

Approved Minutes for the Town of Rocky Ripple Board Meeting, April 10, 2012

Attendees: Robert Tomey, Carla Gaff-Clark, Brad Barcom, Cathy Hurt
The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Meeting minutes

The minutes from the March meeting were read. Brad made a motion to accept the minutes with no change, Robert seconded.

Treasurer's Report

As of March 31, we had \$67,490.31 total in checking and savings. Expenses were \$6,584.59 and income was \$3,806.16. Notable expense was \$1,237.45 for road salting for January and February. A copy of the financial summary that was handed out to board members is attached to this report. Robert made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Brad seconded.

Among the bills from Gardens of Growth that were approved last month was a \$50 invoice that wasn't ours. The actual invoice was for \$350 dollars. The \$350 bill was not approved. Robert will talk to Gardens of Growth.

Robert asked why we have such high bank fees. Cathy had talked to a Chase representative a few years ago and was told that as a town we were required to have a business checking account, and that those accounts have fees. Cathy will investigate further, however.

Cathy asked whether she should arrange for the toilet to be placed in Hohlt Park. Yes.

Resident Concerns

It was asked whether Rocky Ripple is currently using work release labor. No. It was asked whether we are considering it. We have been considering using court mandated labor, but not work release. We would consider using probationers for non-violent offenses such as DUI. Any labor of this kind must be supervised.

There was concern about the recent armed break-in. We need police coverage at night. It was asked who does the police scheduling. Robert and Marshal Kiefer do. Marshal Kiefer typically works 2 evenings a week currently, although the schedule varies. He will vary it more.

It was stated that Marshal Kiefer is here in the daytime a lot, and is very visible. He is seen pulling people over and that is a good deterrent to crime. We need more police visibility in the middle of the night, whether it's Marshal Kiefer or Butler security.

Carla stated that Butler does patrol Rocky Ripple, as does IMPD.

Robert stated that Marshal Kiefer does a lot of non-police work for Rocky Ripple, such as town hall maintenance. We need to find other people to do that kind of work so that Marshal Kiefer can use his time on police work. He asked Marshal Kiefer to let him know what work needs to be done currently.

Robert also stated that he would like to start a neighborhood crime watch with a phone tree.

Marshal Kiefer said that people should not be afraid to call 911 if they see something suspicious. If you call 911 with a report of suspicious activity, they will contact him. If you call the town hall office and leave a message he may not get it in a timely manner.

Carla stated that we do have good police protection, with 30 hours a week coverage for 7 miles of street. She did agree that Marshal Kiefer needs to vary his hours.

It was asked that the details be shared regarding the break-in mentioned previously. Early Tuesday morning, 4/10/2012, around 2am, 2 black males 16-19 years old entered through the front door of an unlocked residence on Ripple Road and held the resident at gun point. The suspects left when a hall light was turned on by another person in the residence.

In addition, a car was stolen from Ripple Road that night sometime between 10pm and 8am, and other cars were rifled through. All the affected cars were outside and unlocked. Marshal Kiefer reminds everyone to **LOCK YOUR HOUSE AND CARS!**

Regarding the use of court mandated community service labor, Julie Bleakley stated that her son had had to do community labor after a stupid mistake and that he was grateful for the opportunity to do so. She would like Rocky Ripple to extent that opportunity to other kids who need it.

Mandy Redmond stated that she would be happy to help get the word out regarding starting a phone tree. She and Brad can coordinate an email "blast" using the town and Community Association email lists.

Robert stated that he trusts Brad to get information out without prior approval from the board. Carla agreed. Cathy will send the town email list to Brad.

Marshal Kiefer will include Mandy when he sends out information.

Regarding police hours, Marshal Kiefer stated that he initially worked nights when he started working for Rocky Ripple, but was then asked to work days because of daytime break-ins. One officer will never be able to give 100% coverage. Residents need to keep their eyes open and call 911 if they see suspicious activity.

Marshal Kiefer stated that he would like to get notices out regarding clearing the side of the roads. It was asked how far from the road the clearing needs to go. We have not gotten an answer from Mr. Elrod. It was suggested that we not use a strict measure, but look at it from a safety standpoint, such as whether signs are blocked. We will give people notice and time to correct issues before we take any action.

It was stated that the residents need to know what the law states regarding clearing on the roadside.

