

Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting  
April 4, 2016

Chairperson Jill Morris called the meeting to order at 7:34. Also in attendance was Mandy Redmond and clerk-treasurer, Kandy Kendall.

Secretary Report

The March minutes, with corrections, were approved by Mandy and Jill seconded.

Treasurer Report

Kandy indicated there was no unusual expenses and that we are now on our third Paychex representative. Paychex notified Kandy there is a discrepancy with the Town's federal tax ID number that they have and with what IN Department of Workforce Development has. Kandy is trying to straighten this out.

Mandy asked Kandy to check with Paychex because when we went to a monthly pay for Marshal Mike that we were to be billed \$51 per month and now it is \$67 per month. Kandy will check on this.

Jill moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. Mandy seconded.

Mandy reported that today she received a letter from the IRS saying they forgave the penalties the Town owed on back taxes from 2014. Mandy was thankful for Representative Carson's office getting involved and helping us resolve this issue. This has saved the Town \$3500 in penalties. Mandy indicated she would write a thank you to Representative Carson's office as well as the person who worked as our tax advocate.

Mandy also indicated she received a letter from Social Security Administration stating there is a discrepancy in what was reported to the IRS and what was reported to social security. Mandy said that we reported late in 2014 and the amount to the IRS was reported higher than what was reported to social security. We need to scan in the W2's from 2014 and file a new report with social security. Mandy will check with Carla and Marshal Mike said he would scan his and send to Kandy.

Marshal Mike finished the insurance application for the Town and the quote was within \$100 of last year. Mike will send the application tomorrow and then we will be billed.

Old Business

Flood Protection Status Update

Mandy said she did not have much to report. The City contacts have not given any updates. There is a meeting scheduled April 22<sup>nd</sup> between the trustees and DPW to discuss levee repairs in Rocky Ripple. DPW is willing to help us with levee repairs and has asked the trustees to let them know if there are trees that need to come down. It appears DPW is willing to work on these. We must sign a contract before they will do anything but for sure they want to do something for us. DPW walked the

levee with the trustees March 4<sup>th</sup> and this willingness to help us with problem trees is the outcome of this walk.

DPW and the trustees did not discuss the canal floodwall or a plan for evacuation of the Town in case of a flood. However, DPW did agree to allow the trustees to be involved with the evacuation plan. Mary from the City had nothing to add.

Mandy said we would continue to prod the city and work with DPW as we continue to move forward.

Jill thanked those in the Town who had purchased, with their own money, yard signs to be given to residents who wish to show their support to include Rocky Ripple in floodwall plans. Jill also wanted to remind citizens that they cannot put flyers inside the mailboxes but instead flyers should be placed behind the mailbox flag on the outside of the box. The flyer that came out is believed to be from the Action Committee, but since there were no signatures on it, Jill wasn't sure who published it. Dhyana Raynor was asked if she knew who published the flyer and she said it was Josh Tafflinger. Jill asked Dhyana if she would ask Josh to sign any future flyers that are handed out.

Margaret Brabant indicated that the Butler Board of Trustees will be back at Butler the first weekend of May and that if Rocky Ripple wishes to discuss floodwall protection with them that they should contact Ben Hunter to try and get on the agenda.

Dan Axler said that he, Jerry Carlson and Jamie, head of grounds at Butler, walked the top of the levee from Jim Stohlers property to the canal to show them where the levee is dipped. Dan gave them the most recent map from Burke Engineering showing that indeed this does belong to Butler. Butler denied it was their property but stated that even if it is their property, they are not sure how they would get to these spots. No one has gotten back to Dan yet.

#### 56<sup>th</sup> St fire station

Rocky Ripple residents voiced their concerns at the March board meeting about the fire station at 56<sup>th</sup> & Illinois closing. Mandy said the Board had not written a letter to the City concerning this. Mandy said that Carla attended the last Butler Tarkington Association meeting. BTA had information about the station closing. It was reported that there are still four stations that will respond to a call from Rocky Ripple within four minutes, which seems to be the standard. Marshal Mike said he was there as well as over 120 people. The fire chief was also present and he made it clear the station will close.

#### Hohlt Park Stage

Local contractor, John Bleakley had given the Board a quote and the Board said it looks reasonable. John said this is not a firm price but an estimate of what the cost would be. Mandy stated we needed a planning committee formed to determine ongoing costs and budget planning, use rules and how it will be maintained and present findings to Town Board. The Board will review the plan when available and go from there.

