

7368

**TOWN OF WAYNETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2025**

ROBERT COX

Call to Order

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Prayer

Bob said the prayer.

Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Roll Call

Bob Cox, Randy Phillips, Doug Harris and Aaron Bengel were present. Barry Lewis was not present.

BOB COX - APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- A. April 09, 2025 - Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Claims Paid Prior to Town Council Meeting
- C. Claims to be Paid
- D. Payroll Reports for April 2025
- E. Clerk-Treasurer Financial Reports - March Closed & April Not Closed
- F. Clerk-Treasurer Utility Report for April 2025
- G. Utility Superintendent Report for April 2025
- H. Town Marshal Reports for April 2025

Aaron made a motion to pass the Consent Agenda as presented. Doug seconded. Motion passed 5-0, except for the April 9, 2025, Town Council Meeting Minutes, which passed 4-0-1. Barry abstained from voting on the Minutes because he was not present at that Meeting.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Erin Hasley - Tipmont Electric - Territorial Swap

Erin said she heard from a reputable source that Tipmont is looking into a Territorial Swap on 830 West and asked if that was true. Bob said Tipmont is asking about a Swap, but we do not know where it is going to be and we don't even know if we will do it. Erin asked what the reasoning was for it and Bob said so we would be able to get the electricity north of Town on the west side of 25 north to the Interstate. Erin asked at what point was the Town planning on informing the residents on 830 West. Bob said it has not even been talked about yet. Bob asked David Peebles, Town Attorney, if he had any conversations with Tipmont and David said no. David said they are just trying to figure out where, what and how and Bob said he does not think there has been an address or area determined yet. Erin said if so then that is going to be an extra \$38 a month and Bob said Tipmont customers pay a lot more than Waynetown customers pay. David said the way a Swap works is that Waynetown Electric would have to give Tipmont something and it would have to be approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Bob said John had a verbal agreement with Tipmont about six (6) or so month ago and now they are talking about a Swap. Erin said Tipmont's rates are about double what Waynetown's are. Bob said later on the Agenda we are going to be looking at raising our Electric Rates, but they still will not be equal to Tipmont's rates.

A gentleman asked if the Swap was based on the new improvements on 25 and Bob said originally, we had a verbal agreement with Tipmont that they would let us have the area. Barry said they got a new boss and the person that we had the verbal agreement with is no longer with Tipmont.

The gentleman asked about the Town paying \$9,000 for a Study and Bob said the entire Study will cost \$15,000, and the gentleman said he thought the Study was dropped. Bob said that is two (2) different things. Bob told the gentleman he was talking about the \$88,000 Land Use Study and the one (1) on the Agenda is called a Feasibility Study. Bob said the Feasibility Study will give us their estimate of what it will cost the Town to run utilities to that area and what we would have to do as far as sewer and water. The gentleman asked if already having utilities there is kind of jumping the gun and Bob said electricity no and we are working with IMPA but we have no utilities for water and sewage and said you will know when that goes in because it will be quite an ordeal. The gentleman said electricity is a utility and Bob said yes but that is already there and all we have to do is run the wires to the railroad tracks and the gentleman said as an extension of Town services for a fee. Bob said yes, just like we extended the services to the Dollar General. The gentleman said he could see the Dollar General being more in Town and a Business for the Town. Sandy said the Dollar General does not pay their taxes to the Town of Waynetown, because they are not in the Town's limits, but we do service them with Utilities.

Phil Pirtle - Street Fair

Phil said the Street Fair is Saturday. Bob said the Christian Church is going to be giving away cotton candy and popcorn this year instead of charging for it. Bob asked if the Fire Department was going to clean the street again this year and Phil said no.

ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

Kyle said the Police Department is going to start with abandoned vehicles, junk vehicles and vehicles that have not moved. They are going to go around in the next couple of days and get a list put together. Kyle said he did this a couple of years ago and wrote 13 Ordinance Violations and once they gave them the (10) days to get rid of them, they got rid of all of them.

Kyle said this will give everyone time to get rid of their trash on June 7, 2025 at the Town Clean Up Day.

