

**Town of Vernon  
Vernon Gym  
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)  
May 6, 2021**

**Regular Meeting:** The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Dan Wright at 7:00 PM.

Dan asked anyone from the public wishing to make a comment to sign in and let the Council know what they wished to comment on.

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order - Present

Amber Fields – Clerk/Treasurer

Eric Genda – Ward 1

Jeff Walker – Ward 2

Shelly Davers – Ward 3

Dan Wright – Mayor

Ron Hendershot – Maintenance/Works Manager

Dan noted that Brit Burgmeier, Town Marshall would not be at the meeting tonight or the meeting in June due to a class he was taking.

II. **Approval of April 1, 2021 minutes**

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the April 1, 2021 Council minutes. There were no comments. Dan made the motion to accept the April 1, 2021 minutes. Jeff Walker made the motion and Eric made the second. Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

III. Petitions or comments by the members of the public present:

**Roger Taylor** of the Vernon Alumni Association presented a check for \$500 to the Town of Vernon for the use of the Gym for their annual gathering. He mentioned that there was no longer a flag in the gym. Dan Wright said with a \$500 donation, the Town could accommodate purchasing a flag for the gym.

**Evan Chalet** of the Muscatatuck Soccer Club said that they were waiting for the rain to stop to finish painting the building. He also stated that it was nice to see the playground in use after the Vernon Day of Caring and thanked the volunteers who finished the project. Evan stated that a local excavation company would be donating the time on the

soccer field in August to plant grass seed. He inquired about the roof on the building and wanted to make sure it would be covered by the Town.

**John Post** commented on the Vernon Gym School yard and that he felt it should be mowed in a timelier manner and more than once per month so that others could use the field.

#### IV. Reports from committees and officers

1. Presentation by **Scott Dunlap** of the **Utility Supply Company** on the Neptune Water Meters. Scott began the presentation with a description of the Utility Supply Company (USC). USC is an American Company, and all products are made and produced in-house. He said that the meters in the Town of Vernon have aged out and the Neptune meters would be a good fit. AWA standards recommend changing water meters every 10 years.

The presentation continued with information stating that USC is a 125-year-old company making ultrasonic meters and radio receivers which are read from a tablet. Radios store up to 96 hours of data. USC guarantees everything inside the meter for the life of the meter, ultrasonic meters for 20 years. The Belt Clip receiver does not have to be purchased or included for the system to work properly. The annual maintenance on the program is \$3,500 starting at year 2. Ron's current tablet will run the Neptune system.

The Neptune system can detect leaks and high usage with "drive-by" capability. The system can also communicate with our current Water/Sewer Program (Keystone). Scott also stated that 90% of the Cities and Towns in Indiana used this combination of meters and software. A Neptune file is created and imported into Keystone and is a simple process. The Neptune meters go into the pit with antennas that retrofit down into the lid. The company also makes a plastic lid, but most cities and towns use their cast iron lids, drill holes and retro fit.

USC would provide the equipment, but the Neptune meters would have to be installed by someone else or someone in the Town. Ron Hendershot stated that approximately 20 to 25 system meters and lids would need to be recessed.

Scott said there was no warranty on the antennas. The Town would need to create an ordinance stating that the customer would replace any antenna if destroyed. The Antenna should last the life of the meter with a lifetime battery. Scott said that

most towns see an increase of 10 to 20% on the readings after the installation of the Neptune meters.

Scott said that he would be our Customer Representative, but that USC had a team servicing the Neptune meters. Ron stated that most of the Town meters are 25 to 30 years old and had reached their forecasted age. Prices quoted by USC have held even though the company has had two price increases.

## **2. Town Mayor – Dan Wright**

### **a. Update on Trail Grant**

Dan met with Nathaniel Simmons, Grant Coordinator for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. They are currently working on the budget and schedule for the project. A Virtual meeting is set for the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. Once the final issues are settled, contracts will come out. The schedule was originally planned to start the project last year, but because of the Pandemic, it is a year late. The Indiana DNR is not going to grant any more funds. Options for building will be determined once the bids are in and if they are high, we can take out parts of the project like the shelter houses. Fund raising could help support the project. Contracts should be coming out in the next couple of weeks.