An incident regarding two "trash guys" in a red pickup truck was reported. They rang the doorbell, and then proceeded to go to the side of the house and started loading tire rims into their truck. When the resident opened the door, the men stated that they thought they were taking trash. The men were both white, one was older and heavysset and the other was younger. This is another reminder to secure your valuables. Marshal Kiefer stated that the resident should have called 911.

It was asked if we can put up "no soliciting" signs in town. No. We have discussed this before and it is illegal to ban soliciting in town.

The Community Association would like to install a bench and plant two flowering trees in Peace Park in honor of Chris and Megan Wright's son. The board agreed.

It was asked when Rocky Ripple's siren is tested. We have a new siren vs. the one we used to have to call the volunteer fire department. The new one will sound if the levee is breached. It hooks up to a nitrogen tank- if it is needed we will open the tank and leave the siren blowing until the gas runs out.

If you hear the siren **LEAVE TOWN IMMEDIATELY**. Sound your car horn on the way out of town to help alert your neighbors.

It was asked if this plan has been publicized. It has, but it is good to give it more publicity. We will put it on the town website.

The Rocky Ripple Emergency management team is offering CPR training at the town hall on April 21. Contact Jill Morris if you are interested in attending.

Robert outlined a maintenance plan for the garages. We will move the chemicals and oil out of the attached garage, as they are hazardous. That will give the Community Association the use of whole center bay. A generator will be mounted on the wall of the first bay so that the town hall can serve as emergency shelter in the event of an ice storm or similar event. The chemicals will be put in the detached equipment garage, along with the truck, plow, and mowers.

We would like to purchase a salt spreader and salt and store them in the end bay. It was stated that we have discussed a salt spreader before and decided it was not cost feasible. Robert stated that considering how much we have paid for road salt service in the past two years it is worth the money. The key will be to maintain the spreader and the truck so that the salt doesn't corrode them. We should also put mudflaps on the truck to help protect it.

We would also like to get fresh sandbags from the DPW. We can store those in the last bay. We can also use that bay for parking for the police car.

It was asked whether it wouldn't be a better idea to store the truck and plow in a relatively heated garage instead of the unheated detached garage. We could put the sand and salt in the unheated garage. Robert stated that we are going to cut off the heat to the back bay, so it wouldn't make much difference. It was stated that the people that do the snowplowing would probably prefer the heated garage.

It was suggested that we could get a block heater for the snowplow truck. It was asked whether access to the truck would be an issue if it were stored in the detached garage and there was a heavy snow.

Marshal Kiefer agreed that the equipment needs to be locked up and that the detached garage is best for this purpose.

It was asked if we can get rid of the old corroded salt spreader. Robert made a motion to do so and Brad seconded.

Marshal's Report

Most of what Marshal Kiefer needed to discuss, especially the armed break-in, was already discussed. He and Carla are still working on a grant for him to be able to do e-citations.

New Business

Robert has attended three meetings with Citizens Water regarding traffic safety on Canal Blvd. They plan to close Canal Blvd. to vehicle traffic from 53rd to 54th St. The houses on Canal there have alternate access from Karstadt Dr. Those houses may have to change their address. Vehicle traffic on Canal Blvd. from 54th St. to Ripple Rd. will be made one way north and restricted to residents only.

One house on Canal Blvd. has bushes that are encroaching on the roadway. We will talk to the residents regarding the issue.

One proposed plan was that Citizens Water would pay to repair Canal Blvd. and to shore up the canal. Rocky Ripple would pay for signs and would maintain the roadway after the initial repair. Indianapolis parks department does not have ownership or authority over Canal Blvd.

It was asked when this would happen. The plan is still in progress. Eli Lilly had talked about having their employees do some work on the canal as part of their annual volunteer day, but that is in October. Citizens Water may want to start sooner, since there are safety issues involved.

It was asked whether guardrails will be installed. Currently there is not enough bank to support guardrails. Coconut husk mats will be used to shore up the bank for erosion control- if the bank can be built up guardrails might be possible. There will be some sort of curb, but one that will allow for drainage.

Who will be liable for Canal Blvd once the work is done? Citizens owns the canal and half of the road, Rocky Ripple owns the other side of the road. They are responsible for the canal. Rocky Ripple will be liable for road maintenance, as stated above.

Dhyana Raynor thanked the board for their work regarding Canal Blvd.

