

Approved Minutes for the Town of Rocky Ripple Board Meeting, Apr. 14, 2009

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

Guests

Becky Dolan and Marjorie Hennessey from the Butler University Center for Urban Ecology (CUE) attended as guests. Among the objectives of the CUE are to enhance student involvement in the greater Indianapolis community and to encourage stewardship of urban ecosystems. Butler had donated the land that is now Fountain Park for use as a habitat park. The CUE would like to partner with Rocky Ripple to manage the habitat, promote native plants, and restore the trails. They would apply for grants to cover the cost. The grants might also be able to help with the fees involved in re-zoning the land as a park. (Currently it is in the process of being re-zoned; this was not done initially when the land was donated.) They would also like to hold workshops and bird walks for the citizens of Rocky Ripple, as well as working on other habitat areas if people are interested. It was suggested that the CUE contact the immediate neighbors of Fountain Park to let them know about the work they would be doing.

Angela made a motion that the CUE be allowed to move forward with a plan to create a habitat park at Fountain Park. Robert seconded and the motion was passed.

Meeting minutes

The minutes from the March meeting were read. No changes were made. Robert made a motion to accept the minutes as is. Angela seconded and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report

The report from the State Board of Accounts was released 4/7/2009. It can be seen at www.IN.gov/SBOA. Click on "Audit reports" on the left side of the page, and then go to "Audit reports recently released". The unit name is Town of Rocky Ripple, the report number is B34227.

As of Mar. 31, there was \$16,422.68 total in checking and savings. Expenses were \$7,600.84 and income was \$6,042.37. Notable expenses were \$800 for legal services for Q4 2008 and Q1 2009 and \$231.03 for levee repair. A copy of the financial summary that was handed out to board members is attached to this report.

Robert has been working with Connolly, Ford, Leppert, our insurance company, to renew liability coverage. The price for auto insurance will be \$2,247.00. He is still working with them on liability/workman's compensation insurance. This will probably cost around \$8,500. (Note: This figure was the original estimate for the total cost of all the insurance we need. Robert has been able to work with the insurance company to lower the cost.)

In addition, the furnace at the town hall has gone out. It was installed in 2003 by Atkinson's Heating & Air Conditioning. We will check to see if it is still under warranty.

So far in 2009 we have spent more money than has come in each month, and insurance is going to cost more than half of what we have at present. Cathy passed out a budget summary (a copy is attached to this report). No budget was submitted for 2009, so the 2008 budget was used as a basis. Some expenses, such as those for a custodian, were eliminated, but the budget is still much more than what we have in the bank. We are going to have to cut back where we can and use a lot of volunteer labor to get through the year. Robert suggested that the Rocky Ripple Community Association might be able to help with park maintenance expenses, since they have an endowment for that purpose.

The town council members are due to be paid now for Q1 2009, but will not take the payment until our financial situation is more secure. The issue of payroll taxes for council members will have to be addressed if and when they do accept payment.

Mr. Elrod is still talking with the insurance company about reimbursement for the stolen money (this is the \$50,000 liability policy). The insurance company maintains that Ms. Jansen was an elected official, not an employee, and therefore specifically excluded from coverage. However, the insurance agent told each board member on separate occasions that we were covered, and told Carla we were covered when she asked about the paragraph in question at the time the insurance was purchased. Also, the IRS defines Ms. Jansen as an employee.

The \$15,000 bond will be paid soon, but we don't know when. Also, probably in late June, we will get money from property taxes. In December the amount was \$10,000; we can expect an amount similar to that. These payments will help our financial situation quite a bit.

Old Business

Robert moved to adopt ordinance IC 36-4-8-14 so that the water bill, which comes after board meetings and is due before the next board meeting, can be paid in a timely manner. Angela seconded and the motion was passed.

Action: Carla to direct Mr. Elrod to add it to our ordinance.

Angela presented a new agreement form for the use of the town hall, adopting that submitted by Mr. Elrod except for the clause that required a licensed caterer on the premises if alcohol is served. She made a motion that the form be adopted contingent on Mr. Elrod's approval. Robert seconded it and the motion passed.

Action: Carla to forward the form to Mr. Elrod for review.

Several people have asked Angela to revisit the issue of chickens. She made a motion to allow Rocky Ripple residents to keep hens with the following provisions:

1. Roosters are prohibited
2. Each household shall be limited to 4 hens
3. The chicken coop shall be at least 50 feet from any neighbor's house.
 - If closer than 50 feet, permission must be granted in writing from that neighbor
 - If farther than 50 feet, it is recommended, in the interest of neighborly relations, that residents let their neighbors know of their intention to keep hens.

Instead of changing the ordinance at this time, a one year trial period would begin April 15, 2009 through April 13, 2010 (date of the Town Council meeting). Based on the outcomes of the trial period, the council would then determine whether or not to continue to allow residents to keep hens. That determination would be based in large part on the number of verifiable, legitimate complaints received by the town Marshal.

Residents keeping hens are required to follow all other statutes and ordinances governing the care of any animals in their possession.

