

## POSEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 11, 2025

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President Justin Rutledge at 5:31 PM.

#### PRESENT

- **Council President:** Justin Rutledge
- **Council Members:** Michael Baehl, Randall Rankin
- **Clerk-Treasurer:** Jodie Rankin
- 

**Virtual Attendees:** 1

**In-person Attendees:**

- List retained (3)

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the following meetings were presented for review:

- **Regular Meeting:** January 14, 2025

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

#### CLAIMS DOCKET

The Claims Docket was emailed to the council members before the meeting for review. The clerk-treasurer noted two claim dockets due to end of year clean-up.

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the 2024 End of Year Claim Docket. Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)



A motion to approve the current Claim Docket was made by Randy Rankin, seconded by Mike Baehl

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **PAYROLL ALLOWANCE DOCKET**

The Payroll Allowance Docket was emailed to the council members before the meeting for review.

A motion to approve the Payroll Allowance Docket as presented was made by Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **BANK RECONCILIATION**

Bank reconciliations for January 2025 were presented to the council for review at the meeting.

A motion to approve the Bank Reconciliation was made by Randy Rankin, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jerry Straw – Expressed concerns about the lack of police presence throughout the day and evening in Poseyville and requested information from the Council regarding accountability. The Council noted that personnel matters cannot be discussed in an open meeting. However, they will convene in an advertised Executive Session to address the concerns and issues that were presented. Mr. Rutledge did thank Mr. Straw for having the courage to come forward and address his concerns.

Theresa Bratcher – Spoke about the opportunity to plant a permanent Christmas tree on the Community Center lawn. Mike Baehl expressed concerns regarding the maintenance of the tree, and Heart of Poseyville agreed to take on that responsibility. It was noted that there are numerous utilities in the proposed area. Additionally, Justin Rutledge highlighted the need for park changes due to land



issues, which may impact the tree's future location. The Council requested that Mrs. Bratcher gather more information and present it at a future meeting for further consideration.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Utility & Infrastructure Equipment Tampering Ordinance was revised and reviewed by legal counsel. President Rutledge asked fellow Council members whether they wanted to proceed with the first reading and/or suspend the second reading. The Council agreed that due to the number of violations, the ordinance should be enacted as soon as possible.

President Rutledge asked for a motion to acknowledge the first reading of Ordinance 2025-02-11-01 Utility & Infrastructure Equipment Tampering. A motion was made by Randy Rankin to accept the first reading, seconded by Mike Baehl.

President Rutledge then requested a motion to suspend the second reading rules and regulations. Mike Baehl motioned to suspend the second reading, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

With unanimous approval to suspend the second reading, Randy Rankin made a motion to pass Ordinance 2025-02-11-01 Utility & Infrastructure Equipment Tampering, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Clerk-Treasurer Jodie Rankin requested Council approval of the Outstanding Check List pursuant to IC 5-11-10.5. Mrs. Rankin informed the Council that, after extensive research, she believes the check in question was likely a duplicate payment from 2021 and should have been voided.

Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the Outstanding Check List, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)



The Clerk-Treasurer presented a letter recommending the rescission of Ordinance 2018-08-08 regarding Rainy Day Fund Transfers. Historically, the Town has spent the transferred funds within the same year, making the transfer unnecessary. Mrs. Rankin advised that funds should remain in the EDIT account and be expended directly from there if needed. She also noted that department ending balances are being recorded to track savings for future purchases.

President Rutledge acknowledged that maintaining excessive funds in the Rainy Day Fund could create budgeting challenges if not carefully managed.

After discussion, Mike Baehl made a motion to rescind Ordinance 2018-08-08, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Mrs. Rankin advised the Town Council that we recently experienced an issue with PERF and how we pay and report our on-call pay. It appears we are trying to pay employees twice. Therefore, Mrs. Rankin requested that we change how we pay the on-call (sub) pay. Jodie and Jeremy worked together to come up with a plan that seems logical and fair to everyone involved. The on-call pay will be as follows:

- Monday–Friday: Paid one (1) hour per day at the employee's overtime rate
- Non-Test Weekends & Holidays: Paid three (3) hours per day at the employee's overtime rate
- Test Weekends & Holidays: Paid four (4) hours per day at the employee's overtime rate

