

Rocky Ripple Town Council Meeting
February 11, 2025

Rocky Ripple Town Board member, Randy Sanders, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Town board members Randy Sanders, Megan Hulland and Rachel Hunter, were present. Mary McCoin, clerk treasurer and Mike Kiefer, town marshal, were present. Town attorney Sarah Guffey was not present.

Welcome Community!

Town board member, Randy Sanders, welcomed and thanked those who were present at town hall as well as those who are joining us for tonight's meeting via Zoom.

Clerk Treasurer Reports

Clerk Treasurer Transition – Mary and Julie have been working hard at transition. Mary now has access to Chase Bank information for the town and is working with Julie to transition the clerk treasurer email account. Sarah will use the January meeting minutes to file Mary's swearing in paperwork with the City Clerk's office. Randy reminded Mary that our annual invoice for Town Web had been received and needed to be paid within the next week or so; Mary mentioned she would look into it and process it.

Minutes – January minutes were presented with no changes. Megan made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Rachel seconded. All were in favor, motion unanimously passed.

Treasurer Report for January 2025 – Expenses for January were presented; nothing non-routine for the month. Clerk treasurer bond was paid. Ending bank balance was \$109,894.02. Rachel made a motion to accept the financial reports as written and Megan seconded. All were in favor, motion unanimously passed.

Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) – Governor Mike Braun introduced a new bill to the Indiana Senate in January. This bill would entail some significant reforms to the way property tax is collected in the state and who is eligible for relief. This would also result in a substantial property tax revenue reduction for local governments, including Rocky Ripple. The impact would be felt in both annual town budgets and in the Flood Control Improvement District (FCID). The board discussed concerns with the original proposal and mentioned that changes to the bill are ongoing. The board will continue to monitor the situation to determine appropriate next action. Randy also mentioned that additional budget challenges may require the board to pursue a referendum anyway and that the town should consider putting something on the ballot in the future to help with budget shortfalls. A slight increase in local tax would help the board keep the town running.

AARP Community Challenge Grants – The board discussed AARP Community Challenge grants and opportunities for increased accessibility support in the community. There are some ideas to help spruce up town hall in particular. Megan mentioned she would look into the total grant amount further and reminded everyone that applications were due on March 4th.

Old Business

Rocky Ripple Flood Protection: DPW Updates, ILA – No new updates this month. Megan reached out to Shannon Killion, DPW Stormwater Administrator, again to ask about the status of DPW's response to FEMA as part of the CLOMR process and has yet to hear back. A new Director of DPW, Todd Wilson, was recently named.

Speeding Cars in Rocky Ripple/Related Safety Concerns – No new updates this month. Megan reached out to Bruce Arrick last month; he indicated that he planned to retire as of January 31st and that the town should work with Michael Lofton on paving support moving forward. The board will reach out to Butler in March to coordinate a meeting for summer traffic planning.

INDOT ADA and Title 6 Compliance Plan – Rachel confirmed her formatting edits are complete; the board will review the addition of the two new appendix items and the board will plan to come prepared to post the ordinances for public review next month.

Town Manager/Marshal's Report – One report this month of a domestic disturbance on January 31; a domestic disturbance with weapons and arrest occurred on February 10. One report of harassment on February 10 as well. Marshal Mike submitted 2025 Community Crossings Grant (CCMG) application on January 22; he does not expect to hear back on this for a few months (likely April). Randy reminded the town that the CCMG would also be impacted by SB1 and our paving future may look a little different. Marshal Mike heard back from Bruce Arrick that Butler is willing to contribute to a split of paving for Lester St.; they are willing to pay 50% of Rocky Ripple's costs (or 12.5% of the total paving costs) up to \$6500 total. This is less of a contribution than years past, when Butler was willing to cover all expenses for their high traffic roads. AEDs at town hall will need replacement pads in August; both this model and the model in the police car are getting old and the town will need to explore grants to get some support, as these systems and component parts are very expensive. Randy was able to get a few leads from the local government listserv and Mike will do some research as well. Town received a letter from Bliss McKnight regarding timeline to renew town insurance; Mike will keep an eye out for an updated quote with details soon.

Community Association Updates – BINGO and swap events upcoming. Kids' clothing swap will take place from 3:00-5:00pm on February 23 and art supplies swap will follow the same day from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Town BINGO is scheduled for February 22 from 7:00-9:00pm. There will be another family dance at 4:00pm on February 16. The next Community Association meeting will take place on February 18 at 7:30pm with the RREM meeting immediately prior, at 7:00pm. There was some discussion around RRCA sponsorship for recurring events at town hall in an effort to defray the cost. Randy reiterated that the board wants to make sure that town hall is rented equitably and that free or reduced cost events are truly community-based activities. RRCA has an appointment on February 13 to talk to Groundwork Indy, a local group that works with teens to do outdoor maintenance during the summer.

New Business

Town Hall Cleaning – Randy brought up the need to clean town hall on a more frequent basis. Megan mentioned that – with all the recent rental activity – we should explore increasing rental fees to account for a monthly cleaning. Rachel shared that – based on her research – we should charge a \$100 deposit for rentals, as this is roughly the hourly cleaning rate. There have been a few recent rentals that have left town hall in bad shape. The board would like to explore hiring a team to come in for cleaning; Marshal Mike is also going to talk to a couple of interested residents in Rocky Ripple.

Community Concerns

A resident asked about the potential sale of the town's Yanmar tractor, which has been sitting in the garage for a few years. Marshal Mike will do some investigating in terms of pricing.

Resident Peter proposed marriage to wonderful Town Councilor Rachel, who happily said yes A hearty congratulations to the happy couple from the town!

Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Hulland