

AMO TOWN BOARD
Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2022

The Town of Amo held its 2023 Budget Adoption meeting with 2 Council members, Marshal, Communication Director, Handyman, Community Building Custodian and 7 citizens present. Also attended by a representative from the THE REPUBLICAN newspaper. Meeting started at 7:00 PM. Council President Ron Travelsted informed those present that this was the formal adoption of the 2023 Budget. Council Member Donna Watson read the figures off of the budget and the rate. The adoption papers were signed. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

The Town of Amo held its regular monthly meeting of October with 2 Council members, Marshal, Communication Director, Handyman, Community Building Custodian and 7 citizens present. Also in attendance was a representative from THE REPUBLICAN newspaper. Council member Rene Gay is out of town. Clerk Barb Strahl's husband was in a motorcycle accident today, and she is at the hospital. Meeting started at 7:02 PM. Minutes of the September 1, 2022, board meeting were read and approved. Ron made motion and Donna seconded. Minutes were signed.

Ron announced that no current projects are going on at this time.

ATTORNEY – Matt was not here, but it was discussed that the March 16 WalMart fire was being represented by a law firm in Indianapolis. It is a notice of a Tort Claim for property loss and damage and it explains the circumstances of loss. This certified letter has been sent to Matt for his input on this matter.

REVEREND ZOOK from the Amo Baptist Church asked to speak to the board.

The church is requesting that next year the streets be shut down on Saturday, September 16, 2023, for the 7th Annual Amo Fall Festival Car Show. Mr. Richey asked if perhaps another date might be better since he thought 6 other shows were that same day. Reverend Zook said they felt very comfortable with that date; anytime from July thru October is high volume. She stated that 83 registered, and 88 cars were displayed. The day was a huge success. The weather cooperated also. Their amount raised before expenses are taken out is \$3,500.

The next item she wanted to address is the town guide map that we used at the car show last year. It has some updates it needs and would like to see if the Town would update it. She explained she sometimes uses it to hand out to new people in town. The Town expressed interest in looking into having it updated. She especially wants to update info on church and Trinity Center.

The last item she brought up was about a paper that she provided to Council Member Watson about listing the impact of COVID on the church and how the need increased during this time. People have been very good to the food pantry during this time. Neighbors concerned about food insecurity. So the pantry has done well. But because of COVID the use of the Trinity Center was very limited so it has not done well. The church closed 19 weeks so just that caused them with an average giving of \$1,000 a week to total \$19,000 in loss just in that. That money would also impact the Backpack Ministry that the town supports. The figures show that the average attendance from 2019 to 2021 has increased a little, but the financial part has gone from \$74k to \$54k. The board requested some time to review the information presented today. It was noted that perhaps a piece in the newsletter would allow citizens to voice their opinions on the spending of the American Rescue Act funds. It should be noted that we have asked previously in the newsletter for opinions on this money with little response. Council Member Watson said she thought of this affecting the Fire Department and

(REVEREND ZOOK continued)

our food pantry because of COVID. She is unaware that any other towns are doing this with their ARA funds. It was suggested that we make a media blast about it when we determine the final amount to church and fire department so that other towns see that this idea is popular. Reverend Zook did announce that they were the last 501C organization in the town. Mr. Richey commended Reverend Zook for keeping up the fight. It was brought up that next year Mike Bruce would no longer be involved in the car show. Reverend Zook did acknowledge that Mr. Bruce has been an asset to the car show but that people in the church also had a big part in the involvement in pulling it all together. She said that it was decided by Mr. Bruce to no longer be involved.

JASON RICHEY requested to speak at the meeting. Mr. Richey asked that he would like to ask the Town to annex 13 acres of his property into the Town of Amo. It is in 4 parcels now, and he plans to pursue with the county to put his property into 1 parcel. The Town of Amo has done this with the Kerry Kiefer property. Ron made a motion. Donna seconded it. Donna will forward the information on to Matt to start proceedings on this.

MARSHAL: Chris Nelson reported an incident of a recovered stolen vehicle that was involved in an armed carjacking in Indianapolis. He asks that we be aware of what is going on and please report any suspicious activity. Chris stated that the Church Street property is being taken care of and that he has had contact with these owners. The 2021 Ram has an oil change bill that Chris paid for out of pocket. That bill was approved for reimbursement to Chris. Chris is working still on the ordinance drafting of our new book. Chris had Dustin Strahl check about the flashing limit signs. The one by the Shelter House just needed a bulb, and they are working to get it set to flash more often. The one by the church has the power cut to it so will require that they will have to order parts but will work on getting it fixed and power to it. Chris needed Ron or Greg to contact 8-1-1 to put dig flags out. They need to put flags in west right-of-way on Pearl Street in front of the ball diamonds and then on east side from Rhea property down to and including Foncannon property. The No Outlet sign needs to be at southeast corner of Main & Walnut streets. The poles will require the work with Chris Carter for setting the posts. Ron said he and Greg will get together about calling 8-1-1.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Chris Carter reported that Chief Dustin Strahl had nothing to report.

HANDYMAN: Greg turned in 31 ½ hours for mowing. Receipts for 2 gas purchases. It was decided that we will see how the storm drain painting make it before doing any more. The ones downtown are painted black and look nice. Ron will schedule mower for service in November.

