

February 15, 2022

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana via zoom. Mrs. Jennifer Heath, Council led council in the pledge of allegiance.

Council President, Jennifer Heath asked that there be a moment of silence for our Electrical Inspector who passed away January 20, 2022.

Special Guests: Tom Dermody, Mayor of LaPorte City
Andrew McGuire, EMS Director of Laporte County
John Boyd, Sheriff of LaPorte County
Paul Brettin, Chief of Police LaPorte City

Mayor Tom Dermody led the discussion regarding the need for an increase to the LIT (Local Income Tax) fund, to assist the entire county in supporting our first responders and public safety. The proposed tax increase is set to go before the LaPorte County Council. If this increase in the fund is approved Trail Creek could see a revenue of \$ 91,686.00 a year toward public safety. Mayor Dermody shared information regarding the difficulty in keeping our communities safe and it will continue to be challenging. He asked for the council's support via a resolution to increase the fund.

Sheriff Boyd indicated he will support the LIT increase to help the LaPorte County jails with health and wellness, food, equipment and all other costs associated with the care of inmates as well as to his departmental needs.

EMS Director, Andrew McGuire gave statistics on EMS calls versus how many ambulances are on the road as well as first responder employees. This revenue could help to put more ambulances on the road in LaPorte County.

Chief Paul Brettin reported how difficult it is to hire officers. Potential hires are moving toward the private sector or are going outside the area for the pay differences. This revenue will help to retain the officers we have and put new hires on the road. Also, to replace equipment such as body cameras which are only good for two years.

Mayor Dermody asked council if they had any questions. Council Member, Scott Silcox asks how long the process is to increase the fund and how long would it last? Mayor Dermody indicated that if approved in March the increase to revenue would start sometime in October 2022. The fund increase would be in place and would not ever decrease. Council Member, Kyle Kubick asks Chief Brettin about the body cameras lasting only two years? Chief Brettin states that the body cameras his department has were received on a grant and were already older when he received them, so they need to be updated to the new technology, but the department is concerned with the costs. However, the increase to the LIT revenue would help with the price increases.

Council Members: Kyle Kubik and Sharon Gralik stated they would "Completely Support the increase to the LIT fund".

