

## MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF SPRING GROVE

December 10, 2024

HELD AT QUAKER HILL CONFERENCE CENTER AT 6:00PM.

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

Also present were Planning Commissioner Jeff Holthouse, attorney AJ Sickmann, Clerk-Treasurer Jenney Holthouse, citizens Tom VanDevender and Lisa VanDevender, Wayne County Commissioner Jeff Plasterer, and Valerie Schafer from the Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County.

Minutes from the November meeting were presented. Ms. Chasteen moved to approve; Mr. Erbse seconded. All in favor. Vouchers were presented for signature in the amounts of \$2,770.50 to Doug Brenneke, \$2,216.40 to Annemarie Chasteen, \$2,216.40 to Robert Erbse, \$2,216.40 to Jerry Catron, \$2,216.40 to Zen Carrell, \$2,770.50 to Jeffrey Holthouse, and \$3,017.07 to Jennifer Holthouse, all for 2024 salaries, \$40,250.50 to the City of Richmond for the second half of the 2024 fire contract, \$400.00 to Liberty Mutual for bonds, \$2,000.00 to BBCFS for the second half of 2024 services, \$300 to Rinehart's for mowing of Oak Drive, and \$608.02 to RP&L for streetlights. \$625.00 and \$275 to Rinehart's for mowing, \$2,487.50 to IronGate Creative for the final payment on the website, and \$597.82 to RP&L for streetlights.

Ms. Schaffer presented an opportunity to join the EDC as a partner in countywide economic development. The EDC is a 501c3, contracted by Wayne County Government, focusing on business development, particularly courting new business. The EDC is currently also working on community development, building amenities, blight elimination, and housing acceleration, as well as housing revitalization, to help companies attract talent. The town of Spring Grove can participate through a unit contribution agreement, wherein 50% of economic development income tax would be contributed to the EDC, which would be about \$9,600 for 2024. The opt-in can be changed with each four-year changed of elected officials. The decision regarding partnering with the EDC technically begins January 1, but the decision can be made at any time.

Mr. Plasterer encouraged Spring Grove to consider partnering with the EDC, describing the ongoing work the organization has accomplished in the approximately 30 years it has been in existence. He emphasized that much of the work the EDC does is keeping Wayne County current with what communities across the country are dealing with, by not relying only on attracting manufacturing jobs, but skilled workers as well. Wayne County is also emphasizing developing housing. He then reported that Wayne County has hired HWC Engineering to update and revise the county-wide plan to keep the momentum going to encourage workforce, housing, and amenity development. He asked that the board consider participating in this planning process to ensure Spring Grove's needs are addressed. HWC will then work to develop projects to attain each community's goals, determine possible revenue sources, etc. The county's plan will be an overarching plan including all the communities, similar to the HELP program. Mr. Plasterer pointed out that with HELP there were the ARPA funds to draw upon, whereas with this planning process, there are no funds to be applied, so it will be more important to prioritize projects and the related funding possibilities. There will be no monetary cost to the town to participate, only time investment through attending meetings. The details of timing and length of such time commitment has not yet been decided, but it will begin in January.

Mr. Plasterer reported that every community, in order to receive funding from the EDIT tax, needs to complete a capital improvement plan that is remitted to the county. This would include how much the community plans to receive and how the community intends to spend it. The state requires that if that document is not returned to the county every two years, theoretically, the auditor is not supposed to transfer those funds to the community.

Mr. Sickmann reported that he will put the above discussions on his docket to look over and the board can move forward with it at a future meeting. Ordinances 4-2024 (disturbing the peace) and 5-2024 (animal and poultry limitations) were signed by present board members. He has tried to follow up regarding revising the 2025 fire contract, but has received no responses.

Ms. Holthouse presented November financials, showing a balance of \$810,400.74. She also reported that all back reporting 2021 – 2023 of monthly and annual uploads has been completed.

Mr. Holthouse reported that the website is now live. Ms. Chasteen will be webmaster. Mr. Erbse asked that our personal email addresses be removed from the website, as he is getting too many spam emails. Ms. Chasteen will set up a town email and put that as a contact instead. Mr. Erbse and Ms. Chasteen will administer the FB page, as the prior citizen volunteer has not responded. Mr. Holthouse also reported that there has been no movement with the floodplain ordinance as it is still being reviewed by Laura Miller and the DNR.

Mr. Catron's service to the board was recognized and appreciated. Ms. Chasteen nominated Lisa VanDevender as Mr. Catron's replacement on the board, beginning in 2025. Mr. Erbse seconded the nomination. All in favor. Ms. VanDevender also volunteered to help Mr. Erbse and Ms. Chasteen with FB and email.

With no further business, Ms. Chasteen moved to adjourn, Mr. Catron seconded. Meeting was adjourned 6:38 pm.

<u>R. Erbse</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>J. N. Catron</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>Lisa VanDevender</u>	