CUSTODIAN: Kelsey Freeman turned in 15 ½ hours for cleaning and 11 hours in scheduling for a total of 26 ½ hours for September 1 thru September 29. She turned in \$625 for rent.

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR: Becky Rhea turned in 3 hours for newsletter and 1 hour for Facebook postings/website updates for a total of 4 hours for the month of September. It was asked by a citizen if the Resource Guide could be added to the website, and Becky will ask them to put it out there also.

READING ROOM CLERK: Barb usually gets Lisa Brown's hours so this report was not read. A letter that Lisa wrote to the board about a gentleman who came in to the Interurban was read. Hub Weekly was our Amo Station Master; this was his grandson. He remembered stories that Hub's 5-year-old daughter rode for free. He would give her a nickel, and she would ride to Indianapolis or Greencastle to buy an ice cream and reboard back to Amo. He remembered stories how he would have to dress up in all rubber clothing to do work sometimes in the big room with balls of electricity bouncing around the room. Lisa did turn in receipts for supplies and for Halloween party for a total of \$67.84, and that should be from the R.A.I.L.S. money.

OLD BUSINESS:

ARA money – Brian Stephenson did let Council Member Watson know that the clearing of the storm water drainage ditch of under brush would be mid-to-late November.

The board did ask Greg Burch to go ahead and build one picnic table for the Shelter House, and we will then decide how to proceed. We might get recycled ones also but will decide on that for next year ARA money.

The Clerk is still getting us the figures for the Fire Department concerning loss of revenue from Boot Drive. After we get that figure and now that we have church figures, we will set aside time to discuss the amount we will give them.

Dave Keiser will assist us in the \$3,000.00 window grant we received from the Efroymsen Family Fund from the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

Dave Keiser informed Council Member Watson that the Community Capital Improvement Plan is still in works and should be done sometime in November.

Dave Keiser informed Council Member Watson also that the Town should do what they can in helping Gina & Mark Wicks, Amo General Store owners, with support for them to pursue grants as money is available for facades, sidewalk lighting, etc., for this downtown building project.

It was addressed that the paperwork estimates on the picnic benches for Shelter House were discussed before, but we need Greg to present another sheet with dimensions and prices. He will get that for us.

Update – Brian Miller from Assurance Maintenance stated to Council Member Watson that he will get done repair work on brick on front of old fire station.

Ronnie stated back splash is still ongoing. Becky did ask if he realized this project had now been 3 years.

The H.C. Emergency Management sent an e-mail that the H.C. American Rescue Act funds were going to be used for the severe weather sirens and that once finalized, details on the improvements to our own siren are determined we will be notified.

It was asked if the kitchen plumbing on the sink had been completed. It was done by Cameron Plumbing after the 9/11 dinner week.

Ron is addressing problem on north side of Community Building where a neighbor's large truck has caused some damage to back driveway.

It was brought up that Melissa Gibson from THE REPUBLICAN newspaper did meet with council and other town employees. Council Member Watson met with her at the 9/11 dinner and then did an interview. Becky stated that Melissa had also met with Reverend Zook and Trinity Center representative at the 9/11 dinner as well. Melissa did write a nice article in THE REPUBLICAN about the 9/11 dinner also. The paper is going to do a series of Meet The Town articles, and Amo is one of the first on their list.

The covers for the thermostats have been bought. They were given to Greg Burch to install.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was brought up that at the 4-way stop going east on 500 south that the trees need to be trimmed. Ron will take care of checking on this.

Ron stated that Barb needs to make sure we get more pothole patch ordered. We need it as soon as she can get it.

9/11 Dinner went well and was well attended.

Car Show had great weather and was a success.

Donna Watson will be only Council Member that will be attending AIM Conference in November at French Lick. The rooms under the conference rate sold out in 2 hours. No other hotels available in French Lick as Council Member Travelsted had called to try and find lodging. Donna did not get conference rate, however, they did give her casino rate that is \$21.80 a night increase over the conference rate.

Halloween hours for Halloween night on Monday, October 31, 2022, set at 5:00 – 8:00 PM. Council Member Watson requested \$350 for Community Building Halloween handouts. Ron motioned to approve, and Donna seconded it.

It was brought up that the DAR military banner program for 2023-2024 will be accepting orders. The due date for Amo is October 15, 2022 and will be \$120. We hope we have enough to sign up again for the program as the banners make downtown look very nice.

First Quarter 2023 newsletter will be Council Member Watson.


Next meeting will be November 10, 2022.

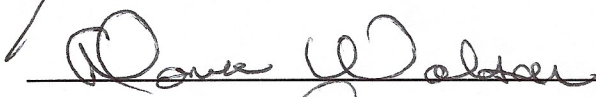
Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

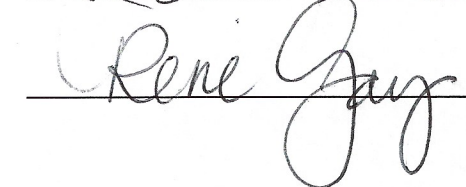
Respectfully submitted,

Donna Watson
Town Council Member

11-10-2022 Date


_____ James Travelsted


_____ Donna Watson


_____ Rene Gay