

**Amo Town Board
Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2022**

Town of Amo held its regular monthly meeting with 3 Council Members, Attorney, Communication Director, Handyman, Dave Gunn, Clerk and 7 Citizens present. Also present was representative from the Republican Newspaper. Meeting started at 7:03 p.m. Minutes of the October 6th meeting were read by Donna Watson. Rene motioned to accept the minutes as read, Ron second, minutes approved and signed.

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

Attorney: Matt gave an update on the Walmart fire, that the small fire departments were going to be represented by a law firm in Indianapolis, he didn't have anything else on that now. There was a discussion on the annexation of the Richey property. Ron will get a seven-member board together. Clerk will look for paperwork from the Keefer annexation from January 2008.

Marshal: Chris was unable to attend the meeting, Dave Gunn stepped in for him with the report. There were no major incidents to report for the month of October. One incident report was completed in reference to a death investigation. An elderly resident in town passed away from natural causes. All the signs ordered, with except of the "Welcome to Amo", have been installed. Some other signs were also adjusted and repaired. A huge Thank You to Chris Carter for his assistance with this project. All current mobile radios have been reprogrammed through Hendricks County Communications center for encrypted channels. There are some "end-of-the-year" equipment and supplies that need to be purchased, Chris will get with the council and clerk before the December meeting regarding these items.

Fire Chief: The department will try to get the flags down by November 11th and the angels up by Thanksgiving. Pancakes with Santa is December 10th from 8-11. There will also be a food drive to benefit the Storehouse Food Pantry.

Handyman: No hours for October

Custodian: Kelsey turned in 13 hours for cleaning and 12 hours for scheduling, totaling 25 hours for October. She gave clerk \$300.00 for October payment of Community Building rentals. The thermostat covers did not work, will have to look into getting something different.

Communication Director: Becky turned in 10.5 hours for Newsletter, 1 hour for Facebook and 1.5 hours for typing minutes totaling 13 hours for October.

Reading Room Clerk: Lisa turned in 27.5 hours for October and 31 hours for September. Lisa did a great job on the Halloween Party, a big thank you out to her on all the hard work she does.

Old Business:

Post Office Brick: Done by the end of the month, Donna's just not sure what month.

Capital Improvement Plan: The plan should be done sometime this month. Dave Kieser will be at the December meeting. Donna explained the 5-year plan is reviewed every five years, a citizen asked what the plan had planned for in the next five years. Donna listed several things in the plan, restore the Interurban for town clerk office, sidewalk plan committee, horse trail, private fence for an example of just a few things in the plan.

American Rescue Act: Looking into different ways the town would benefit from the money, (fire department, Trinity Center, new town sign, town flag, picnic tables for shelter house).

Drain on Pearl Street east of church needs the cover replaced, Ron found a place to get the cover. Greg needs to clean out drains again.

Driveway at the Community Building will be fixed next week.

Halloween went fine. Gave out over 350 bags of candy and popcorn. Donna spent \$380.54 for candy which was \$30.54 over budget so, RAILS donated back the \$30.54 to the town.

The Reading Room received a donation of \$200.00 from Jan Loveday Dickens. The donation is in honor of her grandmother Margaret Hopson Kitts, who grew up in Amo in 1900-12 maybe. She loved to tell stories of her childhood with Ruth & Arthur Wood, who had the first car in the area and would bring them to Amo with their dolls. She built shelves in her dining room so the neighborhood children could have books. Jan thought the Reading Room is a fitting place to honor her memory.

Trees need trimmed at the 4-way stop, Ron will trim.

Dave Kieser will discuss the Interurban window grant at the December meeting.

Chris is still working on ordinances.

Council needs Greg to give them another estimate on picnic tables for the shelter house.

Council would like to thank the Republican Newspaper for the nice article on the town.

Cold patch still needs purchased.

Boot drive totals turned in 2018-\$2,980, 2019-\$3,150, 2020-\$0, 2021-\$0

New Business:

Bank statements signed.

Update on countywide severe weather siren. The system we have now is completely outdated, the town is responsible for the removal and proper power up to the siren.

Donna attended the AIM conference at French Lick. She went to several workshops.

- 1) Bring your Community Broadband into the 21st Century – three objectives make it reliable, affordable, and dependable.
- 2) American Rescue Act obligated by 2024 used by 2026
- 3) Community Connect Grant. Affordable connectivity program.
- 4) Serve the underserved. Achieve results, tailor technology. Technology being fiberoptic/cellular wireless, fiber underground
- 5) View broadband as infrastructure. Beyond Fiscal Recovery Funds- Leveraging American Rescue Plan and the Infrastructure Bill Provisions for Community Growth. How a grant needs to align with the mission, tell a story, having advantage, public engagement, and community support.
We can use the ARP funds for our portion of the matching grant. Also, ARP funds could be used for lost revenue.
- 6) Creative Aging- How to support the health & well being of older adults through the arts (Our Tuesday night group) Getting the community involved with the older adults in the town.
- 7) Find the Grant/Get the Grant/Administer the Grant. 5-year plan so everybody has internet in the next five years.
- 8) INDOT has local program grants. Indiana is listed as #1 in infrastructure community crossing match grant. Smart Signs for radar speed signs, finding grants for them. (Smart Grant)
- 9) Need a Downtown Revitalization Plan. Bring flowers, banners, food, places where people can meet.

Donna learned many things at the conference this year. She has been in touch with Dave Kieser about some of these topics and he will be going over them at the December meeting.

Broadband Plan cost around \$15,000.00 with Dave he will talk about it in December.

Donna discussed having Dave Kieser update the Pavement Asset Management Plan, Rene motioned to pay Dave \$500.00 to update plan, Donna second.

A citizen would like to make a display at the Reading Room, using 2, 4x4 sheets of plywood to display pictures, Donna would like a drawing of what it is going to look like before she decides, Ron will ask him.

A small basketball court made out of the flooring from the Amo gym, is on display at the Reading Room, to protect it a plexiglass case was made for it, Donna motioned to reimburse Darrell Mynatt \$175.50 for the cost of the case, Rene second.

Becky Rhea received a compliment on the resource guide from one business in Clayton, wishing they had something like that.

Ron said someone wanted to take Motion Picture in front of the Interurban. Gina let him know that they did it one day.

Donna wanted to mention the ARA money could be used downtown and that there are different avenues to find money for the downtown area. A citizen would like to see a mural painted downtown.

November 17th Coatesville Historical Society is having a meeting at 7.

Next meeting December 8th

Bills signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Strahl, Clerk/Treasurer

12-8-2022 Date

James Travelsted James Travelsted

Donna Watson Donna Watson

Rene Gay Rene Gay