

**Amo Town Board  
Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2023**

Town of Amo held its public hearing for the 2024 Town Budget with 3 Council Members, Marshall, Attorney, Communication Director, Handyman, Clerk, Janet Beam, with The Republican Newspaper and 10 Citizens present. The hearing started at 7:02 pm. President Ron Travelsted called the hearing to order. The clerk explained the 2024 proposed budget giving the funds totals. The increase was kept to the allowed 4%. The adoption of the 2024 Town Budget will be at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. After no questions were asked, the hearing adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Town of Amo held its regular monthly meeting with 3 Council Members, Marshall, Attorney, Communication Director, Handyman, Clerk, Janet Beam, with The Republican Newspaper and 10 Citizens present. The meeting started at 7:10 p.m. Minutes of the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting were read. Donna motioned to accept the minutes as read, Rene second.

Two citizens turned in Comment Forms:

1) Michelle Kelley: She asked about the signs on County Road 450, the "Welcome to Amo" and the speed limit sign that are missing. There was a discussion on the missing signs and on the placement of the signs. Ron and Greg will look at to see if there is a place to put both signs. Chris stated that at least one post and speed limit sign will need to be purchased and 811 will need to be called. Rene motioned to have Chris purchase post and sign spending up to \$200.00, Donna second.

2) Pastor Shelly: She wanted to thank the Town Council for closing Pearl Street for the car show. The church is almost ready and expecting a record number of cars this year. In the past the Marshall has given out a basket (Meet the Marshall), Pastor Shelly is wanting to know if the town will do that again this year. Donna spoke about the car show, the town will not be opening the Interurban so won't be having that basket there or doing the Trivia Show, so will be saving that money, the town already donated one item which was an Air Fryer, so Donna requested that the town give \$250.00 so a few baskets could be made for the Marshall to raffle off. Rene motioned to have Donna purchase items to make up the gift baskets for Chris, spending \$250.00, Donna second. *and church*

Pastor Shelly had put the Compassion Box out for Jo Cordray, a family cross and cross for Connor was given to the Tipton Family, \$27.77 was collected. She will be placing the Compassion Box out for Mike Pierce at a later date.

Attorney: No report.

Marshal: Chris attended the Hendricks County Comprehension Plan meeting. He stated that he did have an opinion on several of the subjects. As a police officer he sometimes has a different view than others. They talk about community engagement, having online workshops and in person workshops. He mentioned several areas that were discussed. One item that really caught Chris's attention was the Broadband because the town has been discussing broadband options. Chris shared several interesting points about the meeting.

No major events to report. Chris helped Greg with traffic safety while patching potholes. Just want to say thanks to Greg. Had 3 property violations: (1) grass, (1) mattress and (1) vehicle blocking stop sign. All have been taken care of. There are several other properties being looked at for violations. He did get the yellow flashing lights ordered and hoped that they would arrive in the next several weeks. Chris talked to Dustin about the electrical work that needs to be done, he is confident that he will be able to repair the one by the Baptist Church. One thing that will need to be discussed once the lights are in is the timers. When do they need to come on and go off. What is going to be best. The Council needs to think about that. There was a complaint received about a resident with aggressive dogs. The home was found to have 16 dogs and 8 cats. Further investigation will be conducted by the health and animal control. Chris also made a flyer with our codes on animal control. He also had complaints about minors on golf carts. After speaking to the minor and the minor's mother the cart was towed twice, and a citation given. The AC on the reserve car needed repaired. Carter's garage completed the work. Chris wanted to know if the security camera system was in the plans for this year. The Council was trying to get that this year. He is looking into security camera systems for town owned property. A cloud base would probably be best. Mike Spilker had some information about different options. He will get with Chris about that.

Fire Chief: No report.

Handyman: Greg turned in 30.5 hours for mowing, 3.5 hours weeding and patching holes, 8 hours painting doors and 5 hours working on Bray property, totaling 47 hours for August. Donna found a thermostat cover at Goodwill and Greg will install it.