Robert made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Brad seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hurt

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

Rocky Ripple Financial Summary									
Mar. 2012		Checking + Savings	General Fund	Motor Vehicle Highway Fund	Local Roads & Streets Fund	Funds under General fund			
						Police car	Police Training	Park water	Park toilet
Starting balance:		\$ 70,064.73	\$ 22,936.15	\$ 18,083.68	\$ 27,482.08	\$ 12,225.00	\$ 1,898.35	\$ 11.80	\$ (840.50)
expenses	Routine expenses								
	Utilities, except street lights:	\$ 230.69	\$ 230.69						
	IP&L park pavilion	\$ 11.38							
	IP&L town hall	\$ 94.45							
	IP&L vet's monument	\$ 16.85							
	AT&T, phone & internet	\$ 97.71							
	Citizens Gas, town hall								
	Water, town hall	\$ 10.30							
	Water, park							\$ -	
	park toilet rental								\$ -
	Payroll	\$ 3,906.23							
	Marshal wages	\$ 2,278.86	\$ 2,278.86						
	Street commish wages			\$ -					
	Trustee wages	\$ 566.10	\$ 566.10						
	Clerk-Treasurer wages	\$ 330.23	\$ 330.23						
	Federal payroll taxes	\$ 589.86	\$ 589.86						
	State payroll taxes	\$ 141.18	\$ 141.18						
	Workforce Development	\$ -	\$ -						
	Other	\$ 1,151.66							
	Bank fees	\$ 15.37	\$ 15.37						
	Street lights	\$ 736.29		\$ 736.29					
	Police car gas	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00					
	Legal services	\$ -	\$ -						
	Cleaning service	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00						
	Mowing service	\$ -	\$ -						
Non-routine Expenses	\$ 1,296.01								
Office supplies	\$ 16.20	\$ 16.20							
Police supplies	\$ -	\$ -							
Police training	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -			
Legal ads	\$ 42.36	\$ 42.36							
Insurance	\$ -	\$ -							
Town hall repair & maintenance	\$ -	\$ -							
Pavilion repair & maintenance	\$ -	\$ -							
Refunds for town hall use	\$ -	\$ -							
clerk-treasurer school/ ILMCT dues	\$ -	\$ -							
snow plowing			\$ -						
snow plow gas			\$ -						
snow plow repair				\$ -					
vehicle maintenance (police car tires)			\$ -						
street repair materials			\$ -						
Road salt service	\$ 1,237.45	\$ 1,237.45							
Stormwater Fees	\$ -	\$ -							
Total Expenses:		\$ 6,584.59	\$ 4,360.85	\$ 2,223.74	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Income	Income from State:	\$ 3,197.33							
	LRS	\$ 1,244.84			\$ 1,244.84				
	MVH	\$ 1,952.49		\$ 1,952.49					
	Accelerated MVH1			\$ -					
	Accelerated MVH2			\$ -					
	Cigarette tax	\$ -	\$ -						
	ABC Gallonage	\$ -	\$ -						
	Income from County:	\$ 515.82							
	LOIT	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00						
	LOIT special distribution	\$ -	\$ -						
	Public Safety dist.	\$ 335.82	\$ 335.82						
	Court Costs to Municip	\$ -	\$ -						
	advance dist.	\$ -	\$ -						
	water PILOT			\$ -					
	river boat								
	property dist.								
	excise dist.								
	Other:	\$ 93.01							
	Donations	\$ -	\$ -					\$ -	
	Repayment, A Jansen	\$ -	\$ -						
Town hall use	\$ 85.00	\$ 85.00							
Pavilion use	\$ -	\$ -						\$ -	
Ordinance violations	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -			
Gun permits	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -			
Interest	\$ 8.01	\$ 8.01							
Refunds	\$ -	\$ -							
Total Income:		\$ 3,806.16	\$ 608.83	\$ 1,952.49	\$ 1,244.84	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outstanding checks paid		\$ 1,562.82				Total of positive balance funds: \$14,135.15			
Current outstanding checks		\$ 1,766.83				Unrestricted in General Fund: \$ 5,048.98			
Old outstanding checks									
Ending bank balance:		\$ 67,490.31	\$ 19,184.13	\$ 17,812.43	\$ 28,726.92	\$ 12,225.00	\$ 1,898.35	\$ 11.80	\$ (840.50)