To be paid bi-weekly, allocated as 1/3 water, 1/3 sewer, 1/3 gas

Under the new plan, the workers are paid as they are on-call. There is no waiting to be paid in arrears. The Council was provided with a price comparison in their packet. It is roughly between \$100-\$160 more per month, total costs to the town. The second part of the request from the Clerk-Treasurer was to reduce the number of payrolls being performed each month. Mrs. Rankin requested to move the Council, other town employee monthly pays to be paid on the first scheduled pay date of each month. The process would eliminate the numerous times we transfer money between accounts and avoid potential errors and redundancy. Mrs. Rankin did inform the Council this is not the normal procedure to revisit the Salary Ordinance but under these circumstances we could not wait and she wanted to clean up some other areas of concern. Mr. Rutledge did ask Jeremy



Farrar how he felt about the proposed changes. Mr. Farrar concurred with the changes and has spoken to the workers in his department and everyone is in agreement. After discussion, Randy Rankin made a motion to accept the changes to Ordinance 2024-11-13-01 effective February 11, 2025, seconded by Mike Baehl. Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Marshal Carter submitted a run report to the council before the meeting. No action is required at this time.

Marshal Carter submitted an application to hire M. Aaron Straub. He is in good standing with the Posey County Sherriff's Department. Mike Baehl motioned to hire Aaron Straub, Randy Rankin seconded the motion.

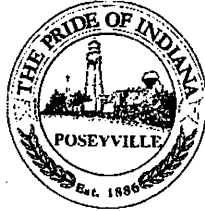
Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

Marshal Carter mentioned moving the speed sign as requested by patron's request. Mr. Baehl asked that we order and install different speed limit signs on the speed sign to inform those that do not know or if there is a lack of posting on speed signs in the area. Marshal Carter will get with Jeremy Farrar to see if the town has a surplus of signs or inquire about ordering some additional speed signs. The Council did discuss the need for reduced speed limits in neighborhood areas and posting of more signs throughout town. No action is required at this time.

Marshal Carter requested permission to attend the IMA Annual State Conference. All Council members agreed that it is important to continue your training. Mrs. Rankin informed Marshal Carter to stop in the office and check out the credit card for registration purposes. No action was required by the Council.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief, Kolley informed the Council the Fire Department will begin their Hazmat, Fire 1 and 2 trainings on March 4, 2025. The classes being hosted will be open to area volunteer departments such as Owensville and all of Posey County. We will host 15 people at a time. No action required at this time.

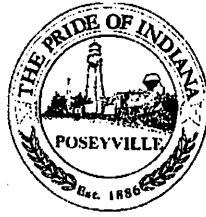


Chief Kolley then presented to the Council the issue with turnout gear. On a recent inventory of all the gear, since switching ~~to we switched~~ to this black gear you are able to see the gear breaking down now. It's actually turning red where it breaks down at the threads. We have one set of gear that I'm needing to replace. We also need nomex hoods and gloves. Chief Kolley had sent the Clerk-Treasurer an email about checking Sourcewell prices. That information was emailed back to Kolley. The budget allows for about two sets of gear replacement per year. Chief Kolley will get pricing together to see what we can get within the budget. Mrs. Rankin asked that he get figures together so that we can budget accordingly for 2026 on the replacement of gear. President Rutledge encouraged Chief Kolley to come up with a plan for some type of rotation to replace gear. He also asked Mr. Kolley to check with vendors to potentially secure pricing from now to February 2026 with a promise to potentially get additional gear. No action was required at this time.

Chief Kolley informed the Council that on February 11, 2025 the Commissioners approved to pay the \$9,700.00 to have the tower fixed at the fire station. There was much discussion about all the extra equipment on the tower that belonged to MSD of North Posey County and whether that was still in use. Mr. Kolley was advised to reach out the Sherri Schroeder at North Posey School District to verify that the equipment is no longer needed because the school is all fiber connectivity at this time. The Council asked how much it would costs to clean off all the other equipment from the tower. Chief Kolley will inquire about the costs and report back to the Council. No action is required at this time.

