

Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting  
February 9, 2016

Chairperson Carla Gaff Clark called the meeting to order at 7:33. Also in attendance were Mandy Redmond, Jill Morris and clerk-treasurer, Kandy Kendall.

Secretary Report

Jill Morris made a motion to no longer read the minutes during the council meeting. Mandy Redmond seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mandy made a motion to accept the January board minutes with changes and Jill 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Treasurer Report

Mandy reported that January had been an uneventful month concerning expenses. We have gone to paying Marshall Mike Kiefer monthly and this is a lot easier for accounting purposes.

We did have \$340 in expenses for snow plowing in January.

Mandy reported that the 2015 budget matches our bank account to within one cent. A copy of the Chase statement was attached to the 2015 budget.

The Town has been assessed penalties from the IRS because we did not pay withholding taxes for 2014 & early 2015 on time. Mandy said she sent a letter to the IRS indicating the reason we were late withholding taxes was due to the fact we did not have a Town clerk treasurer. The IRS does forgive those who are considered a hardship case and we asked that we be considered as such. We have been charged approximately \$4,372.00 in penalties. Mandy did pay the interest on the penalties while she continues to try and seek a forgiveness from the IRS on the penalties. Congressman Andre Carson has also been contacted to see if he could help us in anyway. Congressman Carson said he needed a letter from the Town Board in order to become involved.

Lastly, Mandy indicated that Marshall Mike's W2 was incorrect and that the Town still owes him \$581.66. A warrant will be issued to correct this and that from this point forward the correct amount is being withheld according to Paychex.

Tax Exemptions

Dan Axler was able to receive for the Town a Retail Merchant Certificate, which allows the Town to be tax exempt on certain purchases that are made for the Town. Mandy suggested that we get a copy of the tax exempt certificate to those that plow for the Town in case they need to buy oil. Jill made a motion that we give a tax-exempt certificate to the snowplowers and Carla seconded the motion. All in favor. The Town will also begin the process of getting tax-exempt status for utilities bills. Marshall Mike reminded us that the Retail Merchant Certificate is only good for two years and that we will need to renew it.

## Old Business

### Sewer Presentation

The person from the City who was to present the sewer update and projected expenses was ill and has rescheduled for the March meeting.

### Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association (BTNA) meeting

Mandy and Jill both attended the meeting on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Mike Massone, City of Indianapolis, did not present at the BTNA meeting. Mandy asked Mike Massonne, DPW, for the feasibility study of the west bank alignment and now has the link. At the current time, there is no update from the City or the Corp and it was suggested we get in touch with the mayor's office. This will be a follow-up to the letter the Board sent in November to outgoing Mayor Ballard.

Mandy reported that BTNA has some internal division from the newer residents who do not fully understand the placement of an east bank alignment and who just want to get out of flood insurance costs. However, by the end of the discussion, there seemed to be more support to stay with the same point of view than not. President Clark of BTNA is attempting to gather further information and get a letter to newly elected Mayor Hogsett stating BTNA's continued support for flood protection for Rocky Ripple.

It was reported that Butler University still has the same opinion that an east bank alignment is still not an option.

It was suggested by Town citizens we send a letter again voicing our opinion and send a strong public statement to the Mayor that we are still against an east bank proposal. Carla again indicated that the Board had put together a letter over the last couple of months and suggested that we pull back until we have further information. Carla stated it has only been five weeks into the Hogsett administration and that the Board will not be docile.

The City continues to say they will do something to assist Rocky Ripple. However, it is believed that Butler will continue to work with us to protect their fields.

The Board was reminded that there were resolutions passed in 2012 and 2014 and that it was suggested the Board send a letter stating they are in support of these past resolutions. Jill replied that she cannot support the resolution of 2014 as it clearly states a petition was presented with over 700 signatures given that our Town population is barely over 700. Carla said the Board does want to move forward with a resolution for 2016 and that the Board wants the best flood protection for all.

