

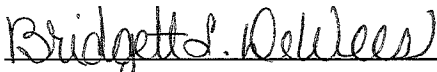
Public Hearing
September 25, 2019

The Eaton Town Council held a Public Hearing. Present are Welsh and DeWees. Blankenship, Hicks and Reese are absent.

Vice-President Welsh called the meeting to order.

Minutes were facilitated by Mike Kleinpeter, Kleinpeter Consulting, LLC.

Please see attached papers.



Bridgett DeWees, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



Daniel Blankenship, Council President

PUBLIC HEARING
Water OCRA Construction Grant
Town of Eaton
Wednesday September 25, 2019

1. Call to Order: Teresa Welsh, Town Council Member called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 PM
2. Facilitator: Mike Kleinpeter, Kleinpeter Consulting Group, LLC
3. Discussion: Mike Kleinpeter stated that this was a public hearing to discuss the Town of Eaton's application for grant funding through the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs (OCRA). Notice of the public hearing was posted in the Star Press on 9/11/2019. The Town is applying specifically for a water utility improvement grant in the amount of \$600,000. The town will be contributing \$150,000 from the County EDIT funds. The application will be submitted next Friday, October 4, 2019. Mike Kleinpeter stated that we want to make sure that the citizens of the Town are fully informed and have the opportunity to voice concerns and support for the project and ask any questions they may have. This project will result in no displacement and the amount benefitting low to moderate income residents is \$306,000. Mike then turned the meeting over to Wayne Bailey with Commonwealth Engineering.

Wayne Bailey with Commonwealth engineers stated, "As many of you know the town was funded through rural development for a wastewater project for installing new sewer lines. The contractor is experiencing breaks in the water lines during the project. The new sewer lines are generally placed 15-foot underground, the current water lines are five-foot underground. So, when the contractor goes in to excavate, they dig around the water line, support the water line, and then dig deeper down to the 15 foot.

Because the water lines are over 50 years old, they break very easily even though they are supported. The pipes are asbestos and cement and anytime they are touched they immediately break. When these lines do break, the town must patch the pipes immediately at the intersection. The Town does not have the money and are currently at their maximum bonding capacity so the Town can't borrow any more funds. The proposed costs to make all the improvements were approximately \$1,350,000. The Town was awarded an urgent need grant in June of 2019 to cover some of those emergency costs. This was a great start, but the Town was still at least \$650,000 short of making all the improvements needed to the

intersections. Therefore, the Town is pursuing an OCRA water grant to replace the remaining water intersections that were not covered with the urgent need grant.

Mr. Kleinpeter stated that this grant application will be different than the urgent need. We will need community support for the project and need to have letters from residents discussing the need for the project. Additionally, we will have to do a Town survey for the project.

Teresa Welsh asked if there was any public comment?

Mr. DeWees asked if we could use the rural development survey to qualify for the OCRA grant. Wayne Bailey and Mike Kleinpeter stated that we could not use that and needed to conduct a new income survey. The biggest issue is that survey was sent to wastewater customers and we need a survey for all water users on the Town's system.

Adjournment: There being no further questions or comments, Teresa Welsh adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:16 PM.

Mike Kleinpeter, Grant Administrator

Recorder (See attached Third Party Authorization to Record Minutes)