

**Board of Public Works & Safety
and Park Authority Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.
Ligonier City Hall · 301 S. Cavin St. · Ligonier, IN 46767**

Call to order: Mayor Fisel

Roll Call

Present: Board Members Earle Franklin, Tom Janes, and Mayor Patty Fisel
City Attorney Steve Clouse and Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn

Minutes from previous meeting February 24, 2021

Motion to approve: Tom Janes

Second: Earle Franklin

Vote: All Ayes

New Business

Byron Fought, 505 Rear Smith – Utility Bill

Water department personnel graphed the water usage at 505 Rear Smith which showed continuous leaks from 10/20/2020 through 01/06/2021. The latest bill showed even higher usage than the previous month. When the dept personnel visited, they found leaks in the house. The latest billing showed even greater usage for the month. Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle believes the leaks may be in the main line going to the house. It is possible a portion not going down the drain, but he cannot be sure. However, other leaks in the house would most likely be going down the drain.

Mr. Fought appeared to present his case and stated his bill is too high. He said he was not able to find leaks in his house. He believes his line is ok.

Further discussion led to the following.

Motion to deny an adjustment: Patty Fisel

Second: Tom Janes

Vote: All Ayes

Rafael Becerra, 106/106 ½ Fulton Street – Utility Bill

Mr. Becerra came to city hall regarding his high bill. He spoke with the deputy clerks and water superintendent. We could not confirm that he had leaks that did not go down the drain.

The consumption for the latest bill was 3500 cubic feet.

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle stated that the personnel could not verify a leak but could possibly be a toilet leaking. It is the responsibility of homeowner to take care of leaks.

A new meter was put in and it will tell right away if there is a leak.

Earle suggested to table until the next meeting to see if we can graph with the new meter.

Motion to table to next meeting: Earle Franklin

Second: Tom Janes

Vote: All Ayes

Hector Hernandez, 206 Wright Street – Utility Bill

Water department personnel graphed the water usage at 206 Wright Street which showed a leak from 12/26/2020 through 01/07/2021. We could not confirm that the leaks did not go down the drain.

Per Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle, the meter will only register if water is running through it. We tell everyone that if you have a leak and we can show that it did not go down the drain, we will give an adjustment.

Earle Franklin stated the graph proves that the meter is working. There were 10 days that there was an issue.

City Attorney Clouse stated the board has authority to give an adjustment when they feel warranted.

Deputy Clerk Robin Galloway stated that we received many complaints regarding high usage, generally due to a leak. We always tell them if they can prove it did not go down the drain, we can bring to the board for an adjustment. Clerk-Treasurer Barb Hawn stated that it is not up to the water department personnel to prove there is a leak, it is up to the homeowner to prove that there is not, or that the water did not go down the drain.

Motion to deny adjustment request: Patty Fisel

Second: Tom Janes

Vote: All Ayes

Aloha Prime Properties, 1320 Martin Street – Utility Bill

A trailer on the Aloha Prime property had a leak. Troy Arnold of the Water Dept. went to the property and verified that the leak was under the trailer and did not go down the drain. They are requesting an adjustment of sewer charges in the amount of \$617.61.

Motion to approve: Earle Franklin

Second: Tom Janes

Vote: All Ayes

Jackie Jackson, 855 US Hwy. 6, Lot 18 – Utility Bill

A leak from broken pipes was discovered. Jeff Boyle verified that the water did not go down the drain. The pipes have since been repaired. They are requesting an adjustment of sewer charges in the amount of \$211.15 for February and March billings.

Motion to approve: Tom Janes

Second: Earle Franklin

Vote: All Ayes

Baker Tilly – Accounting Agreement

An accounting agreement was received from Baker Tilly. It follows the same format as previous agreements with Umbaugh before their merger with Baker Tilly. City Attorney Clouse reviewed the agreement and recommended approval by the board.

Motion to approve: Patty Fisel

Second: Earle Franklin

Vote: All Ayes

Water Dept. – Quotes for Welderator

The following quotes were received for the Welderator which is on the approved capital plan with a budget of \$6,000.

John Deere – Greenmark	\$4,700.00
Jenkins Automotive	\$7,297.63
Grainger	\$6,191.40

Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle recommending going with John Deere-Greenmark.

Motion to approve: Tom Janes

Second: Patty Fisel

Vote: All Ayes

Water Dept. – Dept. Vehicle on Capital Plan

The approved capital plan calls for the purchase of a department vehicle with a budget of \$45,000. Water Superintendent Jeff Boyle asked for permission to proceed with the purchase.

Motion to approve: Patty Fisel

Second: Tom Janes

Vote: All Ayes

Department Heads and Members of Administration

Fire Chief Jeremy Weaver

- Steel delivered for the bays at the new fire station. A crane will be brought in to put it up.

Street Superintendent Mike Burdette

- Cleaning streets and picking up trash in the mowing routes.

Park Director Travis Brimhall

- Disc golf league starts on March 16. Have around 30 people signed up for the seven-week league.
- Youth soccer league sign-ups started.
- Getting prepared for the annual easter egg hunt.
- Seasonal help is back to help in the parks to get things cleaned up.

City Engineer Rick Pharis

- Martin Street bids will be taken on March 23 at 11:00. Recommendation will be brought to the board on March 24.
- API should finish up the sewer separation project soon with paving hopefully in April when the asphalt plants open.
- 2021 Community Crossing Grant awards have not yet been announced.
- Working on an alley project with Mike Burdette.
- Steve is working on the west end of Wright Street for a turnaround – working with the owners and they are willing to work with us.

Building Inspector/Board Member Earle Franklin


- Another application for a sold new home in Park Meadow.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Patty Fisel

Second: Earle Franklin


Barbara Hawn, Clerk Treasurer


Patricia Fisel, Mayor