The discussion was closed and Carla asked Mary Chalmers from the City of Indianapolis if she had anything to add. Ms. Chalmers said that there was nothing from the City to update at this point.

### James Barnes/Guest Presenter

Mr. Barnes was asked to speak concerning the current state of our existing levee. Mr. Barnes has his own environmental consulting firm; although his degree is in chemical engineering from Purdue and a business degree from IU.

After reviewing Burk Construction's report to the City on a levee along the White River, he felt that the City is leaning towards what Burk is saying. However, Mr.

Barnes does not believe the levee has huge holes in it as Burk indicates. He also felt that the \$35 million in cost is way over done. Further, he said no homes needed to be removed. Mr. Barnes felt that what is needed is a 4' concrete wall on top of the current levee and that this would take Rocky Ripple out of the flood plain.

Burk Construction's suggestion was that you would need to build a slope 3 to 1 to go across 12' and come back 3 to 1 on the landward side and all this would be called the footprint. Mr. Barnes believes you can go up 2 to 1 and can have structures in the footprint because they have no root system/structure going into the ground. He suggested the Board write a letter to the City given the new administration and explicitly address why Burk Construction was wrong. Mandy asked if he would help with this letter and maybe we could make a case using their fund analysis. Carla asked about funding on our own. Mr. Barnes had not looked at this part. Finally, he said it might get expensive to prevent seepage but not like what the Corp is saying. He said there are more than enough discrepancies to ask for a new analysis. Mr. Barnes will write Carla and put his thoughts and analysis together so that the Board can let the City know his objective analysis.

#### Town Attorney

Carla stated we are looking for a new attorney and asked the audience to let the Board know if they have anyone to suggest pro bono.

#### Sewer Presentation

The spokesperson from Citizens Energy was ill and not able to address the Town about when sewers will come to Rocky Ripple; although Carla said we had been put back on the wait list. We will ask next month to see when Rocky Ripple is scheduled. John Stohler, whose business is installing sewer connections from the street line to the home, said that the Citizens Energy has signed a contract with Covalant that uses grinder pumps instead of gravity. They cost \$10,000.00 and that there are lots and lots of problems with the new system. One of the main issues is that Covalant is the only distributor of the grinder pump and they only have one person on staff that can fix a broken pump so that your warranty remains intact. John feels the reason Citizens Energy has contracted with Covalant is because the grinder pumps can be put in place via boring through the ground and that the streets do not have to be torn up and thus repaved. John said it is a disastrous time to get sewers and that we need to fight the deal that is going on, as they did in Martinsville and were able to remain with the gravity pumps. John suggested we do our research and look into it before the representative comes next month.

#### Committee Reports

RRCA: Mandy reported it is bingo night February 19<sup>th</sup>.

RREM: Jill reported they will be getting together cert training to take place during April. It is a twenty-one hour class that they will be doing over three Saturdays. They expect 10-15 people and will have it at the Town Hall.

#### Marshall Report

Marshall Mike gave an update from a burglary in August. Due to the citizen that was robbed had serial numbers on the items stolen and had reported the numbers to the police, the police were able to have the perp prosecuted. As a result, Jenifer Turner was charged and is now under 365 days probation.

#### Beaver Update

Citizens Utility finally came out to review the damage the beavers are causing to the old growth trees along the canal. The only solution they gave was to tell the citizens that they could set traps on their own property but not on the canal or easement.

#### Friends of the White River

Dan Axler reported that Kevin Hardy, Friends of the White River, had contacted him and that they would like to bring in a crew of college students on March 8<sup>th</sup> to do work behind the Town Hall and the public access. Carla moved that the Friends of the White River be allowed to work behind the Town Hall on March 8<sup>th</sup> and Jill seconded. All approved.

With no further business, Mandy moved that we adjourned the meeting at 9:10 and Jill seconded.

Respectfully Submitted

Kandy Kendall  
Clerk Treasurer