

**Topeka Town Council**  
**124 E. Lake Street, Topeka, Indiana**  
**General Meeting Minutes, October 14, 2019 at 4:05pm**

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Ron Troyer called the meeting to order with Council Member Eash, Council Member Folk, Council Member Geigley and Clerk-Treasurer Naomi Miller present.

Also, in attendance were Stewart Bender, Cyndi Sadewasser, Bill Eberhard, Stan Strater, Larry Yoder, Jamison Garcia, Derek Burks, Chris Yoder, Haley Wilkinson, Jeremy Sponseller, Harold Gingerich and Christian Osbon.

Council Member Folk moved to accept the minutes from September 23, 2019 General Meeting Minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Eash and passed unanimously.

**Clerk-Treasurer**

Council Member Folk moved to pay all bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Eash and passed unanimously.

An error was found with the renewal for IPEP's 2020 quote. They only calculated estimated payrolls from January to September instead of the full year. Because of this mistake, the premium was a lot lower than what it should be. The correct renewal premium is \$19,658 instead of \$12,794. Council Member Folk made a motion to accept the proposal premium of \$19,658 with IPEP. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Troyer opened the Budget Hearing for the 2020 Budget. Council Member Eash made a motion to accept the proposed budget for 2020. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Council Member Troyer Closed the Budget Hearing.

The Clerk-Treasurer requested a transfer of the website hosting to LaGwana instead of Ligonier Telephone due to ongoing issues with the hosting space. Council Member Eash

made a motion to approve the transfer to LaGwana; Council Member Folk seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Council Member Geigley abstained.

### **Town Manager**

A sales quote from Tapco for \$2,354.50, Seton for \$2,998 was presented to the council for a School Crossing Sign at North Main Street. The current sign is no longer functioning. A motion to purchase the sign was made by Council Member Folk and seconded by Council Member Eash.

Town Manager Bender visited with the residence at South Main to see if they would like to be annexed into the Town and have access to our utilities. Two residence did not want the annexation, so the matter was dropped. Larry Yoder would still like to be put on the Town Water. After much discussion, Council Member Geigley recommended a hook up for Larry running a 2" water line to his home not to exceed \$10,000. Council Member Folk seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Bender suggested a separate utility rate for those residence outside of town. Council Member Folk recommended contacting Baker Tilly on the steps and recommendations to this process. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Indiana Department of Transportation has notified the Town of Topeka of a preliminary award of \$631,500 in Community Crossings Matching Grant Funds. Council Member Troyer congratulated Stewart Bender on this award for the Town.

Sealed bids for the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project will be accepted and opened on November 7, 2019 at 1:30pm. Advertisements is in both of the LaGrange Newspapers starting October 11<sup>th</sup>.

The IDEM Report on the new Wastewater Treatment Plant was shared and discussed with the council. Jeremy Sponseller from Triad Engineering was available for any questions and explanations.

A permit was requested for 202 Zook Street. The existing building will come down and a new will take its place, 36 x 40. Council Member Folk recommended a Positive Recommendation to the BZA for 202 Zook Street. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Due to dumping of a sofa, cement and taking of Town material, Manager Bender would like to have cameras installed at the Town Garage. Two quotes were received, Choice One for \$3,149.75 and M&M for \$3,817. Council Member Eash requested to add an additional camera to the quote for the water tower and well heads by the garage. Council Member Folk made a motion to go with Choice One quote with an additional camera and



not to exceed, \$4,000. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The soil sampling at Fast Lane from Lougheed Engineering was shared with the council. A recommendation for 6 more samples to make sure it's not coming from the West and not leaching in from the East side was requested by Manager Bender. The cost for the additional 6 samples will be \$7,200. Council Member Folk recommended doing the additional sampling with Lougheed Engineering. Council Member Eash seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Topeka Fire Chief shared the September and August Fire Reports with the council.

Wastewater Superintendent can do most of the testing now except for the BOD. An incubator is needed for testing. The current one no longer works. A quote was given for a new incubator, \$3,419.95 from USA Blue Book. Council Member Folk recommended purchase a new incubator from USA Blue Book, Council Member Eash seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The 2018 CCMG is currently underway. An update was given to council. Manager Bender stated the matter of the sidewalk in front of the Do-It-Best Center. A discussion was had, and Council Member Folk recommended stopping at the property line for the sidewalk. Council Member Geigley seconded the recommendation and it carried unanimously.

An RFP Affordable Housing Development was distributed for later discussion.

### **Town Marshal**

Marshal Strater shared the August and September Activity Reports with the council.

The resignation of Cory Morris was presented, and Council Member Folk accepted it. Council Member Geigley seconded the motion for acceptance and it carried unanimously.

The computer in Marshal Straters' car is no longer operational. The new computer in Deputy Morris's car will be removed and placed in Marshal Straters' car. The cost for the transfer is \$1,179 being done by ERS. Council Member Folk recommended doing the transfer, Council Member Geigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The grant for the two police vest was awarded to the Topeka Police Department. Marshal Strater offered a thank you to Clerk-Treasurer, Naomi Miller, for her assistance on this process.

Marshal Strater requested allowing his Deputy Marshal's to take their town vehicles home after the end of their shifts. Attorney Eberhard will create a new ordinance allowing this action and the Clerk-Treasurer will check with the liability insurance on the cost.

**Attorney**

The Town Attorney will remote into meetings via phone throughout the winter for one meeting a month.

**Other**

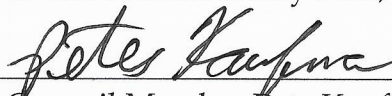
Harold shared the Mile 146 with the council.

**Next Meeting**

The next Town Council meeting will be held at Topeka Town Hall on October 28, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. There being no other business to be brought before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.

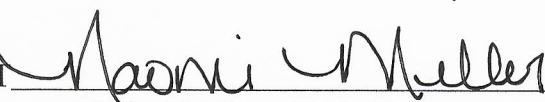
  
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Council Member Ron Troyer, President

  
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Council Member Ray Folk, Vice President

  
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Council Member Pete Kaufman

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Council Member Justin Geigley

  
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Council Member Ron Eash

ATTEST   
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Naomi Miller, Clerk-Treasurer

