that will be added in the salary ordinance for 2022. A final determination was that a 4% increase for Kendra, Eric and Chris will be added for 2022 and Department Heads, Chief Deputy Marshal and the Clerk-Treasurer will receive a 3% increase.
3. **Customer penalty removal** was approved by the council. Jean gave first motion, Nichole seconded and all in favor, motion carried. Tonya explained the reasoning for the adjustment.

**VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS/CONCERNS:**

**Brett Burch** with the Lake Conservation Foundation told the council that the foundation received the DNR grant for an in-depth lake study. The grant will cover 80% of the total cost up to \$54,800.00. He wanted to thank the town and all others who have pledged, given donations or in-kind donations. Jay Cole asked what the lake study will determine. Brett told him that nutrients and sediment loading will be studied, and this will help the foundation come up with a comprehensive plan for the health of the lake.

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**VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**a) Jason McGlennen, Marshal Dept.:**

- ✓ Gave the Council call history prior to the meeting
- ✓ Jason would like to take vacation from September 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Council agreed if the town is covered.

**b) Joey McNeal, Town/Utilities Dept.:**

- ✓ Water leak has been fixed.
- ✓ Water tower painted
- ✓ The storm that came through caused a few limbs to fall but they have been cleaned up.

**d) John Conley, Fire Dept.:**

- ✓ 3 runs since last meeting
- ✓ Would like to have a meeting with Council, Township Board and Businesses over radios soon. A date will be set for a day after 4:30pm and will be advertised for the public.

**VIII. CLAIM DOCKET:**

**\$106213.37** in claims is to be paid. Jean gave first motion to accept the claim docket, Nichole seconded and all in favor, motion carried. Tonya stated that she hadn't received the bill for Silver Lake Agri-Center and she would like permission to pay that bill when he comes in. She didn't know if it was lost in the mail or if they had a delay in sending it out. Council agreed for her to pay the bill.

**IX. LETTERS:**

**Leak letters** were received from two town residents.

**a) McConnell-** water adjustment \$418.93 and sewer adjustment \$0.00.

**b) Johnson-**was tabled due to not having history on the account to use as an average. Tonya said she would place it on the agenda for the September council meeting and any penalties can be adjusted. Mrs. Johnson said she would pay the bill and receive a credit when it gets adjusted.

**X. MISCELLANEOUS:**

**a) Next regular meeting** is scheduled for September 8, 2021, at the Silver Lake Town Hall beginning at 7:00pm.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting ended at 8:06pm with Nichole making first motion to adjourn, Jean seconded and Nichole all in favor, motion carried.

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**MEDARD MURFIN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

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**TONYA CONLEY, CLERK-TREASURER**