
TOWN OF NEW RICHMOND

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Minutes of the Meeting

August 2, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present, President Minnie Howard, Council Member Linda Forbes, Rachelle Cowherd, Clerk/Treasurer Alaahea Foust.

Present: Town Marshal Jeremy Minor and Attorney Rob Reimondo.

Pledge of allegiance

Alaahea Foust Clerk/Treasurer presented approval for Minutes of Meeting on July 5, 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.

Alaahea Foust Clerk/Treasurer presented approval for Minutes of Special Meeting on July 19, 2023 at 5:00 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 was not present.

Water/Sewer: Earl Heide was not present. Alaahea F. said Earl informed her that the Park lift station is going to need a new pump and he had two quotes for it, option #1 is the same kind of pump that is in there now with only a 1-year warranty on it for \$9,993.00 or option #2 a better-quality pump with a 5-year warranty on it for \$10,395.00. This repair is an emergency due to the fact that it pumps sewer straight to the lagoon. Linda F. made the motion to go with option #2 with the 5-year warranty, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Alaahea F. said she has received an 811-dig ticket from Tipmont for the Harrison lift station, we have been waiting for them to do their part on the lift station in order to finish up on that repair.

Town Marshal: Jeremy M. said there is nothing to report.

Fire Department: Fire Assistance James Cowherd gave a report on their runs for the month. James C. reminded people to attend the Wingate Sweet Corn Festival.

Report from Attorney: Rob Reimondo said he did send out the corresponds in regards to Carmine Azzato garage on 102 Osage Street, as talked about on July 19 Special Meeting, that if there was a fire or some issue with the garage which encroaches 18 inches into the right-away easement it can be rebuilt, so that the closing of the sell could happen.

Rob R. said with the Town's Water System Improvements, as the local council, it is dependent on me to review all the documents which I have been doing since June. What I have is a fixed fee agreement in regards to that, that way the Council is not paying me out of their funds that you have with me annually. I have a payment agreement here for you to consider so that my fees will be paid out of the Bond issued. It will not exceed the \$3,500.00. Linda F. made the motion to approve the agreement, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer: Alaathea F. presented Accounts Payable Voucher Register for August 2, 2023 to the Board, Rachelle C. made the motion to approve the APV Register, Linda F. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Alaathea F. presented the Billing Adjustment Register for July 2023, Linda F. made the motion to approve the Billing Adjustment Register, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Alaathea F. presented the bank reconcilements for June 2023.

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

Alaathea F. informed the Council that the 2018 Case Tractor is paid off with Bane -Welker Equipment. Jay Busses' first lease agreement payment for the tractor is due before the end of this year.

Alaathea F. said we will need to do an Additional Appropriation, this goes along with the Resolution 2023-7, after talking with a Financial Consultant she advises me to do away with the temporary loan between funds for the Street Project in 2022, she said we should disregard what was set up because we have enough money within our funds to take care of the Street Project. So, the temporary loan between funds has been reverse and the 2022 Street Project was paid for with money we have, our cash flow is in good condition to do an additional appropriation to fill in the places we need to, to continue out the rest of the year.

Alaathea F. informed the Council that Tipmont REMC will not pay for the new lights above the stage and tennis court, however they did recommend going through the Operation Round Up or EnviroWatts to get new lights.

Alaathea F. informed the Council that the Old Street Stoplight is in the Town's possession and that we have pictures of the stoplight.

Alaathea F. informed the Council that Earl Heide asked about the Old New Richmond Jail. The jail is in Darrell Birge possession and should be returned to the Town of New Richmond maintenance building. Minnie H. asked Darrell Birge if he would return the Jail to the Town within 30 days of today. Darrell Birge said he would.

Alaathea F. read the statement from HWC Engineers in regards to the 5% contingency different from the HWC Engineer estimated cost of the project and the contractors, Graves Construction Services, LLC. that in question last meeting from the public. Rob R. stated that there were no issues with the bid.

Alaathea F. said there is the Movie night at the park on August 5 at 9:00 p.m.

Old Business:

Traffic Ordinance Speed Limit: Alaathea F. said she has not been able to get with Rob R. about the ordinance.

Shelter House: Darrell Birge (from the Volunteers for New Richmond Improvements) said Mike Claycomb is working with Jake Smith on placing double doors on one side instead of an overhead door. Minnie asked when the project will be finish, Darrell Birge does not know.

2024 Budget Meeting: Alaathea F. said 2024 Budget Hearing will be changed to September 6 and the Budget Adoption to October 4. Alaathea asked the Council if there were any issues with those dates, the Council said no. Alaathea F. then explained the Budget Form 1 which is what our 2024 appropriations and Budget Form 2 is the Revenues estimates for 2024 and Form 4B to the Town Council.

Steve Brock-Municipal Finance Consultants: Steve talked about the Town of New Richmond's new water infrastructure project. The Town has been given grant money from OCRA (Office of Community Rural Affairs) in the amount of \$700,000 and SRF (State Revolving Fund) IFA (Indiana Finance Authority) grant (Forgivable BAN) in the amount of \$1,100,000. The Town only needs to borrow in the amount of \$180,000 for the rest of the project through SRF. The Waterworks Revenue bond will be issue at a 2.19% interest over a 20- year term. Steve went on to explain how SRF tries to buy down the rates to the consumer so the increase is not as much. SRF looks at the consumption rates at around 3000 to 4000 gallons to decide how much the Town needs to increase their rates to pay for the bond as well as improvements and maintaining their water system. The rate for the 3001 – 4000 will be increased to \$57.20, without the grant money the rate would have been \$132.18. Steve went on the explain the process for the rate increases, having an ordinance, a public hearing and then adopting the ordinance. The rate increase is required for us to close on the SRF loan. Steve said the loan closing is August 30, 2023 and we need to adopt the new rates before then, would the Town Council be able to have that meeting on August 22, 2023. The Town Council agreed to have to public hearing and adoption meeting on August 22, 2023. Steve said he will provide Alaathea the public hearing ad for the newspapers and to get them published 10 days before the meeting.

After some discussion Minnie H. asked the public if they had any questions. Shelly Wulfers asked what was the percentage of the increase? Rachelle C. said it is about a 60% on the water. Darrell Birge asked about the construction bid for the project and should it be re-bid. Attorney Rob R. said there are no issues with the construction bid for the Town of New Richmond for the water project. There were no other questions at this time.

New Business:

Resolution 2023-7 Amending Resolution 2023-2 Providing for Temporary Loan: Linda F. made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-7, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

Resolution 2023-8 Transfer of Appropriation in Riverboat fund: Rachelle C. made the motion to approve the Resolution 2023-8, Linda F. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, motion carried.

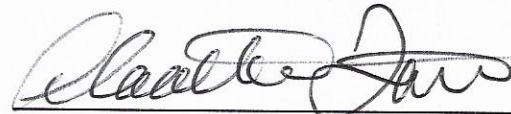
Next Town Hall Meeting is September 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Opened for Public Comments. Some of the residents wanted copies of the information that was given to the Attorney Rob Reimondo on June 7, 2023 from Sam Buckles. Rob R. said there were no issue with the public having a copy if the Council agrees to give them a copy. Linda F. made the motion to allow the public to have a copy, Rachelle C. seconded the motion, Minnie H. called for a vote, Motion carried.

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



President Minnie Howard



Attest: Clerk/Treasurer Alaathea Foust



Council Member Linda Forbes



Council Member Rachelle Cowherd