Randy said he talked to a lady that is helping John McClements get his property cleaned up. Kyle said he has talked to her also. She asked Kyle if John could take the woodchipper over there and chip up all the limbs. Kyle said he was going to ask John about this, but he is not here.

AQUATIC CENTER

Mandatory Meeting 5-18-25 at 1 PM * Suits & Equipment Here * Opening Day 5-24-25 at Noon

Bob said the mandatory meeting for Aquatic Center Employees is on 5-18-2025 at 1 PM and reported that their suits and the new equipment are here. Bob said they are hoping to open of 5-24-2025 at Noon.

Resurface Basketball Court * 2 Pickleball Courts - Proposal from Howard Companies

Bob said we received a proposal for resurfacing the Basketball Court from Howard Companies and he thought it was pretty steep. Randy said for Pickleball don't you have to have a net and Bob said they use portable nets. Randy wanted clarification if the basketball court was the one in the park and not by the old school grounds and Bob said yes. Kyle said the one on the old school grounds is owned by the Township, not the Town.

Bob said there is a local company he thinks we need to get a quote from, and Barry said we will not have that quote until this weekend. Bob mentioned Ryan Nupnau, basketball coach at North Montgomery, and Barry said he does tennis courts all over the State for high schools. Barry said he thinks his quote will come back for less than the one we received.

Someone asked if we were repaving the basketball court and Bob said we were hoping to just put an overlay on it and have it striped. Barry said Ryan does not do paving.

Bob tabled this discussion.

Park Bench for Suicide Prevention * Joe Ellis, Veterans Service Officer Montgomery County
Bob said Joe Ellis wants to give the Town a Park Bench that will have suicide prevention information on it. Sandy said Joe wants to know how many benches the Town wants and said he is placing them in all Montgomery Towns for people to see. Bob asked if everyone has seen the pictures and said the bench is really cool looking. Barry said we need to figure out where to put them. Bob said they cannot just go anywhere because of ADA guidelines. Discussion ensued.

Barry made a motion to request four (4) Park Benches for Suicide Prevention. Doug seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

COUNCIL OLD BUSINESS

Update on a Different Solution to Sharing Internal Data instead of DropBox * Laptop or iPads or ?
Sandy said there was no update.

Update on HWC Engineering Feasibility Study on West Side of SR 25 - Invoice for \$9,000
Bob said we have received the first invoice for the work HWC has done for \$9,000. Bob said there is no update and mentioned that he and Doug were supposed to meet with them today, but they had to cancel. Bob said the next meeting is scheduled for Monday. Bob said the \$9,000 is part of the \$15,000 contract previously approved.

Doug made a motion to pay the \$9,000 invoice, \$4,500 out of the Water Fund and \$4,500 out of the Sewer Fund. Barry seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Update on Live Steaming Town Council Meetings by 7-1-2025 - Business Account - Amazon - Sandy to Order Equipment from Matt Foxworthy E-mail - Donation to Radio/TV Program at Western Boone

Bob said Sandy is trying to figure out how to get equipment ordered from Amazon sales tax exempt. Bob mentioned Sandy is trying to make sure ordering from a Third-Party Seller on Amazon will be sales tax exempt. Sandy said she sent an e-mail to the Indiana Department of Revenue requesting clarification a couple of days ago but has not heard back yet. Sandy mentioned the States Tax Exemption Form changed a couple of years ago and now you have to list the name and address of the seller. Sandy said she did not want to get an audit years from now and it come back that the sale was not supposed to be tax exempt because she would have to pay the sale tax out of her pocket.

Bob said Matt Foxworthy is the director of the WEBO TV, and he is going to install the video equipment just for whatever donation we want to make to the CTE Program. Bob said he has North, South, Crawfordsville and Western Boone students in his WEBO TV class. Bob said Matt did not want any money and is willing to do this for a donation.

COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS

ARP Funds - SLFRF Annual Compliance Report Submitted

Bob said the APR SLFRF Compliance Report has been submitted. Sandy sent the Town Council an e-mail about the report. Sandy said there was a penny error and it would not let her submit the report. Sandy said she had to watch a webinar and ask questions about this in the chat to get a response. The response was that is a rounding error from the State. Sandy said we have a penny more than the State says we have. Sandy said all of the money had to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and it was. Sandy said all of the money was also spent by December 31, 2024. Sandy said she was told to reduce her report by the penny so the report could be submitted by the April 30, 2025 deadline. Sandy said she still cannot close out the award until she receives an e-mail or letter that will allow her to do that.

IMPA \$1,000 Sponsorship for Freedom Festival * Pay WCI \$1,000 from Festival Donation Fund

Sandy said she requested a \$1,000 sponsorship from IMPA for the sound system and band for the Freedom Festival. Barry said it has been approved. Sandy said she is requesting permission to pay WCI \$1,000 when the money is received from IMPA.

Barry made a motion allowing Sandy to pay WCI \$1,000 once we receive the \$1,000 from IMPA. Aaron seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Peerless - Pump Test Results - Waiting on Quote

Sandy had sent the Town Council the Peerless Pump Performance Reports. Sandy said John had not received the quote yet.

Community Crossings Grant - Due to HB-1461 Change in Match - No Call in July

Bob said House Bill 1461 did kind of change how the Community Crossings Grants are going to be and mentioned they were giving away around 340 million dollars and now they are going to be 100 million. Bob said the Grant is going to be a lot more competitive and the match went down from 25% to 20%.

Sandy said they are not making it mandatory to adopt a Wheel Tax and a Surtax to apply for the Community Crossings Grant and Bob said that did get cut. Sandy said she needed clarification on if the Town would charge a Wheel Tax and a Surtax if that money would have to go to Streets and Bob and Barry both said yes.

HB-1461 - Wheel Tax and Surtax

Bob said the Town will get Wheel Tax and Excise Surtax from the County. Doug said at one of the Council Meeting they talked about the Town having to charge a Wheel Tax and Excise Surtax. Barry said originally if you wanted any of the State Community Crossing Grant Funds to pave the Roads you had to have a Wheel Tax and Excise Surtax and then they changed it to a population under 5,000 are not required to charge a Wheel Tax and an Excise Surtax to apply for the Community Crossing Grant. Barry said a lot of Towns are going to adopt the taxes because they think in a few years they will go back and make it a requirement. Barry said so right now we do not have to and Sandy said if we ever do people are getting double taxed because the County is taxing them and Waynetown would also be taxing them.

SB-1 - Property Tax - Local Income Tax Changes

Bob said everyone is going to get a \$300 Homestead Credit, basically if you owe \$1,000 in taxes then you will only owe \$700 after the Homestead Credit. However, the rise of the Wheel Tax and Excise Surtax is going to be pretty sizeable.

Barry said property is being assessed for more, so you are going to end up paying more in taxes than you did last year even though you are getting the \$300 Homestead Credit.

Bob said in 2028 this is even a bigger deal because something drops off and they have not renewed it. Bob said the cost drops off in 2026 and 2027 but we are going to be paying even more in 2028 than we are now. Bob said Representative Thompson, said there will be some tweaking to these bills over the next couple of years.

Sandy said it is her understanding that the Local Income Tax is changing and there is not going to be Public Safety money anymore and all of the LIT money will go into the General Fund under Local Income Tax and Bob said he did not think so because the County did not mention that at all. Sandy said she listened to a Webinar and it talked about having to go to the County to see how much LIT money the Town can get. Bob said we will have to look into that.

Bob said Indiana's property taxes are pretty steep and Governor Braun made campaign promises to reduce Indiana property taxes. Bob said there were a lot of changes made to the original bill right up until 1 AM on the day the bill was voted on. Sandy said the original bill was a lot worse than the bill that passed.

HB-1459 - Water & Wastewater Utility Asset Management Program Report - Submit to IURC

Sandy said when she listened to a Webinar that went over the highlights of a lot of the new Laws HB-459 was a big one. Sandy asked Busse if he had heard anything about this and he said he had to

do this for Wingate last year. Sandy asked Busse why and he said because Wingate wanted money for a Planning Study. Busse said it was a pain to do and very time consuming. Sandy had sent this to John and to the Town Council and told them there is required training they are going to have to do.

