

Town Of DeMotte

112 Carnation Street SE, DeMotte, Indiana 46310
Voice: 219.987.3831 Fax: 219.987.3836
www.townofdemotte.com

Council Members
Jeffrey Cambe
Mark Boer
Alana Bauman
Dale Eenigenburg
Terry Schultz
Clerk Treasurer
Cindy Shepherd
Town Manager
Michael Cain

Northwest Jasper Regional District (NORWEJ) February 26, 2024
Minutes of Meeting: Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Northwest Jasper Regional District met in person on February 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM in a regular meeting pursuant to call in accordance with the rules of the board.

Present

Andrew Andree
Peggy Michelin
John Price
Don Goetz

Kent Bierma
Jeff Cambe

Absent

Mark Boer

Andrew Andree, who presided, called the meeting to order.

Minutes

Jeff Cambe motioned to approve the January 22, 2024, minutes John Price seconded. Motion carried.
Jeff Cambe motioned to approve the February 5, 2024, Special Meeting minutes. Kent Bierma seconded.
Motion carried.

Financial Report:

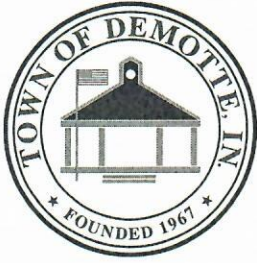
Don Goetz reported on the financial report. Don reported the operating account balances as of February 26, were \$704,723.78 and the Bond and Interest Account was \$347,742.38. A fund report was given to the board members to show the current balances. Peggy Michelin motioned to accept the financial report unreconciled. John Price seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Don reported to the board that the 2022 AFR has been completed by Baker Tilly and uploaded to Gateway. They are now working on 2023.

Water Department Report

Public Works Superintendent Dave Yurko gave the water report. Dave provided an update on the construction progress on 8th Ave. He informed the board that drilling and tapping operations have started, and a few sections of pipe have been successfully installed. Dave presented the board with a "cookie" extracted from the drilling process, showcasing the remarkably clean interior of the pipe even after 12 years. The board was impressed with the condition of the pipe.

Dave informed the board about the successful installation of a water meter at the new recreational center located at Calvary Church. He confirmed that the center is now operational with access to water services. Dave briefed the board on the reports generated by Town Manager Mike Cain for high usage users. He highlighted a case involving an elderly woman with unusually high water consumption. Upon receiving the report, Dave promptly investigated the matter. After conducting a data log and inspecting the pit, it was discovered that the woman had a significant leak in her home that had been ongoing for some time. Dave reached out to the woman to inform her about the issue. The woman hired a plumber, and it was discovered there was a leak in the crawl space. The woman expressed gratitude to Dave via text message for the assistance provided.



Town Of DeMotte

112 Carnation Street SE, DeMotte, Indiana 46310

Voice: 219.987.3831 Fax:219.987.3836

www.townofdemotte.com

Council Members
Jeffrey Cambe
Mark Boer
Alana Bauman
Dale Eenigenburg
Terry Schultz
Clerk Treasurer
Cindy Shepherd
Town Manager
Michael Cain

President Andy raised a question regarding whether there is a report available to identify spikes in water usage on customer accounts. Dave informed the board that the utility clerk can generate a report after meter readings are conducted, which can indicate potential high usage on accounts. Andy inquired about the potential benefits of upgrading the meter system to address this issue. Dave stated that he had discussed this matter with Town Manager Mike Cain. He mentioned that steps have been taken to explore the possibility of implementing a system that would report high water usage in real time. Such a system would aid in reducing water wastage during leaks and would also benefit customers by eliminating the need to request forgiveness for excessive water bills.

Engineering Report

Chip Thompson from Abonmarche Consultants, Inc. provided the board with an update on ongoing projects. He reported significant progress on the 8th Ave water main, despite a slow start. Approximately 100 feet of the water main was installed today, and it is expected to be near completion by the end of the week or early next week. Chip also mentioned efforts to schedule the relocation of the NIPSCO hydrant on US Highway 231. Additionally, Chip informed the board that the easement for the water main near Save a Lot has been completed. He further noted advancements in the three remaining contracts for the I-65 extension and the new water treatment plant, anticipating closure within the next month or two.

President Andy Andree raised a query regarding the inclusion of a "T" and a valve on the water main by 9th Ave for potential future projects. Chip responded that although it is not currently part of the plans, they can draft it up upon request, albeit incurring additional costs. Dave recommended incorporating it into the current project, emphasizing its potential benefits. Andy asked Chip if he would be able to provide them with a quote.

New Business

President Andy Andree presented the board with the following water forgiveness requests:

Jane Hoffman, 330 11th Circle SE, DeMotte, IN 46310 - \$1125.90. John Price made a motion to approve the water forgiveness. Peggy Michelin seconded. Motion carried.

Terry Chapman, 1033 Begonia Street SE, DeMotte, IN 46310 - \$479.29. Kent Bierma made a motion to approve the water forgiveness. John Price seconded. Motion carried.

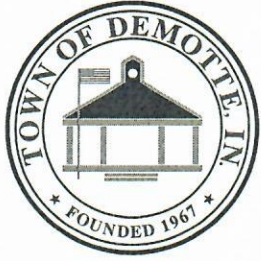
Old Business

President Andy Andree introduced the board to Mitch Eschweiler from Baker Tilly Municipality Advisors presented the board with the findings of the rate study they conducted. Mitch elaborated on the key points of the study, providing insights into proposed rate adjustments and their potential impact on the municipality.

Attorney Luis Vallejo informed the board that the first reading of the ordinance was conducted during the special meeting held on February 5, 2024.

Don Goetz made a motion to waive the second reading of the ordinance. Jeff Cambe seconded the motion.

He proceeded to read Ordinance 02262024-1 Rate Increase aloud for the 3rd reading. Peggy Michelin made a motion to approve the ordinance. John Price seconded. Motion carried.



Town Of DeMotte

112 Carnation Street SE, DeMotte, Indiana 46310

Voice: 219.987.3831 Fax: 219.987.3836

www.townofdemotte.com

Council Members
Jeffrey Cambe
Mark Boer
Alana Bauman
Dale Eenigenburg
Terry Schultz
Clerk Treasurer
Cindy Shepherd
Town Manager
Michael Cain

Motion to adjourn by Don Goetz and seconded by Kent Bierma. Motion carried.



President: Andrew Andree



Administrative Assistant, Tara Howard

