
TOWN OF NEW RICHMOND

110 South Wabash Street, PO Box 210, New Richmond, IN 47967 Ph. 765-339-4507
Clerk@nrtown.com

Minutes of the Meeting

April 5, 2023 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Present, President Minnie Howard, Council Member Linda Forbes, Rachelle Cowherd, Clerk/Treasurer Alaahea Foust, Attorney Rob Reimondo, Town Superintendent Jay Busse and Water/Sewer Superintendent Earl Heide.

Pledge of allegiance was in the Public Hearing.

Alaahea Foust Clerk/Treasurer presented approval for Minutes of Work Session on March 1, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., Linda F. made the motion to approve the minutes, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Alaahea Foust Clerk/Treasurer presented approval for Minutes of Meeting on March 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Linda F. made the motion to approve the minutes, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Amendments/Additions to Agenda: None

Streets/Maintenance: Jay Busse said the trees have been cut down. Jay B. said Barb Clark talked to him about the ditch in front of her house, it is too high and the water is not draining into the storm drain. Jay B. said we need to fix that soon. Jay B. said the downspout on the Fire Station in front of the building needs to be fixed so it is not washing the foundation away or we need to concrete the area.

Rachelle C. said there is a "children playing" sign that has come off the pole on Washington Street that needs to be put back up. Jay B. said he will take care of that.

Minnie H. asked Jay if we need to get someone in to fix the storm water drain at Barb Clark house? Jay B. we can do a cost compare to cut a swell or put a surface drain in there. Jay B. will get us some cost by the next meeting.

Water/Sewer: Earl Heide said the water upgrade discussion are coming along. All the Wastewater new meters have been calibrated. Earl H. said most of the brush has been cleaned up at the Lagoon. Linda F. asked about what kind of security cameras are out at the Lagoon? Earl H. said trail cams, they are good enough to see someone going over the fence.

Town Marshal: Jeremy Minor not present.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Darren Foreman gave a report on their runs for the month.

Report from Attorney: Rob Reimondo said Tyler Nichols, attorney for Mark & Hilary Craig, owes him a call and he has not heard from him regarding the blighted property on 414 W Washington Street. Linda F. asked how long can they drag this out. Rob R. said they have sought out Council so I am trying to give them the opportunity to do the right thing, it is easier to have them take care of it. We can give them until the next meeting to respond and if they do not, we will take some further action. Rachelle C. gave the Council and the attorney some pictures of the house and where the wall is now falling down, and is concerned about the safety of the residents in town. Alaathea F. said she did have an inspection done on the house and he said it needs to come down.

Clerk/Treasurer: Alaathea F. presented Accounts Payable Voucher Register for April 5, 2023 to the Board, Linda F. made the motion to approve the APV Register, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Alaathea F. presented the bank reconcilements for February 2023.

Alaathea F. presented the Board with the Fund Report, Appropriation Report, Revenue Report up to date.

Alaathea F. presented B&B Tree Service invoice for 5,900.00 for trees cut down at the Roger Hurt Park, New Richmond Park and on East Washington Street. Linda F. made the motion to approve the payment, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Alaathea F. presented the Council an invoice from HWC Engineers for \$26,240.00 for approval to pay when grant money is received. Linda F. made the motion to approve the payment, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Alaathea F. presented an invoice from Kelley Kornbroke, Municipal Consultation & Customer Service, for \$780.00 for helping with record retention. Linda F. made the motion to approve the payment, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried. Alaathea F. said I have asked Kelley to keep anything having to do with our utilities for the reason of having the history on the utilities.

Alaathea F. presented Busse's Excavating invoice for \$2,500.00 for removal of trees inside sewer plant and chemicals for stumps. Linda F. made the motion to approve the payment, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Alaathea F. presented the sell of equipment agreement for the salt spreader to Jay Busse in the amount of \$500.00. Linda F. made the motion to sell it for \$500.00, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Alaathea F. presented the Council with information on Govocity, a new credit card payment option with cheaper fees for the residents to pay their utility bills with and ask them to look it over for the next meeting.

Alaathea F. informed the Council that we need to look into Cyber Security for our data and changing our email domain to a .gov domain.

Alaathea informed the Council that the electric poles at the park have been replaced at no cost to the Town.

Alaathea F. said Dumpster Day has been schedule for May 20th for the Town Clean up, there will be 3 dumpsters.

Old Business:

Traffic Ordinance Speed Limit: Alaathea F. said she has been reading the Indiana Codes and has some concerned about the moving violations statues to whether we are going to be able to collect a fee for those violations. Rob R. said send him the questions and he will take a look at it.

Shelter House: Darrell Birge (from the Volunteers for New Richmond Improvements) has not presented a quote for the doors at the shelter house.

