

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MARCH 25, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. Members present were Todd Angerman, Michael Gruszka, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich; Jill Murr, Clerk-Treasurer. John Alessia was absent. Staff present were Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Police Chief Jim Woestman, Fire Chief Chris Gamblin, and GIS Director Greg White. Also in attendance, Jon Borgers, Wessler Engineering and Town Attorney David Westland joined via Zoom.

WWTP SRF Funding Application Discussion – Town Manager Craig Hendrix stated that the SRF (State Revolving Fund) Application is due on Monday, April 1st. The PER (Preliminary Engineers Report) is due with the submission to the IFA (Indiana Finance Authority) for SRF funding. The SRF offers low interest funding, around 2.5% for twenty-year terms. Discussion occurred on how big the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant for the first expansion. The plant is currently rated at a 4M capacity, noting that peak and average daily flows are the same. Nitrogen treatment will be needed in the future. The current need for all planned developments in both communities is 4.3M gallons. When you reach 90% capacity, IDEM will put you on notice. The basin at the plant must be done now. The new plant will have a peak and less reliance on the basins and Actiflo system. There was discussion on eight to twelve, the design is to add on without having to redo things. It will be a type of modular system; you can add to component. It will be a different, more organized approach. The project will take about three years, one of which will be design, permit and bidding. This will be discussed at the next JMOB meeting, a date will be set for May. The PER and SRF application don't obligate the town to anything. An approximate cost for 6MGD, which includes the basin, is \$53M. The Wessler Engineering Treatment Plant Flow Projections report was distributed and reviewed. The application will be submitted and can be amended if needed. A resolution will be needed down the road. This will be an agenda item to authorize the Town Manager to submit the project at 8MGD.

Town Manager Hendrix reported that he will be submitting a READI grant with the Indiana Economic Development Commission. The PER and flow study will be submitted with it. This is a 4 to 1 matching grant; the ask will be for \$10M which will be 1/5th of the project.

Opioid Funding for Township Discussion – Town Manager Hendrix stated the unrestricted opioid funds will be used for the K-9 unit. Alice Dahl, Cedar Creek Township trustee, reached out about the use of the restricted opioid funds for first responders. They would coordinate the program.

Employee Handbook Modifications – The employee handbook needs some modifications. Town Attorney David Westland reported that Clerk-Treasurer Jill Murr reached out on some variances between Town Code and the Employee Handbook. They will work together and bring this back to the Town Council.

Gun Range Discussion – Councilman Gruszka and Town Manager Hendrix presented a project to update the gun range in conjunction with Lake County. Lake County is unable to purchase property; it would be our property. This would be a joint agreement/use agreement with a project cost of one million dollars and half of it being the Town. The funds would need to be available for the 2025 budget year.


Use of Town Property for Sales – this item was discussed, and it should be a function of the parks department as a Farmer's Market. Procedures will be developed.

The Work Session adjourned at 6:40 pm.



Todd Angerman, President

Attest:



Jill Murr, Clerk-Treasurer