

Approved Minutes for the Town of Rocky Ripple Board Meeting, June 11, 2013

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

Meeting minutes

The board members had read the May unapproved meeting minutes. Carla's email updating her activities between the April and May meetings was inadvertently left out of the May minutes, and she requested that it be added. Brad made a motion to approve the minutes with that change and Robert seconded.

Treasurer's Report

As of May 31, we had \$55,146.66 total in checking and savings. Expenses were \$6,539.60 and income was \$3,794.97. Notable expense was \$1,411 for workers' comp insurance. This amount is for the whole year.

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

Cathy asked to transfer \$7,930.92 from the Local Roads and Streets (LRS) fund to the general fund. This amount is the unused amount from the LRS fund for 2010. Robert approved the transfer and Brad seconded.

Old Business

Robert got an oral quote for topcoating streets at \$185/ square foot. This is better than the previous quote of \$240/ square foot. He will look into getting the quote in writing and moving forward on this. Portions of Sunset, Riverview, and Annette need to be scraped and topcoated. Our budget for this is \$9000.

Dan Foreman and Art Bracken have also volunteered to do pothole patching.

New Business/ Resident Concerns

Cathy was recently made aware that we need to have I9 forms on file for all town employees to prove eligibility to work in the US. She handed out lists of required identification to the board members and Marshal Kiefer and asked that they provide the information either at the next meeting or by appointment with her.

It was asked which streets would be patched. All of them. Marilyn Hunter reported a large pothole in front of her house on Riverview.

Bart Herriman would like speed bumps installed to slow speeders around the curve in front of the town hall. He has asked for this in the past, and offered to pay half the cost. He would like a definitive answer from the town board regarding this problem. Will they help?

Robert suggested "watch your speed" signage at the entrance to the town. Marshal Kiefer stated that the problem is partly local people, who will not be influenced by signs. Bart stated that a further problem is people who get lost in the neighborhood at 3am, and that these people will probably not see signs at the town entrance. The latter is a big issue for Bart.

Questions of liability regarding speed bumps at the corner have come up in the past- will this cause 3am speeders to lose control of their car? Will speed bumps be an issue for the snow plow?

It was stated that speed bumps should not be a problem for the snow plow.

Robert would like Mr. Elrod to advise us on acceptable dimensions for speed bumps. Placement of speed bumps can mitigate the risk of speeders losing control of their cars. Also, we can put up warning signs for the speed bumps. He will ask about prices for speed bump installation when he talks to the people about topcoating.

Cathy asked if we can put gaps in the speed bumps for bicyclists.

Regarding the issue with the placement of large rocks on the side of the road, did Marshal Kiefer talk to the residents about removing them? He did, but no action has been taken. Carla said that she would talk to them.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE, or Corps) has just released its Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) regarding the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project. The river wall that was proposed in 1996 is not considered to be feasible. Two configurations were proposed- the canal wall and the 56th Street alignment. The 30 day comment period is now active and will close July 8, 2013.

Robert made a motion that the town seek out legal representation. He would like to allocate \$10,000. We need legal counsel from someone who knows this area of law.

Carla stated that we should try to find advice on our own before we spend lots of money. Robert stated that paid counsel will be more diligent and better able to work on our behalf, and that we need an attorney that knows the game.

Carla asked if other neighborhood groups are willing to help with money. Bart Herriman said that he had attended the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association (BTNA) meeting this week and that they are willing to help us. At the meeting they resolved to ask for an extension of the SEIS comment period to 90 days, to ask for a public hearing, that they were committed to fair and reasonable flood protection for everyone and that they were against both alignments presented in the SEIS. Bart further stated that the Meridian Kessler neighborhood is on our side.

One issue is that we do not have \$10,000 in our 2013 budget. We can add it for 2014, but if we don't show more income it may not be allowed. It was asked whether there is a procedure to request additional allocations for the current budget year. Cathy said that she believed that there is, and that she will research it.

Robert made the following resolution:

- That the Corps extend the comment period on the SEIS to 90 days
- That we are opposed to both alignments presented in the SEIS
- That we request a public hearing with representatives from both the Corps and the city of Indianapolis.