Julie Bleakley said that Wal-Mart offers neighborhood grants and that we could apply for a grant to offset our costs. However, the application deadline is three days from now on the 15<sup>th</sup> and this is a very short time to write and submit a grant. Julie said she will try and work with RRCA and try to get a grant application submitted. The Town does have Sandy Kurker's permission and financial support to build a park stage but they have not heard back from Rick Hohlt. It was suggested that we could also pull from the park endowment. Mandy wants a plan on how we will support a park stage long term. Marshal Mike will give the proposal to our insurance company to see how much our insurance will increase.

#### Marshal Contract

Mandy wondered what happened to the marshal's contract because she doesn't believe it has been signed. She will check with Carla.

#### Town Attorney Search

Mandy said she has not heard about any candidates at this time.

#### Street Repairs

Marshal Mike talked to a few companies and was advised to put out for bids. So far he has gotten phone quotes of \$50/linear foot, which means it would cost us \$1500 to pave Annette Street. This would only be for milling on the edges and not grinding out. Asphalt prices are still high even though the price of crude oil is so low. John Stohler and Art Bracken did some patching around town. Mandy said we need to patch continually but we do not have a truck to do patching. She asked Marshal Mike when he is getting quotes to also have someone give quotes on patching. Kandy reported we have \$14,465 in the LRS fund. Mandy said we could move money around if needed to increase our road-paving fund. Marshal Mike will follow through.

#### Sewers

Dan Axler asked the Board's opinion as to whether the Town wants sewers or to stay with our septic systems. Dan reminded the Board that there is not a federal mandate requiring sewers in Marion County, only that the City no longer allow raw sewage to flow into the river during a heavy rainfall. Mandy said we would need to poll the Town's residents to see what they want. Mandy felt this is a valid question that the Town needs to think about. Dan said he respectfully submits that the Board looks into sewer v. septic. Mandy said it is not quite the time to poll but we will wait until Citizens Energy has an update.

#### New Business

##### DIRT Committee

Marshal Mike reported the committee was busy. The next work date is April 30 but that he was not sure of the time and where they will be working. It will either be on Mooney's private property west of the Town Hall or further upstream near Sunset and 54<sup>th</sup> Street behind Molly Clevenger's property; which is public property. At this

point, the Mooneys have not signed on with their permission but Ms. Clevenger had. Don Royer's daughter is looking into paying someone to clear behind her father's property on 54<sup>th</sup> Street so she is on board with having DIRT workers behind her father's house as well. Mandy said she will get a blast out if someone gets her the information on where and when the DIRT Committee will be working on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### RREM

Jill reported that there was not a meeting this month due to CERT training. Fourteen people had shown an interest in being CERT trained but that only three people actually showed up on the day of training. The training was canceled due to so few participants. There will be no training in Rocky Ripple this year.

#### DNR

April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1000 a DNR representative will be coming to the Town Hall to give a talk about wild life and what residents can do about the coyotes and beavers and other wild life that tries to co-exist with us. There will be no live animals present at this discussion.

#### RRCA

Mandy reported they had a large number of eggs donated this year and it was a great Easter egg hunt. There will be no community garage sale this year because there is no one to coordinate the event. Nancy Barton will again hold the plant exchange at the Community Garden on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 2-4:00.

#### Marshal Report

Mike reported there was only one report from March 15<sup>th</sup> involving the thief of an automobile, which was recovered ten days later.

Jill voiced a concern about a gentleman in a blue pickup truck who drives slowly around Town. She said she was creeped out and wondered if there had been reports. Marshal Mike reported he knew whom she was referring to and that there is no problem.

Marshal Mike also reported a tree went down on Town property east of the Town Hall. Mandy said she would put out a blast to see if anyone wants the wood.

#### Mowing

We have not received quotes this year and Mandy asked Kandy if she would call last year's mowing company as well as finding a company to provide Hohlt Park with a port o let. Mandy said that last year, due to insurance the cost of the port o let when to \$90 up from \$75.

#### Community Concerns

Dhyana asked if the Board was still receiving citizens signed petitions in support of a floodwall to protect Rocky Ripple. Mandy said she is still taking petitions and that she will send it in.

Mary with the Mayor's Liaison said the positions were ending and being changed to Mayors Advocate. They are all losing their jobs but she has applied for the new title position. There are no new positions opening so the amount of advocates will remain the same but just with a new title.

With nothing further to discuss Jill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 and Mandy seconded.

Respectfully Submitted  
Kandy Kendall,  
Clerk Treasurer