

Approved Minutes for the Town of Rocky Ripple Board Meeting, Mar. 8, 2011

Attendees: Robert Tomey, Carla Gaff-Clark, Angela Herrmann, Cathy Hurt
The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Treasurer's Report

As of Feb. 28, we had \$67,562.80 total in checking and savings. Expenses were \$8,446.41 and income was \$3,798.58. Notable expenses were \$2,977.94 for road salting and \$547.50 for snow plowing (includes labor and supplies). A copy of the financial summary that was handed out to board members is attached to this report.

Robert asked to see the bills for road salting, as he believed that we were overcharged for salt. These checks will be held until he can verify amounts with Gardens of Growth.

Cathy requested that \$5000.00 be transferred from the general fund to the MVH fund. Robert made a motion to do so, Angela seconded.

Robert made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, Angela seconded.

The \$142.50 cost for police car maintenance was noted. This is for an oil change and tire rotation. A large part of the cost is synthetic oil.

Robert is willing to change the oil in the car for a lower price than this. Is this a conflict of interest? Cathy checked the Indiana State code and did not see where it would be a problem as long as he is charging less than the town would pay elsewhere. It would not affect the warranty on the car- Robert will provide documentation for his work.

Meeting minutes

The minutes from the February meeting were read. Angela made a motion to accept the minutes with no changes, Robert seconded.

The minutes from the Feb. 24 special meeting were read. The resolution section was corrected as follows:

- "comments in this meeting" was changed to "comments received to date"
- increase public comment time "to 90 days", not "by 90 days"
- It was stated that Carla made the resolutions unanimous.
- Resolution in last sentence was made plural.

Angela made a motion to accept the minutes with those changes, Robert seconded.

The minutes from the combined community meeting of Feb. 28 were read. The following corrections were made:

- Under Official Responses, in Angela Herrmann's last comment the phrase "people who now live on the river" was changed to "people who now live in Rocky Ripple".
- Under Citizen Responses, in response to the question about the old plan vs. the current one, the phrase "the town asked to be reinstated" was changed to "some residents in the town asked to be reinstated".
- Under Citizen Responses, David Sherman's response to Greg Goodrich was amended to include the fact that the DPW would ask the USACE to include Rocky Ripple in the flood protection project.

Angela made a motion to accept the minutes with those changes, Robert seconded.

Old Business

Cathy's and Mike's figures for the police training fund and the police vehicle fund match- the discrepancy was due to the fact that Cathy was missing some data from late 2008 and the fact that Mike was categorizing the cost of Lexis Nexis as training and Cathy was not.

The police vehicle fund was set at \$10,000.00 as decided at the last meeting. The figures in the financial summary for February reflect corrected amounts.

Cathy looked into getting a credit card for snow plow gas and minor supplies, but Chase wanted an officer of the town to be personally liable for the card. None of the board was willing to do so. Cathy did not like the idea of using debit card because of the loss of control. Robert will look into other alternatives.

Cathy talked to Barbara Ellis from Chase Investments. If we are not getting sewers in the immediate future we will probably want to use our LRS money for streets and invest only the police vehicle fund. If we invested we would need to decide whether we wanted A shares or C shares. The former are geared toward longer term investments (>5 years)- they have higher fees up front but lower yearly costs. The latter have lower up front fees, but higher yearly fees. The board decided not to invest at this time.

New Business/ Citizen Concerns

Cathy got a packet from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway regarding their "Back Home Again in Indiana" community decoration program. There is a \$25,000 prize. The deadline to enter is April 15. If anyone is interested, see her for more information.

Chris Cotterill, Mayor Ballard's Chief of Staff and Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association (BTNA) board member spoke.

He stated that Mr. Sherman of the Department of Public Works (DPW) did say that the DPW would push the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a river wall. The city will have to find the money and figure out how to do this. We will have to be respectful to the USACE in the process.

Steve Nielson, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer for the DPW's Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) spoke regarding sewers in Rocky Ripple.

He handed out a map of the proposed project.

About 30% of the septic systems in Rocky Ripple are considered failed. Sewers for Rocky Ripple will cost about \$4.4 million. They will be gravity sewers with a lift station downstream. The lift station will be above the 100 year floodplain and will have submersible pumps.

There is a finite amount of money for sewers and priority is being given to areas with higher septic failure rates. Also, Indianapolis is under consent decree with the EPA to fix our combined sewer overflow system. This is not optional. Because of these things Rocky Ripple is now scheduled to get sewers in 2014.

They will repave the streets after they do the work. They will repave driveway entries too. They will work with the homeowner on that and sewer connection points.

The connection fee right now is \$2530.00 per connection (as opposed to per lot or per structure) plus the cost of plumbing to go from the structure to the sewer line. The latter typically costs 4-6 thousand dollars. The DPW has a list of contractors, but you do not have to use someone from that list. The contractor must be licensed, however. A permit from the city is required.

Carla asked that if the DPW is paving one side of the street could we cooperate with them to get the whole street paved. Mr. Nielson responded that the construction vehicles tear up the streets, so the DPW usually does a ½ inch overlay on the whole street when they are done.

Robert then asked whether we should wait on street resurfacing and just patch streets until the sewers are put in. Mr. Nielson answered that he thought it would be best to go with a minimum overlay to get by until the sewers are put in.

Mr. Nielson reiterated that funding will affect the timeline, and that the consent decree takes precedence. If that proves to be very costly other projects will be delayed.

It was asked if there were programs to help people on fixed and/or low incomes with the cost of sewers? There is a program for financing the initial fee (the \$2500). There is not a program for the contractor portion of the work. There is information about financing on the STEP website.

