

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
April 8, 2024**

The Work Session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 5:40 P.M. Members present were Michael Gruszka, John Alessia, Shane Tucker, and John Yelkich; Jill Murr, Clerk-Treasurer. Todd Angerman was absent. Staff present were Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Police Chief Jim Woestman, Fire Chief Chris Gamblin, and GIS Director Greg White. Town Attorney David Westland joined via Zoom.

CDBG Funding Discussion – Town Manager Craig Hendrix requested that the 2024-2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount of \$54,000 be utilized for ADA improvements. The last funding term is being utilized for the parking lot at Freedom Park Dog Park. The next round of funding could be used at Freedom Park for the restrooms. Next year's project will have the \$20,000 from the Townships kick back in. Rotary would like to install another shelter at Freedom Park. He would like to redo the entrance to Freedom Park and add sidewalk to connect the park to Heritage Falls subdivision. There was discussion on sidewalks on Burr Street north of McDonald's and ways to connect them.

West Side Sewer easements – Craig Hendrix stated that there are twenty-one easements needed. He will need Council's approval to make offers to the property owners authorizing him to negotiate up to the appraised value. He will work with the buyer on staff. This will be an agenda item.

Craig Hendrix stated that the Town and Indiana American Water plan is to let the projects at the same time. Easements are being purchased for both utilities. IAW will be paying for half of the survey, appraisals, buyer, title work and a proportionate amount of the easements. The projected costs and oversizing the lift station for 3 mgd, build wet well for the future as well as a generator and NIPSCO service. Funding includes \$2M from ARPA, \$1M school and \$1.1M Lake County. IAW will pay for about half of it; assumption of costs as the Town upsized. The rules on ARPA have been updated, the funds need to be obligated to a contract and contractor by the end of 2024. There was discussion on waiving connection fees for original users and up to one year after the project for those along the route with easements. Craig Hendrix has submitted the PER for \$52M and the READI grant for \$13.5M. The Town has to move forward on the basin at the plant. A funding path for the basin is needed. Stormwater projects were discussed including Lincoln Street, Powell ditch bridge, and the sewer main. Other areas include Hilltop/Joe Martin area where there is no existing stormwater infrastructure, downtown and Castlebrook. Craig Hendrix will get the stormwater board meeting scheduled and bring the projects to them with costs; then he will go to Buzz and Corby. The projects can run a parallel path for sewer, not just the plant. Slip lining could be utilized to fix laterals in rear yards, some of the piping is over twenty feet deep and clay tile. Slip lining has to be done before piping files. Other areas discussed were Sequoia to Willowbrook, the Preserves, and Heritage Falls. Many projects have a sanitary and stormwater component. All streets have some stormwater for matching funding.

The fire department is selling its 3,000-gallon water tank truck. This would be helpful with the Town's vactor truck and easement equipment. This will be an agenda item.

Mike Gruszka reported that David Westland has been in contact with the Lake County attorney regarding the gun range.

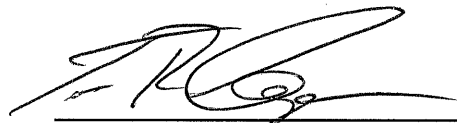
A public hearing will be needed for the Preliminary Engineers report. This will be scheduled for

Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Due to the holiday the meeting will be on Tuesday, instead of Monday. The next JMOB meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm and will include a tour of the plant.

Craig Hendrix reported on the maintenance facility, costs and the SWPP are being updated. He is getting the RFI ready, the gun range can facilitate it and soil will be brought in from developers for the piles needed.

The was continued discussion on sanitary and stormwater projects including Windsor Woods off Holtz Road, Graythorne lift station has no generator – project cost is a half-million dollars; Hawthorne lift station needs \$70,000 in repairs. Discussion occurred on rates and having a more robust analysis before the next increase. The PER and how the budget is built was discussed.

The work session adjourned at 6:45 pm.



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Todd Angerman, President

Attest:



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Jill Murr, Clerk-Treasurer