

**Town Council  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 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, Attorney Robert Schwerd, Orville Jefferson, Park Director/Bldg. Insp, Police Chief Michael Cairns and Fire Chief Jeremy Gettler.

Council President Tyler Brock asked for a moment of silence in honor of those who have lost their lives due to 9/11.

**Public Hearing for 2024 Budget-** Council President Tyler Brock opened the public hearing for comment. No comments were made. Mr. Brock closed the public hearing.

**SRF LOAN PROGRAM PER ACCEPTANCE AND OCRA PUBLIC HEARING #1-** Council President Tyler Brock opened the public hearing. Mike Kleinpeter who is a certified grant administrator was in attendance and explained there was a notice in the Times on August 30<sup>th</sup> 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 formal application will be made in December. 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 great also. 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? Adam Simka and Taylor Greathouse also from Wessler, 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. There was a question regarding the flushers and if they will be necessary still. No, it will also eliminate the 14 million gallons of water flushed that is wasted every year. And another question regarding iron removal, will the filters change the water pressure? Mr. Simka answered slightly, but not enough for anyone to notice. With no further questions the public hearing was closed.

**BID OPENING FOR 2003 CHEVY SILVERADO**-Several bids ranging from \$3225 to \$8600 were received for the Silverado w/plow. The high bidder was in the amount of \$8600 made by Matt Wellsand. Councilman Salyer motioned to approve the sale of the truck and plow as-is in the amount of \$8600 and Councilman Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the August 14, 2023 regular meeting minutes were submitted to the council for approval. Councilor Jefferson motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of the Utility Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the August 14, 2023 utility meeting minutes were presented 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 Claims:** The Accounts Payable Docket for August 14 to September 11, 2023 was presented to the Council for approval. Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the Accounts Payable Docket as submitted and Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Departmental/Contractual Reports:**

**\*Clerk-Treasurer-**Laurie Tribble reported she is working with the police department in regards to budget final numbers. The Budget Adoption for 2024 will be at the next council meeting in October.

**\*Attorney-**Attorney Schwerd reported is working with IDEM to get some answers regarding the written commitments in order for the Town to make an informed decision before signing the contract.

**\*Engineering-** No Report.

**\*Park-** Park Director Orville Jefferson reported there was some damage done to the restrooms during Pork Fest. One of the urinal screens was torn off the wall and a faucet was also damaged. They used all the toilet paper and toweling paper. He reported he would like to close the bathrooms to the public next year.

**\*Police Department-** Chief Cairns reported he promoted three officers: Mike Miller to Chief Deputy, Kevin Young to Sergeant and Ken Green to Corporal. He further stated he would like to decommission the white Explorer and put it up for sale since it is not being used. The Council members agreed to the sale.

**\*Code Enforcement-** No Report.

**\*Plan Commission-** Councilor Forster reported the commission met this month to discuss an office complex on Rt 8 presented by Brent Leatherman from Ridgeline Engineering and with James Garofolo and Richard Hiller to start the process to get approval for Phase II of Coyote Crossing.

**\*Building Inspector-** No Report.

**\*Storm Water Board-** Kevin Salyer reported there is a Special Meeting Wednesday for the Church Street Project. If there are acceptable bids the project will be awarded on Monday, September 18, 2023.

**\*Economic Development Commission-** No Report.

**\*Fire Department-**Chief Gettler reported the Fire Departments pork chop lunch on the day of the Pork Fest went well. His department and the Porter County Health Department inspected Wana Pizza and after a couple of repairs they can open.

### **New Business**

**Resolution 2023-11 SRF Signatory Authorization** Councilor Salyer motioned to approve the resolution giving Councilor Brock signatory authority for SRF documents; Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Resolution 2023-12 SRF Loan Program Preliminary Engineering Report Acceptance-** Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the resolution accepting the PER; Councilor Salyer seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5-0.

**Garbage Contract Two Year Renewal 2024/2025-** Councilor Wittmer motioned to approve the Republic Garbage Contract for the years 2024 and 2025. Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Any Other Matters That Come Before the Council**

\*Ricco Semento stated the Pork Fest did well. He wanted to talk about the restroom issue at Pennsy Park during Pork Fest. He stated the Pork Fest Committee would like to help cover the costs to pay for the repairs and supplies at Pennsy Park during Pork Fest. They also would like to help with the cost of security. They want to start planning now for next year. He is planning on attending the town meetings on a regular basis from now on. He asked the council to write down any questions or concerns or send an email.

### **Adjournment:**

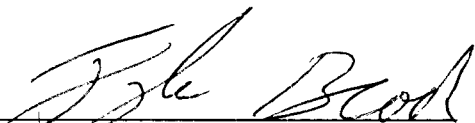
Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m., and Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



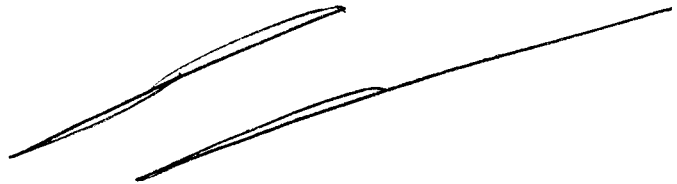
Laurie A. Tribble  
Clerk-Treasurer

(Signatures on the next page)



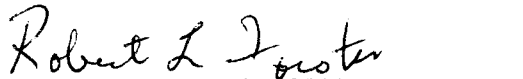
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Tyler Brock, President




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Blake Jefferson, Vice-President




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Robert Forster



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CJ Wittmer



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Harold Salyer