

Approved Minutes for the Town of Rocky Ripple Board Meeting, Apr. 9, 2013

Attending: Brad Barcom, Carla Gaff-Clark, Robert Tomey, Cathy Hurt
The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Meeting minutes

The board members had read the March unapproved meeting minutes and no changes were requested. Robert made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Brad seconded.

Treasurer's Report

As of March 31, we had \$64,863.91 total in checking and savings. Expenses were \$5,655.00 and income was \$3,623.71. Included in expenses was \$300 paid to Dan Foreman for snow plowing and salting.

The weather is getting nice and we need to put the park toilet in place. Cathy will take care of that.

The water in the park should have been turned on 4/6/13.

Cathy brought in a box of duplicate checks that was taken from Ann Jansen's house. The box is marked by the State Board of Accounts with the check numbers it contains and all the checks are there. She will destroy the checks immediately after the meeting.

Robert made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Brad seconded. A copy of the financial summary that was handed out to board members is attached to this report.

New Business/ Resident Concerns

Julie Bleakley asked about the new policy of not reading unapproved meeting minutes aloud. Will we send them out as emails on the town mailing list? No. We post the latest unapproved minutes online at RockyRipple.com, and hard copies are posted on the town bulletin board.

Julie asked if it was standard practice to not read minutes aloud. We are a small town and are not obligated to run our meetings under Robert's Rules of Order.

Carla had a hard copy of the minutes, which she gave to Julie.

Rick Ritter, who lives on Crown Street, spoke about problems with water service. He said that since the city of Indianapolis forced us to convert our wells to city water, 3% of the homes in Rocky Ripple have had their water fail. He has complained to the city, but they have not responded.

Brad asked what was meant by "fail". Rick said that the pressure is too high and causes pipes in the house to break.

It was asked whether there is a pressure regulator in the house that the homeowner can set. Rick said that his regulator failed because of the pressure. He measured the pressure with another gauge and it was 95. He called the water company and they confirmed that it was a problem and said they'd send someone out. They never did. He has contacted the Utility Regulatory Commission, but they have not responded.

It was stated that the water company won't fix a problem if it's on your side of the meter. However, the problem was caused by poor work on the external side of the meter by the water company.

Brad asked what the town could do to help. Carla suggested that we could ask someone from the water company to come out to a meeting and talk to us.

The board can call the water company on behalf of residents who are having this issue. It would help to know who else is having this problem.

Speaking of the water company, what about sewers? Are we still on track for 2014? We were told it would cost \$2,500 per house to hook up. Is this price likely to change? The sewer company is now owned by another entity. We would like information.

Carla said that the last she heard, they were going to start the planning in 2014 and start construction in 2015. She will find out the latest information.

It was stated that we have been hearing that we will get sewers soon for over 20 years.

The city of Indianapolis has just passed a Complete Street ordinance. Included towns are not exempt. We should look into how this affects Rocky Ripple.

Mike Smith has noticed a lot of people running the stop sign by his house, and would like an increased police presence there. Another resident also stated that he had noticed stop signs being run.

Regarding the levee, the city of Indianapolis wants our approval for a levee survey. There are a lot of unanswered questions right now. The city is going to send the details in writing, but we have not seen anything yet. When we get the letter, we would like to be ready to help the city help us.

The Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is due from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE, or Corps) on April 15th. The latest alignment that has been discussed has the levee going behind Chase Bank. We also want to work with the Corps.

This gives us two tracks to pursue flood protection for Rocky Ripple.

The argument for not including Rocky Ripple in the original 1996 USCAE plan was financial- Rocky Ripple was too small for the levee to be financially viable. However, if the levee is built behind Chase bank other neighborhoods such as Meridian-Kessler and Butler Tarkington would also need the protection of a river wall, and this changes the financial picture.

The city has indicated that they have a budget of \$250,000 for the survey, and that they would like to get started before the vegetation on the levee starts to leaf. They have done a previous walking survey of the levee, which homeowners gave permission for, but this survey would be more in-depth and include such things as soil samples. Carla is working on a consent form for homeowners, but she can't move forward until we have a written agreement with the city.

Robert stated that the city has been saying that they want to help us, but then consistently not followed through. He also noted that the Department of Public Works (DPW) is operating at a deficit now.

It was asked whether the city can work on the levee without approval from the USACE? Yes, as long as they don't change the river flow. They might need approval from the Department of Natural Resources.

It was asked whether there is a paper trail for meetings with Rocky Ripple board members and the DPW. Updates have been provided in town meetings. Meeting minutes were not taken by the DPW.

Stu Rhodes stated that the board members need to keep going to meetings of other neighborhoods that are our allies, such as Meridian-Kessler, Butler Tarkington, and Broad Ripple Village, and get on the agenda saying we need help. Intervention by congressmen can influence the USACE, and the combined force of several neighborhoods can exert pressure. We can't let off. Personnel turnover at the USACE may mean there is someone new we can reach.

Stu said that the homeowner consent form should include wording indicating that consent does not endorse USACE proposals to date, and that we are not obligated to accept the outcome of the city's plans based on the survey.

He further stated that realtors can use public records to find out what home values are now. If we do this we will show that we are proactive and it will give us data to refute the argument that the river wall is not financially viable.

Brad stated that he had never seen a detailed analysis of how the USACE came up with home values. From what he has seen, the numbers indicate that the plan was financially viable in 1996. Brad has asked the USACE for more information regarding this. It was asked whether Brad contacted the USACE in writing. No, he talked to them at meetings.

Larry Landis stated that the reason the city is talking to us at all right now is the good work the board has done in working with other neighborhoods. We need to push on both fronts, the city and USACE. We should call the city and tell them that we would like to take them up on the offer of the survey.

