

Approved Minutes for the Town of Rocky Ripple Board Meeting, June 14, 2011

Attendees: Robert Tomey, Angela Herrmann, Cathy Hurt

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Treasurer's Report

As of May 31, we had \$57,746.97 total in checking and savings. Expenses were \$6,117.45 and income was \$4,111.76. Notable expense was \$1,443.00 for workers compensation insurance. A copy of the financial summary that was handed out to board members is attached to this report.

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

Meeting minutes

The minutes from the May meeting were read. In the paragraph regarding the Department of Public Works, it was noted that post Katrina standards are not 500 year flood level standards. Changes were made accordingly. Robert made a motion to accept the minutes with those changes, Angela seconded.

Cathy will not be able to attend the August meeting. We will need to find someone to take meeting minutes.

New Business/ Citizen Concerns

Robert spoke regarding his letter that was published in The Ripple Effect.

There is talk that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will release a plan for a river wall that will call for the taking/demolishing of 20 houses along the river. This is a scare tactic and Robert wanted to counter it. As the USACE is scheduled to meet this week, Robert wanted to get the information out as quickly as possible and asked Danny Orr/ The Ripple Effect to help. Angela was not contacted because Robert thought she was unavailable.

Angela stated that it would have been better to have seen the USACE plan first.

Robert wanted to head off any turmoil regarding potentially destroyed homes. This is similar to what happened in 1994 (that initial plan called for the taking of homes) and the resulting bad feelings between Rocky Ripple and the USACE compromised our ability to work together. Robert wanted to prevent that from happening again.

He is adamant that we save all the homes in Rocky Ripple. (Out structures may not be able to be saved, however.) We will have a 45 day comment period after any plan is presented. The plan being presented this month is not final.

Robert is in contact with David Sherman at the Department of Public Works (DPW). Mr. Sherman is willing to work with us. We have options. The DPW has sponsored the river wall project.

Angela stated that when the USACE comes up with a plan we will have a special meeting if we need to.

It was asked whether Carla had seen a copy of Robert's letter? Angela said none of the other board members had seen the letter before it was published, but that she and Carla have read it now.

Robert said that the information needed to get out quickly and that the board members had unanimously agreed in wanting flood protection.

Angela said that she should have been contacted. She is in charge of town board communications and could have helped.

Regarding the correction in the meeting minutes about post Katrina flood protection standards, it was asked if it was correct that they call for an increase in width but not height? That is the understanding. That may explain why houses may be affected.

The plan is to add to the river side- to put in pilings and backfill. The 1996 plan was designed to 100 year standards with a 2 foot buffer. The new plan will add a foot to that. They should be able to do that without taking houses.

Talk of taking houses is bad communication on the USACE's part.

It was stated that this is the White River, not the Mississippi. There are no hurricanes here. The levee design needs to take that into account. Katrina should not even be discussed in this context. We haven't had problems with what we have now.

It was countered that yes, we have had problems. A tree fell last year and took out a chunk of the levee. There is increasing erosion. High water events seem to be happening more often than in the past. Even if post Katrina standards shouldn't apply to us the USACE makes the rules and we have to follow them.

It was stated that our options seem to be a river wall, a canal wall, or nothing. We would prefer nothing to a canal wall, which would wall us in.

Will the USACE be able to guarantee that their plan will eliminate the need for flood insurance? No. The USACE designs to FEMA standards and then someone has to petition FEMA for a letter of map revision. If it is granted, flood insurance will no longer be required. The USACE doesn't make that decision. It was noted that the project typically would not be approved if they didn't think it would eliminate the need for insurance. That is the point of the project.

This is the start of negotiations with the USACE. We have a good relationship with the city and not a bad one with USACE. We have time. We need to keep cool and work together to save all the homes.

What is the time frame? The city of Indianapolis will propose a feasibility study in mid June. There will then be a 45 day comment period. The city will consider the comments and come up with a plan 2-4 weeks after the comment period. There will be a minimum 30 day comment period on that, and then the city will take some time to make a final decision. They will have to come up with funding.

It was stated that the city probably has the funding now to finish the canal wall under the current plan (the DPW will have to fund 25% of the project). They do want this project done quickly.

How does this impact sewers? The two are not related.

It was asked whether the USACE will come up with multiple plans or just one. Probably just one. They are working with the DPW, which is working with us. Hopefully the plan will be workable.

Robert stated that he feels like the DPW is trying hard to get us flood protection. He believes that they are working on our behalf.

Each flood protection project (Wharfleigh, Art Center, etc.) has been different. That may work in our favor. We can have input.

Who is advocating for the project? Andre Carson will do that as part of the federal budget process.

Did our representatives get a copy of Robert's letter? Some of them did. Rocky Ripple did issue a resolution regarding our position on flood protection.

Marilynn Hunter stated that as long as she won't lose her home and will be able to open her back door she is willing to work with the USACE.

Robert stated again that he is adamant that no homes will be taken!

Danny Orr stated that he agrees with Marilynn.

In 1994 the town was so polarized- do we anticipate that happening again? With good communication we should be able to work together and prevent that.