Ordinance 2025-001 - Electric Utility Rates and Charges

Bob said we have talked about raising the electric rates and we knew the day was coming. This will increase the rates for everyone in Town and mentioned the last time the rates were increased was in 2007. Barry said in the last two physical years we have lost \$58,000 and \$59,000. Barry said about five (5) years ago we had \$350,000 in the Electric Fund and today we have \$58,000 and said if we get hit with a big storm and it wipes out 10 poles and we need new wire strung we will not have the money.

Sandy said IMPA is charging the Town more for electric than the Town is charging its customers and that has been going on for a long time. Bob said we purchase our power wholesale from IMPA but IMPA buys it from Duke Energy. IMPA Communities are very popular because they are able to provide electric cheaper than other places in the State. Barry said the Town is paying IMPA around 9.2 cents per kilowatt hour and we are charging our customers around 6.12 cents per kilowatt hour.

Bob said a couple of months ago the Town voted to have a Rate Study done. Barry said he is the IMPA Representative for Waynetown and around 90% of the Towns raise their rates 1 or 2% every year and Waynetown has not raised their rates in 18 years so the rates are going to go up a lot. Barry said no one wants to raise the rates but the Town has to be ran like a Business. Barry said he is in favor of raising the rates a little bit every couple of years in the future instead of a big increase at one time. Barry said this rate increase is going to be a significant increase.

Brad Eads asked if Businesses pay a different rate and Barry said they have been but that is probably going to change. Barry said when he says we are charging the customer 6 cents that does not include a tracker factor which is a cost to deliver (fuel surcharge). Brad also said what Erin said earlier about Tipmont's rates are correct, they are higher than Waynetown's.

Barry said this rate increase is going to be a significant increase but not as much as when we had to increase the water rates. They increased from around \$20 to \$53 and we had not raised the water rates for 20 some years. Barry said when we went to get a loan on the water treatment plant we had to raise our rates so much because they had been so low for too long or the State would not give us a loan.

Doug asked if we were going to raise the rates all at once and Barry said that is what they need to discuss.

Jerod Taylor asked what the Solar Panels do for the Town. Barry said what the Solar Panels produce in kilowatt-hours is not charged to the Town, if we would use 20,000 kWh then IMPA would only charge us for 19,000 kWh. Erin asked if it was worth the cost and Barry said the Town did not pay anything, IMPA purchased the land and put in the Solar Park. Barry said IMPA wants a certain percentage of its portfolio to be Solar or they want it Green. Barry said he thinks IMPA has 71 Solar Parks throughout the State.

Jerod said during the months of June and September his Utility Bill is \$150 to \$200 more and wanted to know if there was a reason. Sandy said because it is hot and explained if you set your air conditioner at 70 and it is 80 outside you are going to pay one price and if it is close to 100 outside the price is going to go up. Barry said to go back and compare last year's bill to this year's bill for the same month and said he does this and the dollar amounts on his bills are pretty close. Barry said his highest bills are July, August and September when it is hot outside, not in the winter when it is cold. Barry said he is total electric and has an electric heat pump, which is not the best way to heat your house. Barry said last month he used around 1,200 kWh and he expects to use around 700 this month because the weather has been good and you can open the windows and he does not have the heat or air on. Jerod asked how he could get a printout of his utility bills and Sandy said she would print them for him.

Bob said by law rates are set by Ordinance. Barry said we are required to have a Public Hearing to just

talk about the proposed electric rates and said he has scheduled the Public Hearing at 6 PM at the Waynetown Christian Church on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Bob said Jarrod from Krohn, who did the rate study for the Town, will be at the Public Hearing to help answer questions. Sandy said we have an Ordinance for tonight that the Town Council has seen. Sandy said the rate study gave us three (3) different options.

