

**MORGANTOWN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
HELD JANUARY 24, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Courtney Allen at 6:45 p.m. Council members; Walter Abbott, Penny Anderson, Jeremy Baker, Joe Blevins and Council President, Courtney Allen were present. Also, present were Marshal, Ryan Swank, DPW Kyle Rooks and Town Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk Treasurer, Sharon McIntosh. Special guests were Mark Sighting representing the EMA and Lori Young with Curry & Associates.

SIREN

Jackson County Advisory Board member, Mark Sighting explained the Township was approached by the EMA about the possibility of taking over the weather sirens the township owns. The township is part owner of the siren in Morgantown as well as the town. Mark Tumey, as Director of the EMA has proposed taking over ownership of the sirens, including the maintenance and insurance from this point forward. The Township has decided this is in the best interest of the tax payers of Jackson Township. The EMA director wanted to hear from the Council concerning their opinion of this proposed arrangement. Mark Sighting explained the sirens in the county are checked every day and the EMA is working on new technology for better information. If there is an issue with a siren the information is forwarded to the people who are responsible for making the repairs. Walter Abbott made a motion to transfer ownership of the siren to the EMA. Joe Blevins seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ryan Swank explained that Jeff Conner has informed him he will retire on January 28, 2023 after 26 years of service. Ryan asked the Council if they would consider letting Jeff Conners keep his duty pistol. Joe Blevins made a motion for Jeff Conners to keep his duty pistol. This motion was seconded by Walter Abbott. All members voted in favor of the motion. This leaves a full time opening for another police officer. John Bise, who previously worked as a police officer for Morgantown in the past would like to come back to the position. The Council interviewed John Bise before the special meeting in Executive Session. John is a certified police officer in the State of Indiana. John would require no training since he worked for the town

before. Jeremy Baker made a motion to hire John Bise with benefits. Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Town Marshal, Ryan Swank asked the Council to hire a part time deputy at \$25.00 an hour up to \$20,800.00 a year. This would be with no paid time off or benefits. This part time position would allow for more police coverage. The Marshal said his recommendation would be to hire Jeff Conners for the part time position. Marshal Swank also said he would like the Council to authorized to allow Jeff Conners to take one of the police vehicles home to use for work related incidents but no personal use. Joe Blevins made a motion to create a part time police position, hire Jeff Conners as a part time police officer for that position at \$25.00 an hour with the Town allowing Jeff to use one of the police vehicles for police business with no personal use. Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

TOWN PARK

Courtney Allen reported that all 8,000 lbs. of the playground equipment were delivered today. She explained more dirt work needs to be done at the park. Drew Barer with DG Barer Excavating gave a quote to do the dirt work for \$7,200.0. The company then gave a Little League discount of \$1,500.00 because the league would like to have a T Ball field put in at the park. The Playground company will do the installation of the equipment but the town will have to find someone to prepare the surround area. Lori Young with Curry & Associates said they have the specks for something like this and if the town needs this information, they have it. Lori also offered mapping of the area. Joe Blevins made a motion to approve the quote from Drew Barer with DG Excavating for \$5,700.00 after the discount to do the excavating work at the park. Penny Anderson seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

HOLIDAY

It has been brought to the attention of the Council members that DPW does not get paid for the Holidays they work only if they are called out for a work emergency then they are paid at time and a half. The Holiday time is added as Comp Time. Discussion was held between the Council members and the Town Attorney as to how this is not fair having to work on a Holiday and not getting paid for the Holiday but only getting paid for the call out at time and a half. The Police Department uses working on a Holiday to take another day off during the week. Town Marshal, Ryan Swank said by paying time and a half to the police department it would affect the appropriation line of the budget so the policy is you get a day off for having to work the Holiday. Lee Robbins said when the Council voted to change the policy by giving time and a half for call out regardless, he did not understand why the Council would pay premium pay before

the employee reach 40 hours. Kyle Rooks wanted to make a proposal to the Council as other Cities and Towns do when you are on call you are paid a stipend for that week. Ryan Swank feels the employee handbook needs to be reviewed. He also feels that 2 Council members should meet with the Department Heads once a month. After the discussion a motion was made by Council member Joe Blevins to pay Kyle Rooks for 24 hours for working on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year. To pay Dustin Patton for 16 hours for working the Holidays. The motion was seconded by Council member, Walter Abbott. All members voted in favor of the motion. Kyle Rooks spoke up to the Clerk Treasurer and said he is only owed for 8 hours and Dustyn is owed for 16 hours because they both had taken other days off for working on the Holidays. Courtney Allen and Joe Blevins are going to meet once a month with Department Heads.

LORI YOUNG

Lori Young with Curry & Associates spoke about the Community Crossing Grant. Kyle has been working with David Talbot with Curry and they have been identifying projects and cost estimates. The application is due on January 27th to INDOT along with a letter stating the town has the funds to meet their 25% portion of the project estimate. The project estimate is \$324,555.00 with the town's portion being \$81,138.83. Some of the project includes new sidewalks. Kyle Rooks asked Lori if Brenda Court was listed on the project and it was not. Brenda Court will be done in the fall. Kyle needs to get with Jill Curry to update the administrator of the Community Crossings and other documents.

On the wastewater project the Change Order #3 has been revised with the asphalt being removed until later. The Change order #3 total amount is \$75,775.00. Joe Blevins made a motion to approve revised Change Order #3 for \$75,775.00. This motion was seconded by Courtney Allen. All members voted in favor of the motion.

Water line project replacement at the alley from Church and Cross Street behind the town garage that is moving forward. The Contract for the project was signed by Council President, Courtney Allen. That project was approved at the December meeting. Project meeting is Friday at 2:00 p.m. Lowes Excavating is the contractor for the project.

Lori Young explained the issue with 160 Morton Street with 3 laterals on the property. Lykins came out 3 different time to address the issue. The owner has hired plumbers and said she has bills that need to be paid by the Town or Lykins. Lori explained it is not Lykins fault or the Town's. The previous owner signed the easement but no one was aware there were 3 laterals

on the property. The owner will be attending the next Council meeting so this will be addressed at that time.

DPW

Kyle Rooks handed out information about a Vac trailer. This is something he would like the Council to consider for the future.

RESOLUTION

Resolution #2023-1 approving transfers made by the Clerk Treasurer was presented for approval. Council member, Joe Blevins made a motion to approve the Resolution 2023-1. Council member, Jeremy Baker seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

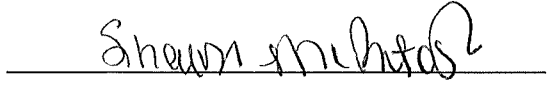
The meeting was adjourned by the President.

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES DATED JANUARY 24, SIGNED FEBRUARY 13, 2023

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Courtney Allen", is written over a horizontal line.

Council President, Courtney Allen

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sharon McIntosh", is written over a horizontal line.

Sharon McIntosh, Clerk Treasurer