

MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF SPRING GROVE

May 14, 2024

HELD AT QUAKER HILL CONFERENCE CENTER AT 7:00PM.

Board members present included Doug Brenneke, Robert Erbse, Jerry Catron, Annemarie Chasteen and Zane Carrell.

Also present were Planning Commissioner Jeff Holthouse, Clerk-Treasurer Jenney Holthouse, Attorney AJ Sickmann, planning commission/citizen Emile van der Merwe, citizens Mark & Lisa Faulkenberg, citizen Amanda Elder and citizen Cade Schafer.

Minutes from the April meeting were presented. Mr. Catron moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Carrell seconded. All in favor.

Payment vouches were circulated for approval and signatures. Vouchers were RP&L for streetlights, Selective Insurance for liability, and IronGate Creative for website progress billing.

Ms. Holthouse presented April financials, showing a balance of \$758,073.12. She also reported that the \$10,000 from Wayne County for the interlocal agreement has been received and was deposited on May 1.

Mr. Holthouse reported on the planning commission progress on the new website. The calendar will be active, the current images should be used, there is no need for a newsletter, there should be a Facebook link to a page that will be set up (Ms. Elder and Mr. Schafer gave some recommendations for the page), no town forms are needed, and Steve Sora should be listed as the building inspector. After discussion, the board agreed with all recommendations. Mr. Holthouse will report back to IronGate. Mr. Holthouse also reported on the latest activity by Greenleaf Lawncare. Per prior board discussions, the organization had been billing Spring Grove for mowing and clean-up. There have been several attempts to get a contract from Greenleaf showing the services performed and the charges for that, but all attempts have failed. However, Greenleaf began work again this spring and has sent a bill. Mr. Sickmann asked that Mr. Holthouse send him the documentation of the efforts to get a contract and he will send a letter to Greenleaf ceasing services.

Mr. Sickmann spoke about the new proposed ordinances regarding animals. Mr. Erbse has expressed concerns that perhaps the limitation of outdoor animals may be overly strict. One outdoor animal per 0.2 acres is the proposed standard, based upon Richmond city ordinance. Ms. Elder asked why the ordinances are being revised. Mr. Sickmann stated that the board is making efforts to be consistent with Richmond and other towns. Ms. Chasteen reported that we had complaints regarding a noisy rooster, which brought up the lack of current animal ordinances. Ms. Holthouse reported that according to present ordinance, no poultry at all is allowed, which seemed too restrictive. Ms. Faulkenberg reported that she is the owner of the rooster who caused complaints, which has been relocated to the country. However, her daughter resides in Spring Grove and has more chickens and ducks than will be allowed under the current ordinance. Ms. Elder and Mr. Schafer also have more poultry than would be allowed. They also have a rooster to protect their hens, as they had lost several hens and needed protection. Their neighbors have not complained. Mr. Schafer would like Spring Grove to be set apart from other communities by having more freedom to have poultry and be able to be more self-sufficient. Mr. Schafer would prefer to have the noise ordinance be the method through which roosters be regulated. The fallow deer on Waterfall Road and the pony on Quaker Hill Drive pre-existed the current ordinance that prohibits livestock and poultry. Mr. Brenneke offered copies of the current draft ordinance to Mark & Lisa Faulkenberg, Amanda Elder, and Mr. Schafer so that they can provide feedback.

Mr. van der Merwe brought up a burnt-out car in the Heights, and Mr. Erbse and Mr. Catron reported that on the way to the board meeting, the car was gone.

Ms. Elder and Mr. Schafer reported that their property borders Que's Trail, which is meant for Spring Grove Heights residents to access the Cardinal Greenway Trail. They would like signage to discourage random walkers from wandering onto their property. The sheriff has been called due to vagrants, and the officer recommended No Trespassing signs or purple stripes to discourage trespassers. Mr. Schafer has concerns that residents from vagrant camps in the Gorge will be accessing their property more and more. After discussion, the board agreed that we could begin with signage that says "Residents Only" with posts on either side of the trail itself, with the addition of a gate if needed. Mr. Holthouse will check out the site and get quotes on all aspects of the project.

With no further business, Ms. Chasteen moved to adjourn; Mr. Carrell seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Ray Bunch

Jerry Cation

D. G. Gabe
