January 28, 2025

The Town Council of the Town of Oxford met for a special meeting on Tuesday January 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Tina Coffman, Nate Foster, Terry Zink and Cindy Millburg were present. Town employees and department heads present included Clerk-Treasurer Tina Porter, and Assistant Superintendent Kurt Lord.

Meeting was called to order by Coffman at 6:00 pm – Quorum present

Board Candidates: Coffman let the public know there were 6 candidates for the vacant council member seat and that the council would be voting after public comments on who would be filling that seat.

Utility Clerk Title Change: Porter explained updates in the Clerk's office and requested council approval for changing Dunning's title to Deputy Clerk.

Public Comment: No comments regarding candidates or title change.

Millburg made a motion for Austin Rennick to fill the vacant board seat. Foster seconded. None opposed.

Zink made a motion to accept the title change for Dunning to Deputy Clerk. Millburg seconded. None opposed.

Business Guests: Blake Schoen from Hoosier Associates presented an insurance review handout to the board and explained town policies and coverage. Schoen informed the council of special event coverage available and additional coverage options the council may want to consider adding. Also discussed due to the acquiring of the new town hall building was to consider requiring those renting town space to carry their own event insurance.

Maureen Hayden and Rob Bellucci from Common Wealth introduced themselves and gave an overview of the water project they are working on to the new council members. Bellucci explained coming in and what all was looked at and considered for this project as well as the different funding options and opportunities pursued and/or considered. A project cost breakdown was handed out to the council that showed how the funding secured covers the items within the project as well as the two phases that make up the entire project. Bellucci mentioned additional funding that might be available for the second phase if, and/or when, that decision is made. Bellucci addressed an issue that had arisen regarding easement rights for a portion of the area within the project and the options for handling that.

Emily Albaugh from KIRPC introduced herself, explained the work KIRPC has done regarding the water project and what requirements the funding sources must continue moving forward. Albaugh also explained how the SRF and EDA funding will work together.

Bellucci reassured the council that Common Wealth would be able to draw up the easement paperwork. The council discussed reaching out to members of the golf course board to see about getting an easement signed.

Rick Robbins, Town of Oxford's contracted certified licensed operator, spoke up about issues the council needs to be aware of regarding the water tower. Robbins explained that the water tower will need to be stripped down. He stated the estimate could be close to 750,000 as that is what one of the neighboring towns with the same tower just paid. Bellucci stated that could possibly be included in phase II.

Bellucci next discussed the possibility of a future water project opportunity with Pine Village. Hayden introduced Rita Stringer, Pine Village Council President, in attendance and Steve Eberly via electronic device and explained how early in the process of this project they are.

Public Comment: One resident asked for clarification regarding the portion of the water project with the easement issues. Bellucci explained that it will stay as part of the project, as well as part of the bid, but does not necessarily have to be completed at this time.

Bellucci suggested a weekly update that could be provided by Common Wealth to be made available for the residents to keep them informed as the project moves along.

Foster made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Millburg seconded. None opposed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting is Monday February 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Oxford Town Hall. The public is welcome and invited to attend.

Submitted by Tina Porter
TINA PORTER, CLERK-TREASURER

Approved by Tina Coffman
TINA COFFMAN, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Date Approved 2-18-2025