It was asked how the septic tank failure rate was determined. Public Health determines it- they do dye tests and walk the neighborhood. It was stated that they might have made the determination when they were testing wells a few years ago.

Mr. Nielson stated that some communities have been able to pool resources and jointly hire contractors at a lower, group rate.

It was asked what is the right of way? Will people with plantings close to the street lose them? The right of way is the same as for telephone poles, the water line, etc. (Sewers will be on the other side of the street from the water line.)

It was asked if funding for 2014 is pretty secure. Mr. Nielson responded that nothing is secure but we are on the list. Rocky Ripple is a high priority area.

It was asked what is the average sewer bill. Mr Nielson stated that they average about \$20 a month now. They will be going up.

It was asked what if someone cannot afford to connect? Do they have to? The DPW does not have the authority to force that. The Health Department does.

Regarding the sanitary manholes on the map- what do they look like? They are recessed and flush with the surface. They are sealed at the top. They are used for access to pipes for cleaning. The city is moving to fewer manholes- it is cheaper and fewer manholes decreases the possibility of stormwater entering the sewer system. There will probably be fewer manholes than are marked on the map.

Will the work happen in the summer only? No, it can happen year round.

Mr. Nielson stated that homeowners will manage their connection- they can connect when the sewer is installed and proved to be working. Homeowners will be notified when they can connect.

It was suggested that the town offer loans to people who can't afford to connect. The town is not legally able to do that, but it was suggested that perhaps the Community Association could.

The board thanked Mr. Nielson and Mr. Cotterill for coming.

Marshal's Report

There have been two reports of theft from unlocked, opened garages. Marshal Kiefer reminds residents to secure their belongings!

Robert thanked everyone for their civil communication tonight and in the last two meetings.

With no further business, Robert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58pm. Angela seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hurt

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

Rocky Ripple Financial Summary										
Feb 2011										
			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:			\$ 72,863.21	\$ 54,747.62	\$ 2,245.01	\$ 14,551.79	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,849.82	\$ 136.55	\$ (491.00)
expenses	Routine expenses									
	Utilities, except street lights:		\$ 352.52	\$ 352.52						
		IP&L park pavillion	\$ 11.38							
		IP&L town hall	\$ 108.02							
		IP&L vet's monument	\$ 13.74							
		AT&T, phone & internet	\$ 89.17							
		Citizens Gas, town hall	\$ 118.00							
		Water, town hall	\$ 12.21							
		Water, park								
		park toilet rental								\$ -
		Payroll	\$ 2,949.62							
		Marshal wages	\$ 2,237.58	\$ 2,237.58						
		Street commish wages			\$ -					
		Trustee wages			\$ -					
		Clerk-Treasurer wages			\$ -					
		Federal payroll taxes	\$ 576.42	\$ 576.42						
		State payroll taxes	\$ 135.62	\$ 135.62						
		Workforce Development			\$ -					
		Other	\$ 1,147.61							
		Bank fees	\$ 36.32	\$ 36.32						
		Street lights	\$ 736.29		\$ 736.29					
		Police car gas	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00					
		Legal services			\$ -					
		Cleaning service	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00						
		Mowing service			\$ -					
	Non-routine Expenses	\$ 3,996.66								
	Office supplies		\$ -							
	Police supplies		\$ -							
	Police training		\$ -				\$ -			
	Legal ads		\$ -							
	Insurance		\$ -							
	Repairs & maintenance, buildings		\$ -							
	Refunds for town hall use		\$ -							
	clerk-treasurer school		\$ -							
	snow plowing	\$ 547.50		\$ 547.50						
	snow plow gas	\$ 130.00		\$ 130.00						
	snow plow repair	\$ 198.72			\$ 198.72					
	vehicle maintenance (police car)	\$ 142.50		\$ 142.50						
	street repair materials			\$ -						
	Road salt service	\$ 2,977.94		\$ 2,977.94						
	Total Expenses:	\$ 8,446.41	\$ 3,413.46	\$ 4,834.23	\$ 198.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Income	Income from State:		\$ 2,722.89							
		LRS	\$ 1,164.40			\$ 1,164.40				
		MVH	\$ 1,558.49		\$ 1,558.49					
		Accelerated MVH1			\$ -					
		Accelerated MVH2			\$ -					
		Cigarette tax		\$ -						
		ABC Gallonage		\$ -						
	Income from County:		\$ 588.00							
		LOIT	\$ 256.00	\$ 256.00						
		LOIT special distribution		\$ -						
		Public Safety dist.	\$ 332.00		\$ 332.00					
		Court Costs to Municip		\$ -						
		advance dist.		\$ -	\$ -					
		water pilot		\$ -	\$ -					
		river boat		\$ -	\$ -					
		property dist.		\$ -	\$ -					
		excise dist.		\$ -	\$ -					
		Other:	\$ 487.69							
		Donations		\$ -					\$ -	
		Repayment, A Jansen	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00						
		Town hall use	\$ 305.00	\$ 305.00						
		Pavilion use	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00						\$ 25.00
		Ordinance violations		\$ -			\$ -			
		Gun permits		\$ -			\$ -			
		Interest	\$ 7.69	\$ 7.69						
	Refunds		\$ -							
	Total Income:	\$ 3,798.58	\$ 743.69	\$ 1,890.49	\$ 1,164.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00	
	Outstanding checks paid	\$ 1,318.79								
	Current outstanding checks	\$ 666.21								
	Ending bank balance:	\$ 67,562.80	\$ 52,077.85	\$ (698.73)	\$ 15,517.47	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,849.82	\$ 136.55	\$ (466.00)	