### **b. Vernon Day of Caring**

Dan reported that the project went off well. He thanked John Post for manning the dumpster, Kiwanis and the volunteers who worked on the playground. The playground is now being used. Dan sent pictures of the completed playground to Cummins so they could see the final product that they started. Dan also mentioned that Cummins may have more grant opportunities in the future. Vernon will continue to participate in the Day of Caring with the United Way.

### **c. 2020 Cares Act**

Dan reported on the Cares Act funding and that the Indiana Finance Authority will be cutting a check for the total requested reimbursements totaling \$7,200.49 next Monday, May 10, 2021.

### **d. 2021 American Rescue Plan**

Nothing to report on the 2021 American Rescue Plan

## **3. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda**

- a. Eric mentioned the electric streetlight pole in front of the old Drugstore and asked if the power had been switched to Kolin McDonalds name. He has not

switched the account to the best of anyone's knowledge. Current resident continues to turn it back on. Dan said that he would call Duke Energy and have the meter pulled.

John Post mentioned the debris behind the old Drugstore building and said they were supposed to clean that up, but they keep moving junk back in.

Brad Kage said that Marie Shepherd, Director of the JC Area Plan Commission, was going to have a crew go in and remove items from the property.

- b. Eric also mentioned that he would be willing to work on the railing in front of the Gym, but that he would need help lifting it because it was so heavy.
- c. Eric asked about the gym equipment in the kitchen of the Vernon gym, and when would that equipment be going up for auction. Ron Hendershot mentioned the boat needing to go into the auction as well. Brad Kage said that the boat will be inspected by the sheriff's department so that we could apply for a new title to sell the boat and trailer. Ron will meet with the Sheriff's department to arrange for the inspection. Dan asked to have the list of items for sell in the auction ready at the next meeting. The auction will be a "Sealed Bid" auction.

#### **4. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker**

- a. Update on AARP Grant – Jeff stated that we will find out something about the AARP Grant by mid-June 2021. The Grant was applied for through the Friends of Historic Vernon. The requests were for improving the entrance to the gym, a chair lift from the main floor to the stage area, and a floor covering for the gym floor.
- b. Jeff also mentioned that he has heard a lot of good things about the Vernon Day of Caring. He would like to schedule another Vernon Day of Caring in the fall. He thought that partnering with the Friends of Historic Vernon to incorporate more volunteers would be a good idea.

#### **5. Ward 3 Council – Shelly Davers**

- a. Shelly brought up the water rate study and the list of questions provided to Sherman Barber. Nothing has come back from Sherman Barber to date.
- b. Vernon Gym updates, opening timeline, & scheduling. Shelly had suggestions on the new rates for the gym but has not had a chance to update the policy.

#### **6. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields**

- a. Amber emailed the months legal notice to the Council prior to the meeting.
- b. Amber gave an update on the Friends of Historic Vernon - Lollygag & Labyrinth Walk. The program was not well attended but went well.

- c. Amber mentioned the deposits for new Water/Sewer Service, and the amount should be increased when the Ordinance is updated.

#### **7. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage**

- a. Brad said that he had not heard from either of the Gym renters regarding the legal notices sent.

