

**ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

A special public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on February 7, 2023, 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.

Huntington Mayor Richard Strick was in attendance while attending via Zoom were AME Consulting's Eric Woodmansee and Paul Vincent, financial advisor Steve Brock, OCRA grant administrator Mike Kleinpeter, and Huntington County Commissioners Rob Miller and Tom Wall.

**WATERWORKS 2023 SRF APPLICATION DISCUSSION**

Council President John Harshbarger summarized the predicament the town faces with contaminated drinking water wells and said supplying Andrews' residents with clean water is his goal. He discussed a recent meeting he attended in Indianapolis with state and federal officials, Huntington city and county officials, project engineers, and financial representatives with Baker Tilly, where exploratory discussions were held to find a long-term solution to Andrews's water woes.

Harshbarger informed council members on matters discussed in Indianapolis, including the town's current Professional Engineering Report (PER), available state and federal monies to repair the town's aged and leaking water infrastructure and also to replace any remaining lead water lines, as well as the April 1 deadline to apply for this year's SRF money. In addition, he said engineering and grants must first be in place before any financials concerning rates can be done. John feels that Huntington city and county help is the best route to take at this time.

Mayor Strick and County Commissioner Miller both agreed with Harshbarger's statements and affirmed their desire to help solve the water dilemma in Andrews while emphasizing the tight schedule for a 2023 application. Mayor Strick also said each side needs to see final plans on engineering and financials before deciding on what is best for each entity. It's his impression that higher levels of government want to see Andrews' drinking water contamination issue resolved.

No agreement is on the table to be signed until engineering, grants, and financials are in place and independent legal reviews are complete.

Having knowledge of the town's infrastructure and having authored the town's current PER, AME Consulting engineers Woodmansee and Vincent agreed to work collaboratively with Huntington's engineering company who would be the lead applicant to meet the April 1 deadline.

Wishing to do what is best for the Town of Andrews and hearing the level of cooperation and expressed commitment between local, state, and federal officials to make this happen, all three Andrews town council members agreed to move forward with the regionalization option and to also let Huntington take the lead on the grant applications for expediency in meeting the tight deadline. With AME Consulting's willingness to cooperate with Huntington engineers, Council also agreed to share the town's engineering findings with Huntington.

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**OTHER BUSINESS**

Harshbarger said he will now attend a follow-up Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m. with federal, state, and Huntington officials to further discuss the organization of this combined effort now that the Andrews Town Council has agreed to pursue the possibilities of a regionalization option for clean water with Huntington. John added that he will sign closing documents February 9 for another FEMA Buyout property, 498 W McKeever St. The next property to buy is the Howell property at 237 W McKeever St which includes the smaller parcel of importance to the county's planned bridge replacement over Loon Creek.


Laura Dillon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m., which was seconded by Roger Newsome, Jr.

Approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

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