Brad seconded and Carla made it unanimous.

Brad stated that in the past, financial reasons were given for not including Rocky Ripple in a flood protection plan. However, with the alignments presented in the SEIS, homes in Butler Tarkington and Meridian Kessler are also excluded from protection. This increases the dollar amount of homes outside protection that would be protected by a river wall alignment. This makes the river wall more financially feasible.

Robert stated that John Oakley of the Indianapolis Dept. of Public Works (DPW) had told him and Brad that the city of Indianapolis (the City) would like the Corps to finish the current project so that the City would not have to pay to build flood protection for the new parking garage/ Whole Foods project in Broad Ripple. That project did not get a flood variance.

Midtown has not made an official comment regarding the SEIS.

It was stated that development in Broad Ripple is driving the Corps project, but that the City has more control than they let on. The project is being driven by policy issues, not legal issues. A knowledgeable lawyer would help us navigate this.

Regarding work by the City on the Rocky Ripple levee, Carla had asked John Oakley where the money for the project would come from. It will come from the Marion County Stormwater Management District.

The City needs permission from Rocky Ripple residents who live on the river on Riverview Drive to do a levee survey. Permission forms have been finalized and Carla has sent them out. Once the survey is done, the City will estimate costs and present flood protection options to Rocky Ripple.

It was argued that we have never been told in writing that the City will present flood protection options to us. The DPW keeps saying that the plan will be determined later and they haven't told us what steps they will take to get there. The project is not defined.

David Sherman, the former director of the DPW, had said that the DPW would set aside \$6.5 to \$10 million from Rebuild Indy funds for flood protection for Rocky Ripple. However, now Lori Miser is the DPW director and this has not happened. It was stated that Carla should press Lori Miser for specific answers.

It was asked why the City is doing another levee survey. They already did one and nothing happened. Carla stated that she was told that the scope is different for this new survey, but she did not have details.

The concern that the city is using the survey and the permission slips as a delaying tactic was brought up. It has taken the City three months to finalize the permission slips- how long will we have to wait for actual work to start?

Carla stated that the permission slips are due by the end of August and that the survey will start in October.

For the last survey, the City had said that if even one homeowner refused permission that the survey would not take place and the city would not help us. Is this still the case? No, although it would be easier if everyone does give permission.

Bart Herriman brought up the point that if we wait for the City to determine our flood protection, we may be given only one inadequate option and then we will have to waste more time negotiating for a better plan. He strongly suggested that we ask the City to consider different levels of protection in this current study (50 year, 75 year, and 100 year flood levels for example). (The existing levee has been estimated as anywhere from 7 year to 20 year flood protection.)

It was suggested that we call a meeting with Lori Miser and get the information in writing. We need to know what the City's goals are- you don't start a big project like this without clearly stated goals. We are getting a lot of "details to be provided later" responses from the city and this is not good enough.

Carla stated that the City is under no obligation to help us, and that we shouldn't alienate them. She will contact Lori Miser and John Oakley and set up a meeting.

Robert stated that John Oakley has said that the town of Rocky Ripple shouldn't even exist, and is not someone we should trust. It was stated that communication can still be effective with people you don't trust if everyone is respectful and you get things in writing.

Robert reiterated his belief that Rocky Ripple needs legal counsel that is experienced in this type of issue. He agreed that a meeting with Lori Miser and John Oakley would be a good idea.

Marshal's report

Marshal Kiefer has been accused of trespassing at the 4900 end of Riverview where the right of way is in dispute. He stated that this issue is becoming a big problem.

Carla stated that we have tried to resolve this peacefully and have not made any progress. She noted that it is within the rights of the town to have the house in the right of way (4998 Riverview) condemned.

Robert made the following motion: Since we have done due diligence and exhausted legal options, that the town move aggressively to remove the house at 4998 Riverview Drive from the right of way of town owned property.

Carla said that she would talk to Mr. Elrod. Brad said that we should ask him to start the paperwork to condemn the house.

Marshal Kiefer asked for a rough dollar amount that he can spend on "No Parking, Dusk to Dawn" signs for the park. \$200.

