

**TOWN OF ROCKY RIPPLE**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF 10 November 15**

Town Council Members/Support personnel in attendance were:

Carla Gaff-Clark

Mandy Redmond

Jill Morris

Mike Kiefer

Carla called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting agenda was distributed.

Carla welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Reports: Clerk/Treasure:**

Carla asked Jill to read the minutes from the October meeting. Jill read the minutes. A motion was made to accept minutes as read.

**Financial Report:** Mandy reported that she is about caught up on the books with most information but there were a few blanks to fill in for October. Riverboat taxes were received in the amount of \$3600.00. Expenses pretty normal with back town hall cleaning fees of \$450 for 2014 and the rest of the years mowing which have been paid. Second installment of property tax income will come in December By next month the books should be balanced and completed up to the end of the year. There is about \$61,000 in our account.

**Taxes:** Mandy reported that it seems not enough was paid for federal employee withholding taxes for 2014, after completing Form 941s for each quarter. Line 3 is confusing. She will do more research but it appears we still owe about \$6000. Mandy is also working on our first and second quarter report for 2015. We are now using the company Paychex to automatically pay our taxes. A motion was made to accept the report.

Mandy located a copy of the Town Marshal's Agreement dated December 2009. Along with Attorney Kelly, we will begin to review and update the agreement that will be a closed meeting.

Attorney Kelly had nothing to discuss at this time.

Mandy recommended the possibility of changing salary pay period for Mike Kiefer and Town Board members to monthly in 2016. This would save money in banking fees. \$51 x 26 and cut down to 12.

### **Old Business:**

**Levee Talk:** Carla reported walking some of the levee properties up river from the Town Hall with Oakley from DPW on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2015. Several weak points on the levee were identified along with concerns about a structure. It was recommended by DPW to kill off all the honeysuckle but Oakley added he wasn't a proponent of cutting back all the trees. He implied the area behind the Town Hall was a good example of what we might consider. Richard said there is a link posted on the Rocky Ripple website to FEMA's website about keeping the natural environment where the trees can actually help keep the river from flowing so fast and eroding the bank.

Carla questioned DPW about the possibility of signing off to the city the property levee easements from the Town Hall up river to the Garveys. This would allow the city the ability to maintain this section. According to Oakley, DPW has no interest in this venture and we were on our own and suggested we contact some other places. We would not be able to use any heavy equipment on the levee but would need to secure other options.

Marilyn and Becky have recommended James Barnes, an engineer that may be willing to come and advise us on the levee condition, restructure, costs involved and maybe some ideas about obtaining money. Carla requested the Dirt Committee hold off on taking any action until we meet with James. One weak area identified that needs to be stabilized is a fox den behind the Mooney's. If removing honeysuckle in this area is appropriate, Judy and Mike Mooney asked what this would look like. It was advised that it would be like what has been done behind the Town Hall. Judy and Mike expressed their appreciation for any help and want to do what is best for the community. The issue of removing the honeysuckle is still under consideration. The Dirt Committee may be responsible in the future to patrol the levee and identify issues.

Mike Reed stated there is a concrete wall on the property next to his. He has been doing some work to help take down some dead trees. There's an area that seems to dip

down and he is going to put in dirt and plant grass. Sand bagging has been required in the past to secure this area. DPW made it clear that they are not going to help and that we know more about our levee than they do.

**Park update:** With John Bleakley in attendance, the Council asked his opinion about naming the park pavilion he helped to build at the Town Park after Mabel L Hohlt. John was in agreement. Sandy has signed off on using the Hohlt donation for park projects other than park equipment. We are still waiting to hear from Rick.

John Bleakley gave a presentation, with drawings, for a permanent stage/band shell that would be located in the Town Park. Conversation pursued about location, who would be allowed to use the stage, when, flooring covering and the possible impact to surrounding neighbors. John said he would be willing to donate his time towards the project and would look into various possibilities of enlisting outside sources for the work, like the group of high school students that helped with the construction of the existing pavilion. Details still need to be worked out. The budget would only be \$10,000 if the donation from the Holt family could be used for this project or the possibility of partnering with Butler. A building permit would be necessary and running water to any of the park facilities is not an option. No movement on this project at this time until spring. A final design would be necessary to acquire a permit.

Mandy and Joe T located a place in the Town Park for the new donated granite bench. It would replace the existing wooden one under the trees on the Westside of the playground.

**Butler/canal news?** The next meeting is planned for Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The draft is complete and under review for the new Mayor and Corp of Engineers. The findings will not be available to us until after January. A suggestion was made that we invite the Mayor to come to Rocky Ripple.

**Other:** Property tax storm water assessments are now being calculated by the amount of impervious surfaces times a square footage, not by a flat rate.

### **New Business:**

**Committee reports:** Jill reported that the CERT presentation was held on November 5. Andy Hazel stated that we could hold a training event at the Town Hall if we have at least 10 people interested.

Mandy reported that the Community Association didn't sponsor the "Meet the Candidates" prior to election due to scheduling. However, profiles have been posted in the Rocky Ripple E-news.

### **Community Concerns:**

Mary Chamber with the Mayor's Office invited us to sign up for an email blast that would provide us with information from city about trash delays, weather and road conditions etc. This is not associated with "Next Door Neighbor". She reiterated the city's schedule for leaf pickup until Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 40 bags a week. Burning leaves in Marion County is illegal. Bag them for pick up. They compost them and it's free for pickup. Officer Kiefer asked if dumping in an unidentified area is illegal. Mary will have to check. Officer Kiefer has issued a citation for illegal dumping in previous incidents.

The Community Association Christmas Bazaar is planned for Dec. 5. The cost is \$10 a table.

Mandy reported that the mosquito collection for the year has been completed. The catch box was located behind Town Hall. This research was to check for the presence of West Nile.

### **Marshal's Report:**

John Stohler has purchased a hot box. Per Officer Kiefer, John doesn't want any reimbursement for the use on our town streets, but it was recommended we should compensate him for materials. Officer Kiefer will talk with him about compensation.

Officer Kiefer reported that replacement costs for ceiling tiles in the Town Hall would be about \$1000. There is insulation on the top of the tiles which makes replacing difficult. This project is still under review.

There is a hole in the exterior of the Town Hall due to a squire that needs repair.

Back in August a theft in the neighborhood was made by Jennifer Turner, who lived on 5375 Clarendon Rd. She is currently under arrest and in jail for other charges. She will remain in jail and is also being charged with the burglary that occurred on Clarendon.

Carla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