Several people strongly voiced their objections, saying that our ordinance says no farm animals, and allowing hens sets a bad precedent. You cannot just disregard an ordinance that has been in place for years. This is a residential community.

A counter argument was that we are a unique community and should allow people to keep hens if they aren't bothering anyone. Also, an ordinance against keeping hens is not really enforceable, since the city of Indianapolis does allow hens.

Robert offered his opinion that if you keep hens so well that no one knows they're there, he's ok with that.

Carla seconded Angela's motion. Robert abstained from voting. The motion was passed.

New Business

Stu Savaka from Triad Associates contacted Carla about sewers, and ways we could save money on their installation. She had not been contacted by the city of Indianapolis about sewers. He suggested that we contact them and find out what is planned. He would be willing to come to a board meeting if we would like.

Carla and Mike have been working on a grant to get a new police car. The grant they are looking at does not provide for a car but does provide for a "cruiser" (SUV). They will see what they can do- one problem will be coming up with any matching funds.

Marshal's Report

Marshal Kiefer was not in attendance.

Committee Updates

There were no committee updates.

Citizen Concerns

There were no citizen concerns.

With no further business, Robert made a movement to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Angela seconded.

Respectfully submitted
Cathy Hurt

Town of Rocky Ripple, 930 West 54th Street, Rocky Ripple, Indiana

Rocky Ripple Financial Summary

March 2009

		Checking + Savings	General Fund	Motor Vehicle Highway Fund	Local Roads & Streets Fund
	Starting balance:	\$ 17,981.15	10597.16	2887.39	1984.62
expenses	Routine monthly expenses				
	Utilities, except street lights:	\$ 333.11	\$ 333.11		
	IP&L park pavillion	\$ 11.38			
	IP&L town hall	\$ 84.31			
	IP&L vet's monument	\$ 17.51			
	AT&T, phone & internet	\$ 82.13			
	Citizens Gas, town hall	\$ 129.00			
	Water, town hall	\$ 8.78			
	Water, park				
	Street Lights:	\$ 736.29			\$ 736.29
	Town Marshal/ Street Commissiner:	\$ 2,431.68			
	Wages	\$ 2,111.94	\$ 2,111.94		
	Gas for police car	\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00	
	State taxes	\$ 119.74	\$ 119.74		
	Other:	\$ 15.53	\$ 15.53		
	bank fees	\$ 15.53			
	Routine Quarterly expenses	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00		
legal services (Q4 2008 & Q1 2009)	\$ 800.00				
wages, town board					
federal taxes					
Non-routine Expenses	\$ 772.25				
Office supplies, Q1 2009	\$ 156.82	\$ 156.82			
Water, town hall, Feb	\$ 8.78	\$ 8.78			
Citizens gas, Feb	\$ 375.62	\$ 375.62			
levee repair	\$ 231.03	\$ 231.03			
Outstanding checks paid	\$ 2,511.98				
	Total Expenses:	\$ 7,600.84	\$ 4,152.57	\$ 936.29	\$ -
income	Income from State:	\$ 2,894.60			
	LRS	\$ 1,179.57			\$ 1,179.57
	MVH	\$ 1,715.03		\$ 1,715.03	
	ABC gallonage				
	Income from County:	\$ 169.17			
	LOIT oper dist	\$ 169.17	\$ 169.17		
	advance dist				
	Ordinance violations:	\$ 425.00	\$ 425.00		
	Gun permits:				
	Town Hall Use:	\$ 190.00	\$ 190.00		
	Other:	\$ 246.94			
donations for levee repair	\$ 230.00	\$ 230.00			
port-o-let, recycling	\$ 16.94	\$ 16.94			
Interest:	\$ 1.91	\$ 1.91			
Current outstanding checks	\$ 2,114.75				
	Total Income:	\$ 6,042.37	\$ 1,033.02	\$ 1,715.03	\$ 1,179.57
	Ending balance:	\$ 16,422.68	\$ 7,477.61	\$ 3,666.13	\$ 3,164.19

Rocky Ripple 2009 Budget

Based on 2008 budget- no budget was submitted for 2009

		GENERAL FUND			
1 personnel		marshal	15300		
		attorney	1600		
		clerk-treasurer	1400		
		trustees	2400		
		custodian	*	20700	
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2 supplies		supplies	690		
		police operating supplies	2050	2740	
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3 other		legal ads	300		
		insurance: property liability, workman's comp, police car	7500	<----Insurance is going to be more than this	
		Utility services:	3950		
		repairs & maintenance, town hall	2000		
		park maintenance	3750	17500	\$ 40,940.00
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		MVH FUND			
1 personnel		street commissioner	24507		
		wages of laborers	1500	26007	
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2 supplies		snow plow, police car, tractor	3176		
		repair & maintenance, snow plow, police car, tractor	1350		
		sand & salt	300	4826	
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3 other		newsletter	*		
		insurance, snow plow	555		
		street lights	8925	9480	\$ 40,313.00
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		LRS FUND			
4 capital outlays		re-surfacing streets	*		
		road equipment	1000	1000	\$ 1,000.00
					\$ 82,253.00

*included in 2008 budget, but deleted for 2009