Robert made the following motion:

The town of Rocky Ripple is willing to work with the city of Indianapolis to move forward on a study for flood protection. The town board is willing to assist the city to get homeowners' consent for the study. Signing the consent form will not obligate homeowners to accept the plan outcome. The town is not waiving its right to challenge US Army Corps of Engineers flood protection plans.

Brad seconded and Carla was also in favor. The motion passed.

Stu reiterated that the board needs to ask for support from other neighborhoods and we need to stay visible. When we meet with the DPW we need to bring our allies with us. We need to keep the heat on!

Old Business

The truck had a tire issue. The spare was good however, so it was not a big problem.

Jon Stohler has done a lot of work patching potholes in the last few days. He would like permission to use the town truck to do more work. Robert granted him permission- we need to add him to the town insurance.

The truck will get dirty from tar if we do this- will that be ok? We do use the truck in the Veterans Day parade.

The truck's primary purpose is for street repair & maintenance, so if it gets dirty from tar that will just have to happen.

The hinges on the truck bed are broken- will this be an issue for the patching? No.

Carla is now on the e-grant system, but the grant she was targeting is no longer available. The only grants right now are for programs, which we don't need. As soon as a grant that can be used for computer equipment becomes available, she will apply.

We signed a contract with T-Mobile for a new phone/internet system on March 29, but Marshal Kiefer has not received the phone yet.

Marshal's report

The tree that was discussed last month has been taken down. Others have been reported. Carla reported the one at the 52nd St. entrance that is blocking the sign- she will do so again. It was asked whether we can cut the tree ourselves. Yes, if anyone wants to do it. Brad volunteered.

Marshal Kiefer and Robert are working on getting a new No Thru Traffic sign for the 52nd St. entrance.

Carla found the paperwork that transferred ownership of the levee on lots 1-52 to the town. She gave copies to Cathy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm. Immediately following, Cathy and Marshal Kiefer destroyed the duplicate checks.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hurt

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

Rocky Ripple Financial Summary									
Mar. 2013									
		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:		\$ 66,650.61	\$ 23,893.03	\$ 9,316.42	\$ 32,022.98	\$ 13,575.00	\$ 1,848.35	\$ 84.19	\$ (1,668.00)
Expenses	Routine expenses								
	Utilities, except street lights:	\$ 312.04	\$ 312.04						
	IP&L park pavillion	\$ 11.38							
	IP&L town hall	\$ 83.89							
	IP&L vet's monument	\$ 16.98							
	AT&T, phone & internet	\$ 107.12							
	Gas & water, town hall	\$ 92.67							
	Water, park							\$ -	
	park toilet rental								\$ -
	Payroll	\$ 3,887.23							
	Marshal/ Street Comm. wages	\$ 2,796.00	\$ 2,796.00						
	Trustee wages	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00						
	Clerk-Treasurer wages	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00						
	Federal payroll taxes	\$ 141.23	\$ 141.23						
	Workforce Development	\$ -	\$ -						
	Other	\$ 1,077.00							
	Bank fees	\$ 15.71	\$ 15.71						
	Street lights	\$ 736.29		\$ 736.29					
	Police car gas	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00					
	Legal services	\$ -	\$ -						
	Cleaning service	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00						
	Mowing service	\$ -	\$ -						
	Non-routine Expenses	\$ 378.73							
	Office supplies	\$ -	\$ -						
	Police supplies	\$ -	\$ -						
	Information services	\$ 34.89	\$ 34.89						
	Police training	\$ -	\$ -				\$ -		
	Legal ads	\$ 43.84	\$ 43.84						
	Insurance	\$ -	\$ -						
	Town hall repair & maint.	\$ -	\$ -						
	Pavilion repair & maintenance	\$ -	\$ -						
	Flyer printing	\$ -	\$ -						
	clerk-treasurer school/ ILMCT dues	\$ -	\$ -						
	snow plowing	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00					
	snow plow gas			\$ -					
snow plow repair				\$ -					
vehicle repair			\$ -						
street repair materials			\$ -						
Road salt service			\$ -						
Road salt			\$ -						
Stormwater Fees		\$ -	\$ -						
	Total Expenses:	\$ 5,655.00	\$ 4,368.71	\$ 1,286.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Income	Income from State:	\$ 2,764.59							
	LRS	\$ 1,127.30			\$ 1,127.30				
	MVH	\$ 1,637.29		\$ 1,637.29					
	Accelerated MVH1			\$ -					
	Accelerated MVH2			\$ -					
	Cigarette tax		\$ -						
	ABC Gallonage		\$ -						
	Income from County:	\$ 576.54							
	LOIT		\$ -						
	Public Safety dist. water PILOT	\$ 576.54	\$ 576.54						
	river boat property dist.								
	excise dist.								
	property tax dist: sold properties								
	Other:	\$ 282.58							
	Donations		\$ -						
	Repayment, A Jansen	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00						
	Town hall use	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00						
	Pavilion use		\$ -						\$ -
	Ordinance violations		\$ -			\$ -			
	Gun permits		\$ -				\$ -		
Interest	\$ 7.58	\$ 7.58							
Refunds		\$ -							
	Total Income:	\$ 3,623.71	\$ 859.12	\$ 1,637.29	\$ 1,127.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Outstanding checks paid	\$ 1,418.18				Total of positive balance funds: \$ 15,423.35			
	Current outstanding checks	\$ 1,662.77				Unrestricted in General Fund: \$ 4,960.09			
	Old outstanding checks								
	Ending bank balance:	\$ 64,863.91	\$ 20,383.44	\$ 9,667.42	\$ 33,150.28	\$ 13,575.00	\$ 1,848.35	\$ 84.19	\$ (1,668.00)