Angela requested that she be contacted in the future when this type of emergency communication is needed. Communications published in The Ripple Effect are fine, but there needs to be an official town board communication also. Not everyone subscribes to The Ripple Effect.

Several people agreed on the need for official town communication that goes to all residents in matters such as this. It was also agreed that it was a good idea to head off the rumor mill in this instance.

Marshal's Report

The telephone line in the town hall is fixed!

51st Street between Clarendon and Lester is bad. We really need to do something to fix it.

Robert stated that to repave that section would cost at least \$40,000. We can put a truckload of gravel down, however.

Robert made a motion to get gravel to fix 51st Street between Clarendon and Lester. Angela seconded.

The RREM/CERT team met May 13th. Three people attended the meeting. The subject of triage management was discussed. Marshal Kiefer will announce the next meeting date when it is set.

The air horn is fixed.

The park graffiti is the same as was seen last fall- it appears to be the same person.

Marshal Kiefer purchased oil and a filter for the police car. Robert will do the oil change for no charge.

We had previously discussed signs for the park stating hours, no glass containers, and no alcohol. Should Marshal Kiefer order them?

Angela said that she could make some laminated signs. Those won't last very long though.

Has anyone talked to the Community Association to see if they would be willing to help with the cost? No.

We have several sign makers in the community.

Angela said that she would get some quotes.

What is the current status on unlicensed/expired license vehicles in yards? If Marshal Kiefer can see from the street that they are unlicensed he can talk to the property owners, but he can't go on property without probable cause. Marion County Health & Hospital has the jurisdiction over this issue.

Stu Rhodes, who is running for City County Council, spoke. He is a friend of the Hohlt family, and was instrumental in orchestrating the transfer of land for Hohlt park. He said that the Hohlt family would be willing to help financially with the park.

If he is elected to the council, Rocky Ripple would be in his district. He would go to bat for us. He said that the USACE will act reasonably if we are reasonable in our dealings with them. He also said that David Sherman is a good guy to work with and encouraged residents of Rocky Ripple to write letters to their representatives.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hurt

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

Rocky Ripple Financial Summary										
May 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:			\$ 57,017.48	\$ 31,542.30	\$ 6,296.37	\$ 17,790.02	\$ 10,400.00	\$ 1,849.82	\$ 156.55	\$ (416.00)
expenses	Routine expenses									
	Utilities, except street lights:		\$ 284.50	\$ 284.50						
		IP&L park pavillion	\$ 12.26							
		IP&L town hall	\$ 47.79							
		IP&L vet's monument	\$ 16.27							
		AT&T, phone & internet	\$ 88.50							
		Citizens Gas, town hall	\$ 51.00							
		Water, town hall	\$ 10.34							
		Water, park	\$ 10.34							
		park toilet rental	\$ 48.00							\$ 48.00
		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	\$ 1,232.44							
		Bank fees	\$ 16.15	\$ 16.15						
		Street lights	\$ 736.29		\$ 736.29					
		Police car gas	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00					
		Legal services			\$ -					
		Cleaning service	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00						
		Mowing service	\$ 155.00	\$ 155.00						
		Non-routine Expenses	\$ 1,650.89							
		Office supplies	\$ 17.60	\$ 17.60						
		Police supplies			\$ -					
		Police training			\$ -			\$ -		
		Legal ads			\$ -					
	Insurance (worker's comp)	\$ 1,443.00	\$ 1,443.00							
	Pavilion materials (light bulbs)	\$ 15.29	\$ 15.29							
	Refunds for pavilion use	\$ 25.00							\$ 25.00	
	clerk-treasurer school/ ILMCT dues	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00							
	snow plowing			\$ -						
	snow plow gas			\$ -						
	snow plow repair				\$ -					
	vehicle maintenance (police car)			\$ -						
	street repair materials			\$ -						
	Road salt service			\$ -						
	Stormwater Fees			\$ -						
	Total Expenses:	\$ 6,117.45	\$ 5,131.16	\$ 986.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 73.00	
Income	Income from State:		\$ 2,881.63							
		LRS	\$ 1,075.75			\$ 1,075.75				
		MVH	\$ 1,805.88		\$ 1,805.88					
		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:	\$ 642.13							
		Donations	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00					\$ 20.00	
		Repayment, A Jansen	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00						
	Town hall use	\$ 140.00	\$ 140.00							
	Pavilion use	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00						\$ 25.00	
	Ordinance violations	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00			\$ 250.00				
	Gun permits	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00				\$ 50.00			
	Interest	\$ 7.13	\$ 7.13							
	Refunds		\$ -							
	Total Income:	\$ 4,111.76	\$ 898.13	\$ 2,137.88	\$ 1,075.75	\$ 250.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	
	Outstanding checks paid	\$ 20.00					Total of positive balance funds: \$ 12,726.37			
	Current outstanding checks	\$ 4,123.97					Unrestricted in General Fund: \$ 14,582.90			
	Old outstanding checks	\$ 1,368.79								
	Ending bank balance:	\$ 57,746.97	\$ 27,309.27	\$ 7,447.96	\$ 18,865.77	\$ 10,650.00	\$ 1,899.82	\$ 176.55	\$ (464.00)	