#### **8. Town Marshall – Brit Burgmeier**

- a. Brit was not in attendance at the meeting, however, Shelly mentioned that several car accidents had happened in front of her house and on one occasion, she tried to call 911 and was not able to get through. John Post asked if the calls to 911 were made on cell phones. Britt had previously said that any 911 calls to Jennings County 911 should flip to Jefferson County if the circuits were busy.
- b. Ron said he had talked to Matt Sporleder about getting county officers to sit with radar guns in Vernon to catch speeders and slow down the traffic through town. Several examples of speeding through town were given. Dan thought the speeders on the curve coming into town from the south were the worst. Speed limits were discussed. INDOT is not very responsive to getting changes made to speed limits. There is a formula that is complicated. Ron mentioned that the anti-speeding sign in Scipio was effective and maybe we could get a similar sign in Vernon.
- c. Amber asked if Britt or the Sheriff's department could pull over speeders on the state highway. Brad Kage confirmed that he can pull over people because he is a law enforcement officer.
- d. Dan said that he would inquire of INDOT about changing the speed limits through town.

#### **9. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot**

- a. Neptune Water Meter Presentation (See above)
- b. Ron presented the quotes for the Gym Auxiliary Building roof. Shelly asked about quotes for gutters. Ron thinks the gutters on the main building are more important than the roof on the aux building. Shelly asked about roof leaks in the gym. Plaster is falling in the building. Ron says this roof looks good. The shingles have a longer life on the main building. Countryside has their own metal bending machine therefore their quote was less. Countryside did not provide much information. Ron will go back and ask what is covered. Is decking covered? Clean up and staging? Shingles vs metal - life expectancy and noise make the big difference. Metal will stand up better during a hailstorm. Standing seam is better than the other type of metal roof since the screws in a standing seam can create

- leaks. Ron also mentioned that the wind turns did not work. Ron said that the color does not cause a difference in price. Wayne thinks grey or navy.
- c. Proposal from WTHGIS – Ron discussed the proposal from the WTHGIS program and mentioned that most counties around us were using the program which would tie into our pub works program and help to maintain where the lead lines are in town. With the 2025 time limit on lead line contamination reporting is coming up and said that we need to start testing. Lead may be in the lines between the meters and the property owners. The cost of the program is \$12,975 which includes the license and the edit license. Street and sidewalks, signs, and users license would be in the office. Blueprints scanned and will determine how many miles of waterlines we have. They create the first layer and then we create our own after that. The annual maintenance fee for the WTHGIS program would be \$1,750. The JCGIS program online will show what the program could do for Vernon. This is the same program that shows the property lines and would communicate with Pub Works. Ron also mentioned that the layers were unlimited. Ron has already started creating layers in the Pub Works Program. WTH originally wanted to use Vernon as a test pilot but went with Madison instead. The need for the system comes from a federal mandate. Dan called it the “Flint Rule” named for the Flint river lead issue in Michigan. The project will be expensive. The program will allow us to map the locations and evaluations on the service area. Shelly asked that any additions to the Pub Works program be sent out to the Council. Shelly asked for specific information regarding our current software package with Pub Works and the costs we have already incurred with its purchase and future costs for Pub Works program to be sent out to the Council. (ie. Software attached and the cost)
  - d. Lift Station weekly checks. Ron has noticed that the maintenance on the Lift Stations was not up to par by Lawyer. Shelly asked if that was in a contract with Lawyers. Ron said that it was hard to pin down because it looked as though the filters were not being changed, but it was hard to prove if they did or not. Ron is also getting quotes together from other vendors to see if there is another company that can do the Lift Station work.
  - e. Ron received a message from the water tower last week on the water levels. Apparently the VVFD has been filling pools in the county. Ron talked to Chief Kirkham about getting water for pools from the north side of town and the hydrant in front of the Log Cabin restaurant, which would not drain the Vernon Water Tower. Obviously, any hydrant should be used for fire fighting in the case of an emergency. Chief Kirkham agreed.
  - f. Ron presented two letters to the VVFD on water usage and billing to the VVFD for filling pools.