New Business:

Adoption of Ordinance 2023-1 Additional Appropriation: Linda F. made the motion to suspend the rules and waive the second reading, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Linda F. made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-1, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Resolution 2023-4 Changing the Election of Town Board Members: Linda F. said this is to change our election year on an even year alone with Township's election so that we will not have to pay for it. The Council members elected for 2024 will serve 3 years and then it will go back to 4 years after that. Linda F. made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-4, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

D&D Trash Agreement: Alaathea F. said D&D Trash is raising their rates \$.50 per household in June. Linda F. made the motion to approve the trash agreement, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Draft Trash Collection Ordinance 2023-2: Alaathea F. said this is a draft to show we will need to do a trash increase of \$1.00 to cover the increase cost of the trash agreement and recyclable dumpster if the Council decide to have them. Alaathea F. said she has put a survey in the April's billing to get an idea of the interest for the recyclable dumpster. Jay B. said here is something to think about, you are going to need to put cameras up to police the dumpster because people will take advantage of it and that he will not be taking care of it. Linda F. said we had a lot of people interested in having them back. After some discussion no decision was made.

Discussion with the Coal Creek Fire & Rescue Board and the Town Council: Minnie H. said we will not be having public comments tonight because we are going to be talking with the Volunteer Fire Department about our agreement with them. Minnie H. said there will be no comments from the public during our discussion with the Volunteer Fire Department and the Town Council.

Present from the Coal Creek Fire & Rescue Board (CCFR), Kevin McCord, Matthew Kelp and five other members.

Kevin M. said he serves on two boards the CCFR Board and the Coal Creek Township Board, he stated that the Town of New Richmond has not paid their contract in five years over the thirty years that we have had this contract. The Town is only wanting to pay \$2000.00 while the Township pays the rest and the Town is saying they provide the building and the expenses of the building. Kevin M. said we are not taking in consideration the contract that we have asked for in the amount of \$4500.00 plus the \$1000.00 for propane that has been in place for over 25 years. Kevin M. said we have 39 volunteers on the fire department are they not worth being paid for by the Town. We had a contract sent to us at the beginning of the year and I have reach out multiple times to try to get a meeting with the Town to get this settled. Kevin M. went on to talk about the fire truck and other things the Township paid for for the CCFR. Kevin M. said that if the Town is interested in selling the Fire Station/Community Room to the Fire Department we would find away to buy it from the Town. Kevin M. said that the Township is responsible for fire protection, however the tax structure for fire fund is not set up the same for the Town of Wingate, Town of New Richmond and the Coal Creek Township.

Linda F. asked what the Town of Wingate pays for their contract, Kevin M. said \$4500.00. Alaathea F. asked is there anything else the Township pays for is the way of utility, Kevin M. said Wingate pays for the electric and the CCFR pays for the propane.

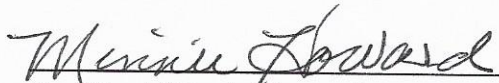
Alaathea F. asked Kevin M. if he said the Town of New Richmond has not paid their contract for the last five years, Kevin M. said yes. Alaathea F. said that was not true the Town of New Richmond has paid their contract in the amount of \$5500.00 except in the year of 2022, when the contract was changed to \$2000.00.

Rob R. (Town Attorney) asked Kevin M. if he was the spokes men for the CCFR and are they in agreement with what you are proposing tonight, Kevin M. said yes, he is also on the CCFR Board and they have already held a meeting prior to this meeting. Rob R. said he will need to speak with your attorney and asked if Stu

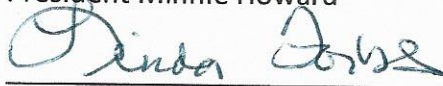
Weliiever is still the attorney for the Township, Kevin M. said yes. Rob R. asked who is the attorney for the CCFR, they replied that the CCFR does not have an attorney. Rob R. said I do not think the Town of New Richmond is interested in selling the building, so what is your next proposal. Kevin M. said he feels that the Town is saying it is a burden to pay for the operating cost of the building. The Town Council replied it is not a burden. After some discussion Rob R. said the Town has the opposite approach, it feels that the building is an assess and that the value of the space being giving is a premium and is what I believe the Council is trying to say. Linda F. asked what do you think is a fair amount other than the building. After some discussion Rob R. asked again what is the amount that you want the Town of New Richmond to pay. Kevin M. said the same as Wingate which is \$4500.00. After some more discussion Linda F. said we do appreciate all the CCFR volunteers for what you do. Minnie H. said the Town Council has a good understanding of what you want and we will have a Work Session to talk it over and get back with you on the contract.

Next Town Hall Meeting is May 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

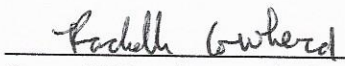
Linda F. made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.



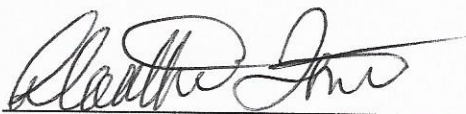
President Minnie Howard



Council Member Linda Forbes



Council Member Rachelle Cowherd



Attest: Clerk/Treasurer Alatheia Foust