

Town Of DeMotte

112 Carnation Street SE, DeMotte, Indiana 46310

Voice: 219.987.3831 Fax: 219.987.3836

www.townofdemotte.com

Council Members
Jeffrey Cambe
Mark Boer
Alana Bauman
Dale Eenigenburg
Terry Schultz
Clerk Treasurer
Cindy Shepherd
Town Manager
Michael Cain

Town of DeMotte

Town Council Meeting Minutes March 25, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM with all Council Members in Attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The February 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes were reviewed by council and approved, after a motion by Alana Bauman and seconded by Dale Eenigenburg. Motion carried.

Police Report

The police report was given by Mark Boer. Tom Jarrette was not in attendance due to illness. Nothing of significance to report. Officer Sonaty had a car-deer accident that cost about 5,000.00. The squad car is still drivable. New Officer Cody Sprayberry is doing great.

Wastewater Report

Dave reported that a gear box is defective, and a replacement can be found new for 9,668.00.

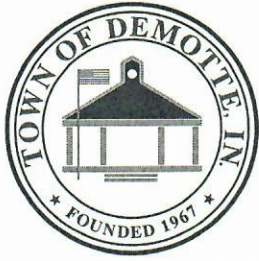
A company in Indiana can provide a replacement gear box for 6,565.94. (A. Young Company) Tara is to set up that account at Dave's request. Terry Schultz made a motion to approve the gear box purchase and it was seconded by Dale Eenigenburg. Motion Carried.

Dave discussed that bearings were found to be an issue on another pump, and they were purchased for 1,500.00. That has fixed that problem.

He requested that they also make a purchase of a hydraulic press pump and muffler for 1,901.70. That motion was made to purchase by Terry Schultz and seconded by Mark Boer. The motion carried.

Street Department

Mike Orsburn provided the start dates for spring leaf pickup as April 22-26 and April 29 through May 03. Branch pickup would start on the first Monday of the month of May (May 06, 2024).



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Parks Department

Alana reported that the historical society had reported wet carpet and believed they had a leak in the roof. Mike Cain advised we would detail a crew check it out. (Note: After the meeting it was found to be a leaky sink shut off valve that was fixed by park/street personnel).

Alana reported that the Easter Egg Hunt would take place on Saturday March 30, 2024, at 10:00AM.

Style Craft is coming to quote a repair on a defective front gutter on the train depot that was recently damaged in the wind.

Engineering Report

Both Daryl Knip and Sarah Hernandez were present from Abonmarche Consultants Inc.

I65 Division B. A recommendation was made by the engineer that we close out the retainage owed on the contract, to Grimmer. That request will be forwarded to the State Revolving Fund.

Discussion included work on the Community Crossings Grants and the bids for work should be expected in time for the work to begin in early July.

Termination of the environmental covenant for the old Marathon station has been handled and they will be recorded with the county. The review by IDEM gives an all clear on the property but still restricts pumping of ground water from the site.

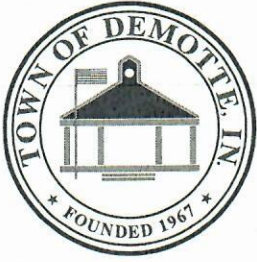
Upgrades to the sewer plant which have not been done for 25 years are now being scheduled. The preliminary cost will be about 1.8 million with a large portion of that cost, in the removal of solids. While there are multiple portions of the plant in this upgrade, its likely to be one contractor. Abonmarche will submit the proposals for bid.

Mark Boer made a motion to move ahead with the projects there at the facility and Terry Schultz seconded it. The motion carried and permission was given to Abonmarche to start on the design work and cost estimates of the work.

Treasurers Report

Cindy Shepherd presented the purpose of the Cumulative Capital Development that is due to be renewed. 120,000.00 is expected to be available when the fund is renewed.

Manager's Report



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Andy Andree reported that Jeff has been ill and will try to get a quote available for the floor repair in the train depot.

Mike Cain provided information to the board on the Belstra TIF District reporting. This year it was necessary for the TIF report to be reviewed by the council and forward to the Redevelopment Commission before it could be uploaded into Gateway in the TIF Management Report. This necessitated the reappointment of the Redevelopment Commission.

The TIF report parameters and data were handed out to the members. The content of the report was reviewed.

A motion was made to reappoint the current members, which is inclusive of all council members and Jeff DeYoung of the school board. Since Jeff DeYoung has left the school board, this member will have to be appointed later. Jeff Cambe was chosen as RDC President. A motion was made by Jeff Cambe and a second by Dale Eenigenburg to reappoint the current members, motion carried.

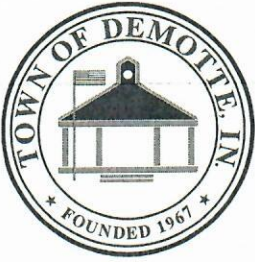
A motion was made to accept the TIF report and forward it to the RDC board, by Mark Boer and seconded by Alana Bauman. Motion Passed.

Cumulative Capital Development Fund was presented by Mike Cain. He informed the board that the fund would be reestablished this year (previously had to be every year) and it would remain in the taxing code as revenue for the Town of DeMotte. The notice was read that would be placed in the local newspaper in accordance with the handout provided to the board members. The first reading will be on April 22, 2024 and follow up review of the adoption of the fund, will be in the hands of DLGF. Terry Schultz made a motion to publish the notice and proceed with the initiation of the CCD Fund. A second was made by Mark Boer and the motion carried.

A proposal from NITCO was discussed on the transition to fiber internet services to all 7 locations identified with the town infrastructure, that require interconnection in a data network. Previously Comcast quoted this same project at more than double the rate. There was consideration of the fact that only two providers are available for this type of service locally. A preliminary quote of 87,000.00 for the construction of the project was presented. The monthly service for NITCO to take over phones and internet was the same as the cost currently for NITCO and COMCAST to provide those features. This upgraded system will provide far greater data capacity to 6 of the 7 locations that currently are not being served adequately.

Mike Cain requested a motion to go ahead with the planning and firming up the current preliminary quote and verifying that a contract would be consistent with this quote. Permission was requested to commit the remaining ARP Funds to last mile internet and discussion that public works and NORWEJ are to fund a portion of the project. This motion was made by Mark Boer and seconded by Dale Eenigenburg. Motion Carried.

In the same basic conversation, it was discussed that Impact Networking's contract, scheduled to expire in September of 2024, would not be renewed. That contract will have a change of scope and cannot contain some language that is currently written in. Impact was informed of this fact in a meeting earlier in the week, and they were told they would be able to rebid the Managed Service Provider contract when the Request For Proposal was submitted to vendors in the next months. That RFP is awaiting the restructuring of the computer networks. That discussion due to the council on April 22, 2024, will serve as the first step in the RFP process.



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The Transient Merchant Fee was discussed. There was no formal decision made on the matter and a request to consider a "food truck" classification added to the ordinance. There will be a rewrite considering some of the concerns in the discussion and when a desirable version is arrived at, it will be submitted to the town council for consideration.

Citizens Request

Don Abbring from 815 5th Street SE, had no public comment but requested to speak with Dale Eenigenburg after the meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mark Boer and second by Terry Schultz. Motion carried and the meeting ended at 8:23PM.

Michael S. Cain

Jeffrey Cambe, Council President