

MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF SPRING GROVE

February 11, 2025

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

Board members present included Doug Brenneke, Lisa VanDevender and Annemarie Chasteen.

Also present were Planning Commissioner Jeff Holthouse, Clerk-Treasurer Jenney Holthouse, city of Richmond mayor Ron Oler, and attorney AJ Sickmann. Absent were board members Zane Carrell and Robert Erbse.

Ron Oler and the board discussed Mr. Oler’s email claiming a past-due amount on the fire contract of \$122,053.50. Ms. Holthouse pointed out several errors in the email, including incorrect contract amounts for several years, as well as unrecorded payments. Mr. Oler said they would do more research. Mr. Brenneke asked for a more thorough explanation of the calculation of Spring Grove’s fire contract share, calculated at \$92,668 for 2025. The fire contract is increasing at a much more rapid rate than the assessed values. Ms. Chasteen presented information from the fire department showing that Spring Grove had 12 calls in 2022, 7 of which were for exempt properties, and only 3 were for actual fires. Mr. Sickmann wondered if it would be more appropriate to charge a user fee rather than based upon assessed values. Mr. Oler asked what our total budget is, and Ms. Holthouse reported our budget was \$136,000 last year. The new proposed fire contract was received after the budget was submitted to the state, which made a 15% increase harder to account for. Mr. Brenneke reported that road maintenance is our other big line item in our budget, as the town contracts that service rather than using city services. Mr. Oler reported that the city worked with Wayne Township and reduced their contract to the amount they received from the state for fire protection. Mr. Oler reported that he will work with Spring Grove to reach an equitable agreement. Mr. Sickmann will check with purchasing at the city to see if he can obtain the formula for calculating Spring Grove’s share.

Minutes from the January were presented. Ms. Chasteen moved to approve; Ms. VanDevender seconded. All in favor. Vouchers were presented for signature in the amounts of \$1,932 to Rinehart’s for salt and snow removal.

Mr. Sickmann reported on the Economic Development income tax certified distribution report. Ms. Holthouse will populate and send out; Mr. Sickmann will print an official report for next meeting.

Ms. Holthouse reported a 1/31/2025 bank balance of \$785,068.90.

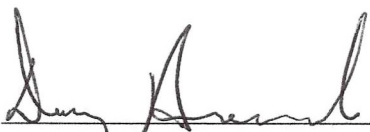
Mr. Holthouse is still trying to get striping estimates for Waterfall Road. He has not received any reports of any other needs for the Planning Commission.

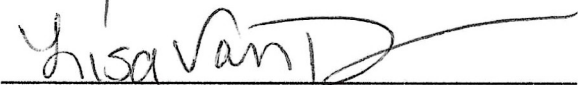
Mr. Brenneke thanked Ms. Holthouse for her time as clerk-treasurer. The board will begin looking for a replacement. Ms. Chasteen recommended that the board be provided procedures as well as a job description so that nothing gets missed in case of a future transition.

Ms. Chasteen will remove the website’s Facebook link, since there is no administrator at present.

Mr. Holthouse reported that Forward Wayne County has sent numerous emails regarding meetings for the county-wide planning process. Mr. Brenneke will notify Acacia St. John that Spring Grove will not be attending the meetings.

With no further business, Ms. Chasteen moved to adjourn, Ms. VanDevender seconded. All in favor. Meeting was adjourned 8:04 pm.

  
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