

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**

A special public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on September 24, 2021, at 3:00 p.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.

In addition to the Councilmembers and herself, Powell noted Attorney Mike Hartburg, Professional Engineer Eric Woodmansee with AME Consulting, Utility Superintendent Colin Bullock, Town Marshal Austin Bullock, and 28 residents were in attendance. Mike Kleinpeter participated via phone.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Well Relocation Project: Council President John Harshbarger began by explaining a chart, displayed on a large screen monitor, to those in attendance. The chart illustrated an estimation of the project cost and rate impact of project funding based on various grant awards.

Next, John Harshbarger announced that the Town was not awarded any money in the first round of SWIF grant announcements. He also said SRF funding should be announced today or early next week. In addition, the Huntington County Commissioners told council members they would give the Town \$20,000.00 in response to Council's request for assistance. He reported the Town is moving forward with applying to OCRA and USDA for grant money. The Town can reapply for a second round of SWIF grant money in July 2022. Any grant money received would minimize the impact to post project user fees. Harshbarger finally stated Council may return to the County Commissioners and ask them to consider an increase.

Council President Harshbarger then explained the typical funding programs used for water and wastewater projects. Council will continue to apply for these grant moneys. He said if Council does nothing at this time, then the impact will be detrimental to the Town and residents, so this Council has chosen to move forward proactively.

Discussion ensued with council members, Colin Bullock, Laury Powell, and several residents commenting on and expressing frustration over the current situation the Town finds itself in.

Finally, John Harshbarger asked Council to ratify his decision to continue the environmental review; authorize an archaeological survey along SR105 south of Andrews; move forward with obtaining easements along SR105; and also proceed with test drilling the proposed site while utilizing the ARPA federal infrastructure funds received in September.

Laura Dillon asked Eric Woodmansee and Mike Kleinpeter to clarify how their firms would coordinate efforts with the various grant timelines to make the waterworks project happen should Council ratify Harshbarger's decision as stated moments before.

After hearing their response, and with no further comments from those in attendance or the council, Dillon motioned to ratify and proceed with Harshbarger's statement to move forward with the ER, archaeological survey, easements, and test wells using the ARPA funds. Roger Newsome seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously 3-0.


Roger Newsome asked the clerk's office to mail out the OCRA survey as an insert with the October utility billing statement.

In other business, John Harshbarger announced that the State of Indiana has finally authorized the Town to use leftover SRF wastewater project funds for direct equipment procurement.


With no further business to be discussed at this time, Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 p.m. which was seconded by Roger Newsome.

Approved this 11th day of October 2021.

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