**V. Unfinished Business**

- A. The Council discussed the Water Rate Study, and that the information was not back to the Council yet. Dan said that he would follow up.
- B. Dan said that the Gym Policy looks good and just needs a little tweaking. Dan said that there has been a misunderstanding on the employment and management of employees of the Town. The State outlines that the Mayor (Town Executive) oversees hiring and managing employees, not the Town Council.
- C. Jeff asked if it was possible to allow the use of the gym for free for youth under the age of 18. Shelly said that she had already incorporated that into the policy.
- D. Brad said that he had not spoken to Marie Shepherd regarding the Gym Auxiliary Building 911 Address. Wayne Zamora said that it had been taken care of and the 911 address was: 55 E Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana.
- E. Approval of October 2020 Meeting Minutes as presented.  
Shelly Davers made the motion, and Jeff Walker made the second. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

**VI. New Business**

- A. Dan discussed the Handicapped parking sign located at Montgomery St & Hwy 3&7. The individual the parking was set up for has since passed away. Also, the new Handicapped parking sign on S Pike and Hwy 3&7, is ok, however the owner of the adjacent property also put up a "No Parking" sign which is not legal. The parking is Street parking. Dan asked that the Montgomery Street Handicapped Parking be removed and that the Pike Street spot be allowed.  
Jeff Walker made the motion, Shelly Davers made the second, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

**VII. Claims**

- A. Shelly Davers asked about the entries on the claims without check numbers. Amber said that "pre-entry reminders" in Quickbooks had been previously entered and show up on the ledgers even though checks had not been written. Shelly also mentioned that the bills from Lawyers were getting out of control. Ron mentioned that he was talking to other vendors. (O'Mara) Ron also stated that two of our Lift stations have pneumatic controls and repair work must be contracted out.  
Shelly Davers made the motion to accept the claims, Jeff Walker made the second, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

- B. The Clerk Treasurer provided a Fund Report for the month of April 2021.

**VIII. Miscellaneous Business**

**A. Donations & Other**

- a. Letter & request from Vernon Resident Bill Miller. Shelly thought that Bill Miller should come to the next meeting to discuss the training of his service dog. Ordinance should be re-written or a fine given.
  - b. Adopted Flowerpots and seasonal care. Amber mentioned the pot on the west side of Pike by the old Drugstore did not have a caregiver. Anna Walker said that she would adopt that pot.
  - c. Ron said that the County Council will appropriate 50% of the funds to repair the sidewalk on the west side of Brown and Perry Streets to take the ramp out of the County Parking lot and install bollards. \$4,000
  - d. Dan brought up the signage for the height limit on the Railroad tunnel. He thought that two more signs were needed further back to alert drivers of the tunnel height. The County says that signs must be posted and then fines can be given. However, protection of the tunnel is most important and that we need install signs further back to alert drivers.  
Shelly Davers made the motion, Jeff Walker made the second, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.
  - e. Dan recommended that the gym be opened on a limited basis. He said that he and Amber would handle the scheduling with the policy that was presented. Jeff Walker made the motion, Eric Genda made the second, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.
  - f. The Boy Scouts requested to use the Gym on June 5<sup>th</sup> all day for the annual Penguin Derby at no charge.  
Eric Genda made the motion, Jeff Walker made the second, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.
  - g. Eric Kirkham, VVFD Chief invited the Town Council and those present to the new Firehouse Openhouse on May 29 from 10:00 am to 2:00 PM. There will be a presentation with water & popcorn. Chief Kirkham also requested that the Town of Vernon provide \$5,000 to help pay for the rescue boat. The cost of the boat was \$30,000 with only 35 hours on the boat. The County Council agreed to pay \$20,000, the Town of Vernon \$5,000, and then the VVFD would pay \$5,000. Shelly Davers made the motion to pay \$5,000 toward the Rescue Boat, Jeff Walker made the second, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.
- IX. Shelly Davers made the motion to Adjournment the meeting at 9:13 PM, Jeff Walker made the second, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.



**Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, June 3, 2021, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

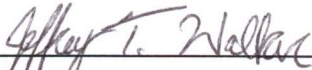
**Vernon Town Council**

Refused to sign

Shelly D'avers



Eric Genda



Jeff Walker

**Vernon Mayor**



Dan Wright



Amber Fields, Clerk Treasurer