

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A PUBLIC MEETING HELD JUNE 4, 2020**

A special public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on June 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Andrews Municipal Building in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to appropriate notice.

ROLL CALL

Council Members John Harshbarger, Laura Dillon, and Roger Newsome, Jr. were present. Clerk-Treasurer Laury Powell declared a quorum was present and the meeting would continue.

AME CONSULTING: ERIC WOODMANSEE & PAUL VINCENT

Eric Woodmansee presented the CCMG 2020-2 cost estimate to Council. The first two parts of the McKeever Street Storm Project (OCRA and CCMG 2020-1) came in well, below the engineer's estimate. This estimate's unit prices are a little higher than what came in with the past 2 projects. The last portion to do extends the McKeever St work east from State Street past Leedy Lane to the corporation limits. The cost estimate also includes repaving Leedy Lane south to the corporation limits. Construction subtotal \$219,000.00, local match \$73,732.00, total construction cost of nearly \$300,000.00. An engineering fee of \$43,250.00 would cover the full plan. This can be broken up into Phase 1 for the application process and a Phase 2 for the balance of the engineering fee if the Town is awarded the money. Town commitment roughly \$117,000.00 total. If awarded the money, the project would be bid out late this year and construction would start in the spring of 2021. Council discussed how to fund a second round of CCMG in 2020. Because of a \$101,000.00 commitment to the FEMA buyout, Council was hesitant about moving forward. Available options are to use Rainy Day or Riverboat money, and even to borrow the money needed to finish the last leg of the McKeever Street Storm Project. Woodmansee also reminded Council that bids could come in lower than the engineering estimate, therefore reducing the local match. Realizing the window to apply for CCMG 2020-2 opens up in July, Laura Dillon motioned to proceed with Woodmansee's proposal; motion was seconded by Newsome and unanimously approved.

Paul Vincent next discussed the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency on local funds and how the CARES Act can benefit the Town. Vincent also discussed building a new water plant, which was estimated 5 years ago to cost the Town 2.7 million dollars. The Town could not afford to do the project at the time, and associated expenses with the grant process would result in a rate increase for the consumers. Vincent offered to update project costs for a new plant and present the pros and cons of OCRA, SRF, and CDBG programs at a future date. Dillon is all for free money for the Town, but said Council cannot raise water rates right now. She said the current water rate is not growing funds, therefore not raising any maintenance funds, to improve the water infrastructure in Andrews; however the wastewater rates are working as intended when they were adopted in 2016 and 2017. The water rates only cover operational expenses. If the Town ends up under an agreed order with IDEM for water, as with wastewater in late 2015, the Town has no other choice but to raise rates and take advantage of whatever funding options are available. No matter how hard we try to make improvements to our plants, IDEM pushes harder, requires additional work, fines us, and then will eventually issue an agreed order. This is what

happened with the wastewater plant. Bullock discussed concerns in working with IDEM inspectors over the past year with the turnover rate in IDEM's water branch. In his opinion, IDEM has placed more emphasis on wastewater inspections, over the water, due to algae blooms, etc. Andrews is still waiting on new water inspectors at this time. He feels the time is coming when the Town will be issued an agreed order from the State. Bullock said well #3 is off and well #1 is on because well capacity, which percentage wise normally runs 70-80%, is now down to 40%. The wells are also shallow. IDEM is on Bullock pretty hard to correct the problem. They are pushing for higher capacity production from the Town's wells. Dillon inquired as to how the groundwater contamination affects a decision to make expensive repairs to the wells, or even to build a new plant, in order to meet IDEM's requests. Bullock says the plant doesn't matter in the grand picture since it only treats the water. What is important is where you put the wells and transport the water to the plant. That is the expensive part to correct our dilemma. Why put a \$20,000 Band-Aid on a situation, to increase pumping capacity that ultimately won't correct a problem, which happens to be the current wells are drawing from contaminated groundwater. AME Consulting, LLC will bring to Council in the near future several plans for our dilemma with available funding options.

Legal issues relating to the Northrup property were briefly brought up and then tabled until a later date. A mutually shared Community Building project, in conjunction with the current Lions Club property, was discussed. Council seems interested in pursuing this idea if the Lions Club is agreeable. Adding on to the existing building, grounds keeping for 2 ball fields, youth baseball and t-ball leagues, concession stand operations, and lighting would all need to be discussed at a future time should both sides agree to move forward with the idea.

With no further business to be discussed at this time, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m. which was seconded by Roger Newsome.

Approved this 13th day of July, 2020.

APPROVED BY  as
JOHN HARSHBARGER COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY  as
LAURA A DILLON COUNCIL MEMBER

APPROVED BY  as
ROGER NEWSOME, JR. COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST BY  as
LAURY L POWELL CLERK-TREASURER