

Dillsboro Town Council

Special Meeting

March 3, 2025

The special meeting of the Dillsboro Town Council was called to order on March 3, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. by President, Tim Benning, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Old Business - nothing

New Business

CCMG 2024-2 (Community Crossings Matching Grant)

TM Walker reported that the CCMG 2024-2 for Guion Street, Western Row and Main Street project bids were opened publicly on February 28, a total of five bids were received. Paul H. Rohe Company was the lowest bidder at \$519,835.67 for the road project, which was slightly below the town's original engineer's estimate. This would set the Town's minimum match for the project at \$129,958.92. The budget for this project includes \$110,000 allocated in the Riverboat budget and \$28,350 in the MVH Restricted budget, totaling \$138,350 for this project in the 2025 budget.

The project specifications included alternative bids for the Guion Street water main. The current main is only 2" and would not be permitted by today's standards, it also includes an odd connection to the rest of the system. It is recommended that this main be replaced prior to constructing the new road. Paul H. Rohe Company bid for this work at \$42,746.00. TM Walker and Utility Superintendent, Matt Bauer, have spoken with local contractors that are interested in the project and could complete the work prior to the start road project start date of June 1st. TM Walker recommends to accept the base bid and decline the alternative bids and solicit quotes for the alternative bid items including the water main and the lighting electric conduit that bid at \$17,300.00. CM Kitchell made a motion to accept the base bid and decline the alternative bids and sign the agreement and the Contractor's Bid for Public Work – Form 96. Second, by CM Fryman. All in favor, motion carried.

The November proposal for construction inspection services from Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering totaled \$7,500. TM Walker noted that the price seems high for only 3 site inspections and recommend accepting proposals for these services and having it ready at the April meeting. The council agreed. The project engineers have requested an amendment to their contract because of extra work in the bidding assistance of \$3,650 for bids plans that were put together. This was not previously agreed to, but they did do some work in that regard. The company that submitted the proposal Curry & Associates, which was originally accepted has since been bought out by Fleis & Vandenbrink. The contract was broken into 5 phases, Town with Curry & Associates completing Phase I – CCMG Eligibility Application and Phase II – Project Planning & Fund. Phase III was completed under Fleis & Vandenbrink for the Preliminary Engineering Services where the specifications, drawings, and the survey work were completed for \$55,870. Phase IV Bidding Assistance is \$3,650 and Phase V Construction & Closeout Assistance has not been agreed upon.

With the bids coming in lower than anticipated, the towns match will be reduced from \$139,000 to \$129,000, so there are funds that could cover the proposed amendment. CM Fryman stated the November letter from Fleis & Vandenbrink stated the Phase IV Bidding Assistance is \$3,530. TM Walker will contact the engineers regarding their contract. The request for the amendment was tabled until the next meeting, March 17.

TM Walker recommend putting together a new specification packet for the alternative bids and soliciting quotes in accordance with state law for the Guion Street Water Line and Electric Conduit and proposed having the quotes received ahead of the April Council meeting in hopes of getting pricing in line with the 2025 water utility budget. TM Walker noted that this would be the only water project planned for this year. CM Kitchell made a motion for TM Walker to put together new specifications and solicit quotes for the water line and electric conduit, seconded by CM Caldwell. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Stellar Pathways Sidewalk Project

The Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (SIRPC) was the only certified grant administrator to submit a proposal for services associated with the Stellar sidewalk improvement project funded through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). The town has had prior working experience with SIRPC. The town has a \$30,000 budget for preliminary work on the sidewalk project for this year. CM Jackson made a motion to approve the \$5,000 for the proposal, seconded by CM Fryman. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Park Board Request for Review of Vehicle Speed

TM Walker reported that at the Park Board's last meeting, they motioned to request the council investigate speeding vehicles and additional means to deter speeding on Oak Street, Front Street / Arlington Road and Central Avenue by the park. M. Bauer stated he has checked into the speed bumps in the past, and it would be more work for the utility workers to maintain the speed bumps and discourages using them. Council decided to leave speed limit as is.

