

MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF SPRING GROVE

January 14, 2025

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

Board members present included Doug Brenneke, Robert Erbse, Lisa VanDevender, Zane Carrell and Annemarie Chasteen.

Also present were Planning Commissioner Jeff Holthouse and attorney AJ Sickmann. Clerk-Treasurer Jenney Holthouse was absent. 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 December meeting were presented. Mr. Carrell moved to approve; Ms. Chasteen seconded. All in favor. Vouchers were presented for signature in the amounts of \$300.00 to Rinehart's for mowing, \$483.00 to Rinehart's for salt, another \$483.00 to Rinehart's for salt, \$437.00 to Rinehart's for salt, \$2,886.65 to EFTPS for payroll taxes, \$4,521.00 to Rinehart's for snow removal and salt, and \$615.20 to RP&L for streetlights.

AJ reported that Ms. VanDevender has completed required paperwork is now an official board member. Mr. Holthouse asked if there was progress negotiating the fire contract; Mr. Sickmann is still working with the city and will invite a city representative to the next board meeting to discuss. Ms. VanDevender questioned what negotiations were being considered for fire contract, and Mr. Brenneke explained that the Spring Grove contribution has been extremely inflationary (over 10% per year) and we do not want the calculation to continue to increase unchecked. There are concerns that much of the apportionment is due to property tax-exempt assessments. Ms. Chasteen wonders if there could be a reduction since Reid now provides ambulance service, rather than the city fire department providing it. Ms. Chasteen also wondered if there was a way to get information as to Spring Grove calls as a part of the fire department as a whole. She will try to find that information before next meeting.

Mr. Holthouse, reporting in lieu of Ms. Holthouse, reported a 12/31/24 bank balance of \$785,902.29. He also reported that the annual report for 2024 has been filed with the state of Indiana. No floodplain ordinance updates are available.

Mr. Holthouse that the EDIT (Economic Development Income Tax) actually requires that Spring Grove (and all participating municipalities) file a capital improvement plan with the county every two years in order to receive their portion of EDIT. Then each municipality was originally expected to remit half of that EDIT to the EDC in order to benefit county-wide economic development. Spending the remaining half can then be approved by the county, through the capital improvement plan. This allows county-wide economic planning to be strategically performed. Spring Grove is receiving the money, but the EDC is not receiving half, and our last capital improvement plan was filed in 2021. Mr. Sickmann distributed a copy of the last prior plan filed for everyone's reference. The question before the board is do we want to contribute half of the upcoming (2025 and future) EDIT to the EDC? Mr. Sickmann and Mr. Holthouse agreed that Spring Grove, and all municipalities, benefit from the work of the EDC.

The board discussed the upcoming county-wide planning process. Possible involvement will be discussed at a future meeting.

With no further business, Ms. Chasteen moved to adjourn, Mr. Carrell seconded. Meeting was adjourned 7:40 pm.






