

Minutes for the Town of Rocky Ripple Board Meeting, Feb 10, 2009

Attendees: Robert Tomey, Angela Herrmann, Carla Gaff-Clark, Cathy Hurt
The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Benjamin Hunter, Director of Public Safety/ Chief of the Butler University Police Department attended as a guest. In his capacity as chief he is in charge of risk management, environmental, emergency preparedness, parking, and police at Butler.

He was asked about the possibility of the Rocky Ripple Emergency Response Team cross training with Butler. He said that Butler is moving toward CERT; they are in the process of hiring someone for that training and would be interested in working with the community once that is in place. He did not have a specific timeline.

It was mentioned that in the past there was a group of students designated to assist Rocky Ripple in a high water event to help with sandbagging. Mr. Hunter said that if we had a written plan he would be interested in getting a copy. He also suggested that we coordinate with the Indianapolis Director of Public Safety, Scott Newman. He was asked about the possibility of Rocky Ripple residents being able to park cars at Butler to keep them safe during a high water event. Mr. Hunter said that he does not have enough parking to accommodate the university, and that in a severe high water event parking restrictions along streets would probably not be enforced.

Mr. Hunter was asked about the possibility of Boulevard Avenue getting repaved. He said to contact our City-County Councilor Monroe Gray. He said that Butler students have gotten up a petition to get Boulevard paved and suggested that we pass a non-binding resolution and submit it to the City-County Council and that if the issue becomes visible enough maybe it will move up in priority. "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Mr. Hunter was asked about help in trimming trees on the levee. He suggested we contact David Sherman at the Department of Public Works.

Treasurer's Report

As of Jan. 30, there was \$1226.93 in checking and \$15,014.57 in savings. We spent \$452.17 on snow plowing and truck repair/ gas in January. Federal and State taxes are now current for Marshal Kiefer.

We had a charge of \$764.39 for copies of checks that were made for the State Board of Accounts. Todd Caldwell, SBOA, said that the money would be included in funds that need to be paid back, but that that was all he could do about the charge.

Action: Robert said he would talk to Chase bank to see if we could get these charges reversed since they are part of a police investigation.

The water bill for Hohlt park is high- it was \$18.52 in January. The bills have been estimated readings since the October reading. Robert said that it was likely that the water had not been shut off at the meter & was leaking.

Action: Robert to check the water & shut off at the meter.

Action: Cathy to request a reading for the next bill.

The gas and water bills are not received until after the town meetings, and are due before the next town meeting. In order to be able to get the check vouchers signed at the meeting, it was suggested that the gas and water bills be set up on a budget plan so that the amounts could be approved before the bills arrive.

Action: Cathy to put gas and water bills on a budget plan.

The minutes from the January meeting were read, and the following changes were made:

- Carla's position in the town board is to chair the meetings- the monitoring of funds is a secondary task.
- We did not have a grant for salt. We did have it in the budget- we budgeted \$300 a year for salt. But we had a verbal agreement with the city that we could get salt from them if we picked it up, so we never had to use the money to buy salt. With the high price of salt this year that verbal agreement no longer stands.

Robert made a motion to accept the minutes with those changes. Angela seconded and the motion was approved.

Old Business

The safety deposit box at Chase bank was opened. There had been no activity on the box since 2003. The box was empty. We should probably discontinue the box since we do have to pay for it.

The report of a tree taking a chunk out of the levee was correct- it is a big hole on the land side of the levee. On Saturday Feb. 14 a group of volunteers organized by John Stohler and Adam Garvey will work on it. The Mooneys, who own the property, granted permission and expressed gratitude at the help. Adam Garvey will bring in equipment; dirt from the pile in the garden will be used. The dirt will be dumped in the street near the town hall and moved into the levee, so the street will be blocked for a while. Danny Orr volunteered his chainsaw. Matting will need to be purchased to hold the dirt in place until seed can be obtained and planted. Angela said that JF New engineering had a seed blend that was made especially for this application with deep roots and shade tolerance.

Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of gas for the equipment, the matting and the seed. Angela made a motion to allow up to \$400 for this project. Robert seconded and the motion was passed. Any donations will be used to reimburse this money.

Angela contacted the Marion County Assessor's office about the property taxes we were erroneously billed for- when they send the reconciliation bill in April it will show that we don't owe taxes. She also changed the contact from Anne Jansen to Cathy Hurt in their records.

Angela contacted the people who sent donations for salt, and all said that the money may be kept and used for salt when needed. After hearing about the work on the levee being done, above, Angela and Ann Wickham redirected their donations to that work.

Maintenance Report

Thanks very much to Ely Hinkle for all his work plowing snow! One citizen said that she was "so proud of Rocky Ripple" and that she was one of the few people that made into her workplace thanks to the clear streets in Rocky Ripple. Another citizen said that Canal Boulevard "is gorgeous".

There have been some concerns about the snow plow scraping dirt on the side of the road. It was pointed out that leaves on the road get plowed up with the snow, and that this may look like the dirt has been plowed up.

The plow was damaged from hitting an obstacle while plowing- it was repaired for \$106.79.

Robert will be able to get the salt conveyer unlocked. He will take responsibility for the maintenance; he will ensure that it is stored properly and run periodically to keep it in working order.

New Business

Mr. Elrod wrote up a rental agreement for the town hall. It was agreed that it was an acceptable document except for provision #5, which prohibited alcoholic beverages unless served by a licensed and insured caterer. Marshal Kiefer pointed out that if we have such a provision in the agreement he would be obligated to enforce it.

Robert made a motion to exempt the Rocky Ripple Veterans' Association from rental fees for the town hall. Angela seconded, the motion was passed.

It was decided to charge a rate of \$15/ hour with a two hour minimum for one time events and a rate of \$10/ hour for weekly groups.

Mr. Elrod checked on whether the land owned by Rocky Ripple is park property, and not all of it is. Angela made a motion to re-zone the land as park property, Robert seconded, and the motion was passed.

Regarding the possibility of constructing a hoop house in the NW perimeter of the garden plot, Sam Carpenter said that he had gotten 4 responses, all from people interested in joining the garden. Robert said that he had gotten one adamant negative response. Robert also felt strongly that maintenance for the hoop house must include paying for water. The garden group will have to work out how to split the payment with the volleyball group on their own. Robert made a motion to allow the construction, Angela seconded. The motion was passed.

Marshal's Report

There were 2 ordinance violations in the last month and Marshal Kiefer issued one handgun permit.

The arrest warrant was issued for Anne Jansen; she turned herself in Feb 10, 2009. The charges were theft and receiving stolen property.

Committee Updates

There were no committee updates.

Citizens Input

It was asked who is responsible for paving Canal Blvd. The water company is responsible for places where the road is falling into the canal, but Rocky Ripple is responsible for the paving. There will be no repaving done this year. John Stohler will be re-organizing the road repair volunteers this year, however.

With no further business, Robert made a movement to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Angela seconded.

Respectfully submitted
Cathy Hurt