Barry said the rate study looked into everything and it came back with three (3) different options. Barry said Option 1 is around a 9% increase and the Town breaks even. Sandy said the Town does not make any money and we should not lose any money either. Barry said we would not lose the \$58,000 we have been losing the last couple of years.

Barry said Option 2 is a 14.9% increase which would make the Town around \$50,000, if everything goes right and we do not have a major storm or something.

Barry said the third Option is a 23% increase which would make the Town around \$98,000 a year.

Barry said Sandy was told to have the Ordinance ready based on Option 3, which is the highest amount. Barry said you want to advertise the Ordinance at the highest amount because you can always adopt the Ordinance with a lower rate than what was published but you cannot adopt an Ordinance at a higher rate than what was published.

Sandy said the Ordinance is just an increase and there are no future increases in this Ordinance.

Barry said if you use 1,000 kWh your current cost is \$126.87.
Option 1 increase would be \$140.68 or 9.1% or \$14 per month.
Option 2 increase would be \$148.16 or 14.9% or \$22 per month.
Option 3 increase would be \$159.25 or 23.5% or \$33 per month.

Sandy said she brought a printout of everyone's May Utility Bill with her and Barry electric consumption was 796 kWh. Sandy told Carly her electric consumption was 726 kWh. Barry asked Jerod if he waters his grass in the summer and he said he has a garden. Barry said your Utility Bill includes Electric, Water, Sewer, Trash and Storm so if your bill is going up some of that could be water. Jerod said he was not taking that into consideration.

Sandy said Aaron Bengé uses a lot of electricity and asked him if she could tell everyone how many electric kWh he used and he said yes. Aaron used 2,056 kWh. Sandy said the electric portion only of Aaron's Utility Bill was \$249.50. Sandy said Aaron's electric is going up, her electric is going up, everyone's electric is going up.

Barry said there is a caveat to this situation. Barry said back in 2009 when the tracker factor went up significantly there was an outcry from the Business Owners and the Town Council made the decision to charge Business and Three-Phase Accounts 60% of the Residential Tracker Factor dollar amount, with the assumption that they would gradually phase them back to 100% like the Residents pay, but the ball got dropped and that never got done. Sandy said the Tracker Factor is the Fuel Surcharge not the rate per kWh. Barry said if the Tracker Factor is 5 cents per kWh, Business would only pay 3 cents per kWh. Barry said that does not sound like much but when you have 3,000 to 5,000 in kWh usage it adds up. Barry said the Rate Study says the reduced Tracker Factor for Businesses should not have happened and they are urging us to require everyone to pay 100% of the Tracker Factor. Therefore, there is going to be an additional increase for Business Owners, which is not good, but at the same time they have been getting a little benefit for the last 18 years. Barry said if we do not raise the Business and Three-Phase to 100% then the Residential Rates are going to have to increase to cover it. Barry said Krohn does the Rate Studies for 44 out of the 62 IMPA Communities and they are suggesting everyone pay 100% of the Tracker Factor.

Bob wanted to mention that the Business and Three Phase Accounts have a tad higher rate per kWh than Residents do.

Sandy explained that under our current Residential Rates for 700 kWh the Tracker Factor adds \$37.99 to the bill. Sandy said the Tracker Factor changes every quarter. Sandy a Company the billing information and they get information from IMPA and they determine what the Tracker Factor should be, the Town does not. Sandy said with the new Rate Study the Tracker Factor will set at zero for August, September and October and then it could go up or it could even go to a negative figure. Barry said in the last three (3) quarters IMPA has had a negative tracker factor in the amount they are charging, but that is not the normal, and it will go back up.

Bob asked what the Rate Study cost us and Barry said we do not know yet because it is x number of dollars per hour. Sandy said she thought it was going to be between \$6,000 and \$8,000 and Bary said that sounds about right.

Bob said we will do the first reading of the Ordinance tonight and the act on the Ordinance at the June 11, 2025 Town Council Meeting. Peebles asked if Krohn was going to publish the Public Notice in the newspaper for the Town and said it has to be in the newspaper 10 days before the Public Hearing date. Sandy will find out if they are going to or not. Barry reminded everyone that Krohn will be at the Public Hearing and they can explain things better than he can.

