

TOWN OF MARION
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 26, 2021

1. **Call to order:** Steve Peer called the April 26, 2021, special town meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. to explore potential grant opportunities for building a salt shed, town hall and for purchase of a new truck.
2. **Roll call:** Present at the meeting were: Steve Peer, Chairman; Todd King, Supervisor; Jerrod Waterman, Supervisor; Judi Boughton, Clerk; Laurie King, Treasurer.

Citizens who were in attendance of the meeting were: Ron Brisbois from Grant County Economic Development.

3. **Proof of Posting:** Notice of the meeting and agenda were posted on April 22, 2021, at the town shop and the town web site.
4. **Discuss Grant Opportunities with Ron Brisbois of Grant County Economic Development:** Ron Brisbois of Grant County Economic Development was present at the meeting. Ron said townships will be receiving funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, and these funds should be placed in a separate non-interest-bearing bank account. These should not be lumped into other funding for accountability purposes. We will find out the beginning of May how much the funds will total. Steve said Travis Kramer thought we would get \$2,000 per mile of road. Ron said the funds cannot be used for pensions and replace taxes. Currently, the funds are reserved for water, sewer or broadband internet structure. They are not supposed to be used for roads. Ron said the first week of May we will find out more. On May 10, the county will get their funding. Ron thinks the townships will get their funding probably from the county. The first half should be somewhere on or after May 10th. The second half will be 12 months after. We will have up until 2024 to use the funding. From the standpoint of internet service, the county will be coming around this area with cabling for internet. There will be a fiber ring around the county for sheriff's department emergency service. They are also working on more funding for infrastructure for jobs creation, infrastructure for roads. Steve explained the town's situation with keeping up on keeping the roads seal coated. Discussed need to put up a salt shed due to DNR requirements and not having enough room in our current salt

shed. Ron said he would check with contractor on the price of a salt shed. Steve thought they would need 3 bays, maybe 30 x 100 feet. Well and septic is something they could put in also. Ron said possibly part or all may be able to be funded with American Rescue Plan, but it is not to be used for roads. Todd also mentioned a meeting area next to salt shed.

Steve said it would be nice to update machinery. Ron said a truck would be tough. New trucks are around \$160,000 to \$180,000. He looks at it as a capital improvement plan (next 5 to 10 years).

Ron said with the funding that is coming down, maybe you can pay off debt. If you use the federal funds for certain things, there are regulations, for example, the contractor would likely have to be paid a federal prevailing wage. That will add 15% to 20% cost to the project. Monitoring all of that is not fun to do. You would have to monitor every week's payroll until project is completed. Steve suggested paying off debt and take out a loan for a building. No one has said for sure about the prevailing wage.

On capital improvement plan, what Ron is looking at is salt shed, well and septic and possible new town hall and sand truck. Asked what we load with. Steve said we have leased a tractor and have the option of buying it back.

Cost of well, 100 feet, is around Steve thinks \$12,000. Septic over 10,000 (probably \$12,000). Ron will look around to see what he comes up with. Hard part is to wait and see what the money can be used for but will get the federal dollars. Should keep an eye on governor's budget and see where they put funds. A lot of times with the LRIP program, you have to show an economic development. You need to show how it is tied to a business and how the improvements are being made to the road to accommodate such and such business to get additional funding for that road. You have to justify the road is needed and has heavy traffic. Some

businesses discussed were the Frey quarry, European Mounts and Memories on Maple. It would be 80%/20% for something like a bridge. DOT will let us know when we will need to replace the bridge. It is good for LRIP program if you have a match. Helps if low or moderate income. Ron will check on our low/moderate income percentage (Note: In followup email, we are at 41.41%, which does not qualify). Can do a survey of households within township. Senior centers are eligible. Every case, there will be a match required. Truck is a long shot at best. There may be something to the town hall, septic and well. Salt shed might be easier to fund. Ron can see there being an environmental fund, which would be a different pot of money. Ron said to wait and see what further guidance we will be receiving regarding the American Rescue Plan funds.

- 5. Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Todd. Jerrod seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Boughton, Clerk