

Dillsboro Town Council

Special Meeting

February 17, 2025

The special meeting of the Dillsboro Town Council was called to order on February 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. by President, Tim Benning, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council present: Becky Fryman, Tim Benning, Charlie Caldwell and Jerri Jackson. Attorney present: John Watson.

Old Business – nothing

New Business – Town Manager, Derek Walker

District 3 Council Member Recommendation

The following individuals expressed interest in the District 3 Council seat: David Hollen, Dustin Kitchell, and Kim Spangler. Each candidate was asked to step out of the room while the Council interviewed them individually. Following the interviews, the Council deliberated and asked the candidates to return to the meeting room.

CM Benning asked each Council Member for their recommendation: CM Caldwell – D. Hollen, CM Fryman – K. Spangler, CM Jackson – D. Kitchell, and CM Benning – D. Kitchell.

With Dustin Kitchell receiving the majority vote, his name will be forwarded to Mark Dole, County Republican Party Chairman, for official appointment as the District 3 Council Member.

Dillsboro Civic Club Request

The Dillsboro Civic Club formally requested a \$5,500 donation toward entertainment for the Dillsboro Homecoming Festival. CM Fryman made a motion to approve a \$5,500 donation from the Riverboat Fund, seconded by CM Caldwell. Motion carried unanimously.

CCMG 2024 Grant Agreement

The Town was awarded up to \$1,650 through Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) funds for the purchase of crack sealer to be used on Rullman Drive. Approval was needed to accept the grant agreement with INDOT. CM Fryman made a motion to approve the grant agreement, seconded by CM Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.

CCMG 2024-2 Project Plans

Approval was needed for the plans for the larger road project, which includes Guion Street, Western Row, and Main Street. The grant agreement and contractor's contract will be on the agenda for the special meeting on March 3. CM Fryman made a motion to approve the CCMG 2024-2 Project Plans, seconded by CM Caldwell. Motion carried unanimously.

Endowment Fund

The Town received its annual endowment fund distributions from the Dearborn Community Foundation: Clayton Family Dillsboro Park Maintenance Fund – \$568.60, deposited into the Park Fund; and the Quality-of-Life Endowment Fund – \$3,759.41, deposited into this newly established

fund. CM Benning asked if the Council had any concerns about establishing the Quality-of-Life Endowment Fund. The Council had no objections.

Additionally, \$1,776.62 from the Dillsboro Community Partnership Façade Reimbursement was also deposited into this fund. CT Stevens noted that once endowment funds are received, the Council can later decide how to allocate them.

Dillsboro Emergency Ambulance Unit (DEAU) Update

Attorney General Todd Rokita’s office has filed a case in Dearborn County Superior/Circuit Court on February 14 for the dissolution of the DEAU and the appointment of a receiver to manage its assets.

The State intends to work with Dearborn County entities, including: County Commissioners, Sheriff’s Office, 911 Communications, Emergency Management, and the Town of Dillsboro

The goal is to ensure that DEAU’s assets are used for emergency services benefiting Dillsboro and the surrounding areas. TM Walker believes the Town will be consulted regarding its preferences for the distribution of assets. Attorney Watson emphasized the importance of ensuring that DEAU’s equipment is allocated appropriately. A countywide review indicated that some life squads may close, with Dillsboro listed as a possible closure. If closure occurs, the community will be concerned about the future of emergency services. A Town representative will be needed at future discussions. Options discussed included: the community financially supporting a new organization and acquiring assets; the Fire Department potentially taking over EMS operations, but they are waiting on the County’s decision; and a new organization being established to restart a new life squad. Attorney Watson stated that so far, only the court filing and summons have been issued. A motion for a preliminary injunction has been filed to prevent asset transfers and to allow the State to begin reviewing financial records within 10 days. Attorney Watson will keep the Council updated.

911 Dispatch Agreement

Attorney Watson informed the Council that the County is requesting funds from the Town for emergency services, with requested costs as follows: 2023 - \$5,000, 2024 - \$18,523.15, 2025 - \$32,046.70, and 2026 - \$33,649.04.

Watson attempted to set up a January meeting with Maxwell and Bascom, but they were unable to attend. Representatives from the State Treasurer’s Office, Moores Hill, and Greendale were also interested in the discussion. Watson suggests scheduling a meeting in May, prior to budget discussions. Tentative date: May 19 at 6:30 p.m. (final decision at the next Council meeting).

With no further business, CM Fryman made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 p.m., seconded by CM Jackson. Motion carried unanimously.

Charlie Caldwell
Becky Fryman

Tom Benning
[Signature]

Rita Stevens
Rita Stevens, Clerk-Treasurer
[Signature]