

**Town Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2023**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana 46347 on the 10th day of April, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting their regular monthly meeting.

Council President Tyler Brock called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Councilors Tyler Brock, Robert Forster, Blake Jefferson, Harold Salyer and CJ Wittmer. Also present, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Town Marshal Smith, Orville Jefferson, Park Director/Bldg. Insp, Tammy Dubbels, Code Enforcement and Fire Chief Gettler. Attorney Schwerd was absent.

OCRA Public Hearing #1- Mike Kleinpeter who is a certified grant administrator was in attendance and explained there was a notice in the Times on March 29th stating the town has a water improvement project in the amount of approx.\$9,364,000. The town will be applying for a grant from OCRA for \$700,000. Other funds that will be used to fund the project will be ARPA Funds, SRF Funds and well settlement funds. A proposal will be sent later this month and a formal application will be made in June. OCRA representatives will visit in May and if awarded the funds will be awarded in August. After award we have 6 months to bid the project. Residents are encouraged to send in any water quality issues. The higher the score on the grant application the better and also complete the survey at the town hall or via survey monkey. Photos of water quality issues would also be good. Adam Simka, Wessler Engineering, explained they have been working with the town reviewing the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) that looks at the entire water system. Is the well big enough? Will it last for the next 20 years? Mr. Simka went over a hand-out that he gave the audience. The town has two working wells and one water treatment plant where two chemicals are fed, polyphosphate and sodium hypochlorite (bleach). After the treatment plant there are two storage tanks and one distribution system. Those are the assets of water system. The current treatment plan is not effective in removing contaminants such as manganese and iron. The town currently addresses the issue by flushing the system using fire hydrants to decrease contaminate buildup. About 14 million gallons of water is flushed annually, that is 15% of all the water used in town. We look at the system and what it will look at in 20 years. The towns well 3 will have outlived its expected life by then. The east water storage tank is 84 years old and has exceeded its useful life. It is made of riveted construction. The west storage tank is 48 years old. Looking at a 20-year growth population the average grow is 10.2% every 10 years. The estimated growth by 2043 is 460 people. The average day water demand today is 237,300 gpd and is expected to be 282,000 gpd in 2043. The existing wells meet capacity for todays' numbers,

however should there be an increase in demand the wells do not meet the requirements. The proposed project is to replace the well, construct a water treatment plant, and construct an elevated storage tank. The East Tank would be demolished and the West Tank rehabilitated. The **estimated** cost for this project is \$10,067,000, minus the OCRA Grant, ARPA Funds, the Well Contamination Settlement and SRF Funds. The total anticipated SRF Loan Amount would be \$8,707,000. Project Permits from IDEM, Indiana Homeland Security and Local Building Permits will need to be obtained. The proposed project schedule goes as follows: submit the PER to SRF-March 2023, do test well drilling April-2023, PER Public Hearing and Rate Study May-2023, begin design-May 2023, complete design-Nov. 2023, receive bids-Jan 2024, OCRA Grant Deadline for Bids-Feb 2024, SRF Loan Closing and Contract Award-Feb 2024, start construction-April 2024, substantial completion of construction-Sept. 2025 and final construction in October 2025.

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:10 pm for comment- Councilor Forster stated some of his neighbors asked if the new system would eliminate water softeners? No, that would require a different system. Jeremy Gettler stated his area has an auto flusher due to bacteria in the water that turns on three times a day. Adam Simka stated this wastes 15% of the water usage just to keep up with water quality. The new system will eliminate the need for auto flushers. Councilor Brock reported there are numerous posts on social media of customers complaining about water quality. Those people are urged to call the town hall and report those problems. There will be a 2nd Public Hearing in June. The Public Hearing was closed for comment at 6:17pm.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 13, 2023 regular meeting minutes were submitted to the council for approval. Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Utility Minutes: The minutes of the March 13, 2023 utility meeting minutes were submitted to the council for approval. Councilor Forster motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Claims: The Accounts Payable Docket for March 13 to April 10, 2023 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket as submitted and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Departmental/Contractual Reports:

***Clerk-Treasurer-**Laurie Tribble reported that next month there will be a Public Hearing to re-establish the Cumulative Funds. A letter from Surf Internet will be going out later in the week or next week to residents regarding repairs to the handholes. The residents will have a number to call Surf Internet directly to report problems. Laurie asked Deborah Crawford with Surf Internet to

please keep a log of customer complaints and send them in so we are kept in the loop of what is going on day to day.

***Attorney-**No Report.

***Engineering-** No Report.

***Park-** Director Jefferson reported the Easter Egg Hunt went well. All 6000 eggs were gone in 7 minutes. Councilor Brock asked a question regarding the Farmers' Market at Pennsy Park and where the funds will be deposited. Laurie Tribble explained that the original plan the park had was to only sell fruits and vegetables which doesn't require payment to vend, but the vendor still has to have a vendor permit on file at the Town Hall. The Park Department would charge a \$25 fee to each vendor to rent a spot at Pennsy Park and that fee would go to the Park Donation Fund. The Park Department then allowed other vendors to sell merchandise besides fruits and vegetables. According to Town Ordinance if you are selling any goods, wares, food or merchandise you have to fill out a vendor permit, and pay a fee based on the length of days you wish to be in town. For one day of vending the fee is \$25. Because of the change, if a vendor signed up to sell merchandise other than fruits and vegetables at the Farmers' Market the vending license fees would go to the town's General Fund where all vending fees are deposited.

***Police Department-** No Report.

***Code Enforcement-** No Report.

***Plan Commission-** No Report.

***Building Inspector-** No Report.

***Storm Water Board-** Councilor Salyer reported they are receiving proposals for Church and Alice St. projects.

***MCO-**Councilor Salyer reported that the new truck has been built and will be in later this week. Councilor Salyer motioned to allow for payment of the truck when it is ready for pick-up and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

***Economic Development Commission-** Tammy Dubbels reported the renovation of the Town Hall has begun.

***Fire Department-**Chief Gettler reported everything is good, they are busy. He stated they received a grant from Fire House Subs. He further stated the township called him and gave the

department \$14,000 if their ARP Funds. He asked if the Town would match it. Councilor Brock said he would explore it.

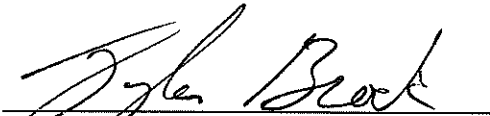
Adjournment:

Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m., and Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.


Respectfully submitted,




Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer




Tyler Brock, President



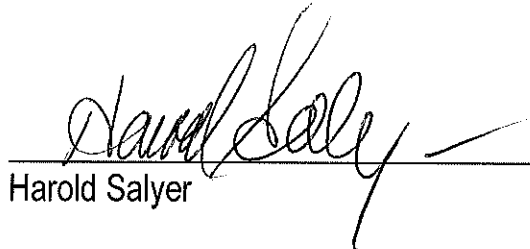
Blake Jefferson, Vice-President



Robert Forster



CJ Wittmer



Harold Salyer