There was an incident with a large party with alcohol in the park. We will be enforcing the no alcohol policy in the park!

Cathy asked if it was still ok for private parties to serve alcohol when they have reserved the pavilion and have a licensed, insured caterer. Yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hurt

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

Rocky Ripple Financial Summary									
May 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:		\$ 56,710.39	\$ 10,995.61	\$ 10,142.20	\$ 34,192.12	\$ 13,575.00	\$ 1,848.35	\$ 99.29	\$ (1,543.00)
Expenses	Routine expenses								
	Utilities, except street lights:	\$ 153.34	\$ 153.34						
	IP&L park pavillion	\$ 11.38							
	IP&L town hall	\$ 37.92							
	IP&L vet's monument	\$ 16.09							
	phone & internet								
	Gas & water, town hall	\$ 52.45							
	Water, park							\$ -	
	park toilet rental	\$ 35.50							\$ 35.50
	Payroll	\$ 3,396.69							
	Marshal/ Street Comm. wages	\$ 2,796.00		\$ 2,796.00					
	Trustee wages		\$ -						
	Clerk-Treasurer wages		\$ -						
	Federal payroll taxes	\$ 600.69	\$ 600.69						
	Workforce Development		\$ -						
	Other	\$ 1,543.68							
	Bank fees	\$ 17.39	\$ 17.39						
	Street lights	\$ 736.29		\$ 736.29					
	Police car gas	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00					
	Legal services		\$ -						
	Cleaning service	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00						
	Mowing service	\$ 465.00	\$ 465.00						
	Non-routine Expenses	\$ 1,445.89							
	Office supplies		\$ -						
	Police supplies		\$ -						
Information services	\$ 34.89	\$ 34.89							
Police training		\$ -				\$ -			
Legal ads		\$ -							
Insurance (Workers comp)	\$ 1,411.00	\$ 1,411.00							
Town hall repair & maint.		\$ -							
Pavillion repair & maintenance		\$ -							
Flyer printing		\$ -							
clerk-treasurer school/ ILMCT dues		\$ -							
snow plowing			\$ -						
snow plow gas			\$ -						
snow plow repair				\$ -					
vehicle repair			\$ -						
street repair materials			\$ -						
Road salt service			\$ -						
Road salt			\$ -						
Refunds- park/ town hall use		\$ -							
Stormwater Fees		\$ -							
	Total Expenses:	\$ 6,539.60	\$ 2,757.31	\$ 3,782.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35.50
Income	Income from State:	\$ 2,506.25							
	LRS	\$ 1,026.79			\$ 1,026.79				
	MVH	\$ 1,479.46		\$ 1,479.46					
	Accelerated MVH1			\$ -					
	Accelerated MVH2			\$ -					
	Cigarette tax		\$ -						
	ABC Gallonage		\$ -						
	Income from County:	\$ 573.15							
	LOIT	\$ 192.94	\$ 192.94						
	Public Safety dist.	\$ 380.21	\$ 380.21						
	water PILOT								
	river boat								
	property dist.								
	excise dist.								
	property tax dist: sold properties								
	Other:	\$ 715.57							
	Donations	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00						\$ 20.00
	Repayment, A Jansen	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00						
	Town hall use	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00						
	Pavillion use	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00						\$ 125.00
	Ordinance violations	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00			\$ 300.00			
	Gun permits		\$ -				\$ -		
	Interest	\$ 6.78	\$ 6.78						
	Refunds	\$ 23.79	\$ 23.79						
		Total Income:	\$ 3,794.97	\$ 1,288.72	\$ 1,479.46	\$ 1,026.79	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 20.00
	Outstanding checks paid	\$ 1,380.46				Total of positive balance funds: \$ 15,723.35			
	Current outstanding checks	\$ 2,561.36				Unrestricted in General Fund: \$ (6,196.33)			
	Old outstanding checks								
	Ending bank balance:	\$ 55,146.66	\$ 9,527.02	\$ 7,839.37	\$ 35,218.91	\$ 13,875.00	\$ 1,848.35	\$ 119.29	\$ (1,453.50)