#### CCMG 2025 Application

TM Walker advised the council that if they would like to submit a CCMG grant application this fall we should start preparing soon and request suggestions for the next road project. TM Walker recommended a lower construction budget given the commitments made for the Stellar project and Stage and suggested a construction budget around \$100,000-\$150,000, noting that the MVH restricted funds usually get \$35,000 that could be used for the 25% match.

TM Walker suggested doing a project to support the Park Board's efforts on a pickleball court at the park by Oak Street and applying to widen Oak Street to permit on-street parking. Another consideration would be the streets off Spangler Road, Lake Drive and Erie Drive and Maple Glen Drive, which are currently private streets in poor condition. There have been discussions requesting the private owner to pay the match requirement on the road and in turn the Town would accept the roads as public and add them to the town's inventory. The council agrees to allow TM Walker to reach out to the property owner regarding the matching grant.

### Mulford Alley Request for Tree Removal

A property owner along a platted, unimproved alley requested to split the cost of removing a dying tree. This alley runs from Mulford Street to Holland Drive. The quote TM Walker received is for \$500. This tree is close to Mulford Street and likely on the property line of private property and the platted alley. TM Walker and M. Bauer spoke with Townsend Tree Services, who currently has a contract with Duke Energy to trim trees around town and may consider removing the tree as part of their contract.

There is a similar issue with a property on the south side of North Street, which staff have requested Townsend Tree Services consider removing. The council discussed several properties around town that need to be cleaned up and imposed stronger code enforcement. TM Walker stated that he is planning to focus harder on a few of the worst properties this year, particularly two on North Street. Police chief, Josh Cady, has been spending some time tagging inoperable vehicles on private property. Another property mentioned from Council was the Hughes house on Front Street.

### Senate Bill 1

TM Waker shared that Attorney John Watson requested that information be passed along regarding Indiana Senate Bill 1. The state is proposing changes to the property tax code. Currently a formula is used based on the Gross Domestic Product, inflation, and similar economic metrics which determines the amount political subdivisions of the state such as municipalities can increase their property tax revenue. SB 1 proposes setting the rate at 0% in 2026, 1% in 2027, and 2%, in 2028 and establishing a new formula to calculate the rate there after.

The state made changes to the code a few years ago limiting the growth rate as inflation drove the rate of increase up permitting local taxing units to increase their revenue to offset the increase in expenses due to inflation. The state legislature responded by capping the rate at 4%. Dearborn County's Attorney who also represents the City of Rising Sun City, Andy Baudendistel, shared a resolution that he drafted based off a template from the association, Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM), which the city of Rising Sun is considering.

The "Resolution Opposing Significant Cuts to Municipal Property Tax Revenues Without an Equitable, Comprehensive Replacement Mechanism", states that the jurisdiction opposes the reduction of property tax revenue without identifying a State-implemented, equitable and comprehensive replacement source, ensuring full financial stability for municipal operations and services across the State of Indiana. Dillsboro's impact of the proposed law is anticipated to be a reduction of -\$7,290 in 2026, -\$14,230 in 2027, and -\$18,500 in 2028.

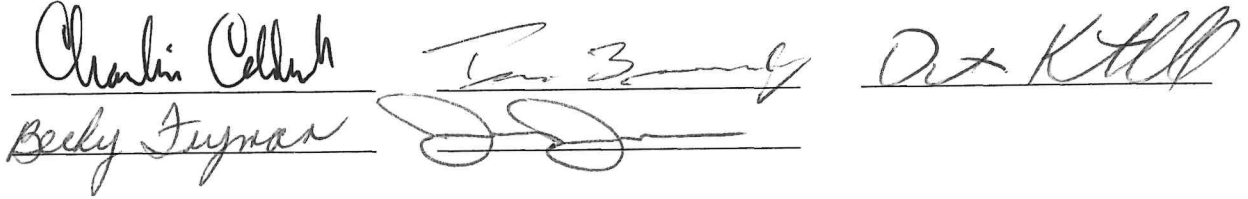
### Other Business

Matt Bauer, Utility Superintendent, reported that Brian Graver and Mike Beach are enrolled in online training courses for their Wastewater license.

With no further business, CM Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. CM Fryman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.



Rita Stevens, Clerk-Treasurer



Charles Cellini  
Becky Fryman

Tom Zimmery

Det KHL