Barry made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-001 - Electric Utility Rates and Charges on first reading. Aaron seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Sandy asked Peebles if at the June 11, 2025 Town Council Meeting the Council votes to lower the rates and Peebles said vote to Amend Ordinance 001-2025 with whatever the new rates are. Vote for second reading and vote for third reading and final reading. Then the Ordinance will be published in the newspaper and effective for the August 1, 2025 Utility Billing.

COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS & CLERK-TREASURER

John Warren - Utility Superintendent - Not Present

Jay Busse - 106 S. Plum

Busse said 106 S. Plum has a sewer issue and we replaced her line against the alley, right where the connection is in the main to her connection it is cracked from what we can see from the camera, but until you dig it up you don't know, but it is cracked and has tree roots in it and that is part of the actual Town main. Bob said she thought she had it fixed and then things started backing up again.

Sandy told Busse she had an Invoice here for this from him for \$450. Busse said that is when he jettted the actual sewer main and Sandy said now more work needs to be done and Busse said yes. Barry asked if this was in the Town's part and Busse said it is right where it hooks into the main and Bob said yes it is ours. Busse said John is not here but he will talk to him when he gets back and mentioned he jettted it and got it open but it needs to be repaired.

Kyle Proctor - Town Marshal - No Comments

Sandy Proctor - Clerk-Treasurer

Resignation

Sandy said Darrell gave her his two (2) weeks' notice on 5-9-2023

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Barry Lewis

Splash Pad Opening Date

Barry asked if we knew when the Splash Pad was going to open. Bob said John had a problem with a pump. Sandy said John flipped the good pump from the features to the splash pad so he could get the water going and get a water test done. John is hoping the new pump comes in and he can have the Splash Pad open this weekend. Bob said John took the water test to the health department on Tuesday

and he is waiting for the results. Bob said he will put it on Facebook when it opens. Barry said Thursday it is supposed to be around 90 and he has had people asking him when it is going to open.

Aron Bengé - No Comments

Doug Harris - No Comments

Randy Phillips - No Comments

**Bob Cox
Tremaine Park**

Bob said John is not here but he wanted to thank them because the Park looks beautiful. Barry said it is also busy.

Community Memorial Day Service

Bob wanted to remind people that the Community Memorial Day Service to honor Veterans buried in the Waynetown Masonic Cemetery is May 25, 2025 at 9 A.M. and everyone is welcome to attend.

Pool Concession Stand

Bob said Haley is not going to run the Pool Concession Stand this year but forgot who she said was going to run it. Sandy asked Bob run it under her because we have a Contract with Haley.

Bob said Todd French is providing for free barbeque meat (pulled pork) for the Concession Stand and said that should make a pretty good profit.

Ice Cream

Bob mentioned the Ice Cream place (Scoops) and Brad Eads said it is going to be open this Saturday (Street Fair) and then they will open on Friday of Memorial Day weekend.

Vine Street

Phil said the Fire Department will be shutting down the 100 Block of South Vine Steet on Friday at 5 PM for the Street Fair.

ADJOURN

Barry made a motion to adjourn. Randy seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The following page is a copy of the sign in sheet.

Bob Cox 6-11-25
Bob Cox - Town Council President

Sandy Proctor 6-11-2025
Sandy Proctor - Clerk-Treasurer

TOWN OF WAYNETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 14, 2025

2376

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

SIGN IN SHEET

Town Council & Clerk-Treasurer

1. Bob Co
2. Bryan
3. Don
4. Sandy Proctor
5. Sandy Proctor
6. Sandy Proctor

Please Sign Your Name

7. Erin Halsen
8. Jerale Conkright
9. Nancie Thomas
10. Ed Thomas
11. Ken
12. Ken
13. DAVID PEELES
14. Flarene Pruitt
15. Phil Pittle
16. Marion Pittle
17. Carole Runyan
18. Bill Tennifa Mermaid
19. Sarah Kesinger
20. Brad Eads
21. Jerad Taylor
22. Carly Fara-Taylor
23. _____
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