Custodian: Kelsey turned in 10.5 hours for custodian and 12 hours for scheduling, totaling 22.5 hours for August. She gave the clerk \$775.00 for August and it was not reported last month that she gave the clerk \$825.00 for July. Terminix found a small nest at the Community Building and took care of it. He suggested that we caulk the pipe opening from the thermostat into the soffit to prevent more <sup>w</sup> <sup>e</sup> <sup>e</sup> <sup>s</sup> birds from entering. A piece of trim on the front of the building is coming off and needs attention. Kelsey was also wondering if a drop box could be installed so people could just drop off their paperwork or payment in town. Council will table till the next meeting.

Communication Director: Becky turned in 1 hour for Facebook & Website update, .5 hour for Newsletter, .5 hour for email and various communications, .5 hour for printing and delivery of the CIP, totaling 2.5 hours for August. Deadline for Newsletter is the end of this month. Becky thanked the Council for the 9-11 dinner.

Donna gave the clerk \$280.00 in donations from the 9-11 Dinner and \$20.00 was donated to RAILS.

Reading Room Clerk: Kelsey turned in 32 hours for August. Things are going well at the Reading Room. She received \$4.00 in books sales. Kelsey would like 2 "wet floor" signs for the Interurban, Rene will get the signs. She is planning a Halloween Bash on October 27<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7. Becky wanted to know if anyone knew a Terry that lives close to the Reading Room, he asked Kelsey if he could mulch outside. He did and it looks nice.

#### Old Business:

Broadband Readiness Plan: The committee had a public meeting tonight. They would like to see how much it would be to have internet downtown. They talked about Indiana's Next Level Connections which targets underserved rural areas that do not have adequate broadband. The purpose of the plan is to help the Town of Amo gain an understanding of their current broadband conditions, needs, and gaps in order to set a long-term vision for the community. What the committee would like to see is internet at the Interurban and Community Building. Also, some computers at the Interurban. They continue to meet and are still working on some other things.

Interurban Windows: Trying to get done by the end of the year.

Museum Committee Update: Plan to have a meeting next month.

Town Ordinances: Donna and Chris are still working on this.

9-11 Dinner: Everybody enjoyed it and had a good turnout.

Becky texted Phil Strahl yesterday in regard to the electrical work at the Interurban, not heard back from him yet.

A citizen had a question about the Republican Convention concerning the complaints on how it was run and people not getting to register, and whether the Council had heard anything back. Ron stated it is in the hands of the county and we have not heard anything back on their ruling. Donna spoke up and said they had a meeting last Friday. The County Election Board considered all the complaints, she said they were sending something to the Prosecutor and that the election itself would stand.

#### New Business:

Bank statements signed.

Becky had a request for a donation. She read a letter from Evan Fishel, with the Cascade FFA Chapter. In the letter it outlined the path they have taken to reach the Regional Crop Scouting Competition in Nebraska. A group of five will be attending. He is asking for any type of donation that the town is willing to provide. Donna motioned to give \$500.00, Rene second.

Donna gave the clerk an invoice from Gaston Land Surveying for \$1,000.00 to pay for having the property at the 4-way stop surveyed and for marking Doug Wallace's property lines. Rene had an estimate for the fence to go around said property. There was a discussion on why there needed to be a fence installed. The council decided to table for now.

Chris wanted to make it clear that residential violations can be handled by town ordinances and that business property violations are something entirely different and are handled by the County.

Donna went over some of the topics she received at the French Lick Conference.

- 1) July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, government meetings will all be live streamed.
- 2) House Bill 1040. Elected offices have 5 hours of training before they take office.
- 3) 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Auditors
- 4) Going the Distance
- 5) Public Art
- 6) What you need to know when it comes to Federal Legislative updates.
- 7) Public Faces and Third Places.
- 8) Utilizing Banners for Communication

She will have more information on these topics at next month's meeting.

Mike Spilker has some ideas on live streaming. He is going to research different options.

Next meeting is October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Bills signed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Strahl, Clerk/Treasurer

10-5-23 Date

James Travelsted James Travelsted  
Donna Watson Donna Watson  
Rene Gay Rene Gay