The Poseyville Fire Department has received a generous donation of a house from two local families for a live burn training scenario scheduled for March 8, 2025. Chief Kolley has coordinated with all relevant authorities to secure the necessary permissions for the exercise. The home has been cleared of asbestos, ensuring a safe training environment.

To support the live burn, Chief Kolley requested an estimated 20,000 gallons of water from Utility Superintendent Jeremy Farrar at the Old Union Church intersection. Mr. Farrar confirmed that providing this water supply would not be an issue.



Several local entities have stepped up to donate supplies for all workers involved in the event. Participation in the training is subject to specific criteria, and a record of all attendees is being maintained. All participants and trainees have signed the necessary release forms.

Chief Kolley emphasized the significance of this training, stating, "It will be great invaluable training." No action is required at this time.

### **UTILITY DEPARTMENTS**

Utility Superintendent Jeremy Farrar provided the Council with an update on the Water Filtration Plant. The project, which began a little over two years ago, reached a significant milestone. On January 20, 2023, an Agreed Order was established with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to address nitrate treatment at the water plant.

Mr. Farrar was pleased to report that, following four consecutive quarters of approved nitrate water tests, IDEM issued a closeout letter on the Order two weeks ago. With the plant fully operational, the town remains in compliance.

Mr. Farrar expressed his gratitude to both past and present Council members for their efforts in supporting the project. In turn, the Council thanked Mr. Farrar and the utility crew for their dedication in keeping operations running smoothly throughout the construction process. President Rutledge also added the town citizens appreciate it too.

Mr. Farrar concluded, stating, "The community has good, clean drinking water." No action is required.

A late addition to the agenda was SRF Disbursement Requests submitted by Derick Wiggins. President Rutledge asked for a motion to approve SRF Disbursement Request to Midwestern Engineers, Inc. for \$13,687.00. Mike Baehl made a motion to approve the SRF Disbursement Request to Midwestern Engineers, Inc. for \$13,687.00, seconded by Randy Rankin.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)



A motion by councilman Randy Rankin to pay SRF Disbursement Requests to G & L Tank Sandblasting and Coatings, LLC for \$23,427.00 for work on the water tower, seconded by Mike Baehl.

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)

### **STREET DEPARTMENTS**

None

### **PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Baehl informed the Council that the fence company is currently at the Youth Park replacing the fence that was damaged during last fall's storm. Clerk-Treasurer Rankin noted that an additional appropriation will need to be passed to allocate the insurance funds for the fence replacement. No action is required at this time.

### **COMMUNITY CENTER**

Town Utility Clerk, Mrs. Robling, provided the Council with the 2024 Usage Report. No action is required at this time.

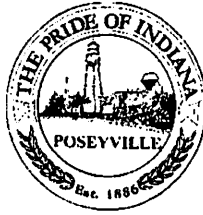
Council President Justin Rutledge brought forward an additional item for discussion. As the current Town Council appointee to the Area Plan Commission (APC), Mr. Rutledge expressed his appreciation for serving on the board. However, due to the demands of his new job and his commitment to being an active father, he has made the difficult decision to step away. He announced that he will formally resign from the APC at the meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Mr. Rutledge then motioned to appoint Randy Rankin as the new Town Council representative on the APC board. Mike Baehl seconded the motion. Mr. Baehl added that the APC is a great board to be a part of and suggested that if Randy Rankin is interested, they could alternate representation every other year.

Mr. Rankin shared that he previously served on the Area Plan Commission in Evansville for five years and enjoyed the experience. "The structure is different," he noted, "but I look forward to helping the county out in any way I can."

Roll Call Vote: Justin Rutledge (yes), Mike Baehl (yes), Randy Rankin (yes)





**CEMETERY**

Mr. Rutledge acknowledged that legal counsel, William Bender, confirmed the cemetery mowing contract could be rolled over without requiring new bids, as the contract amount falls within the allowable limits. No action was required.

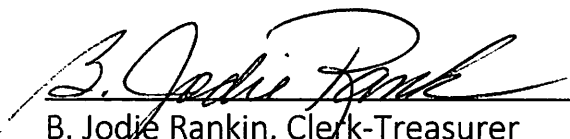
**NEXT MEETING:**

Mr. Rutledge informed everyone that Council had two upcoming meetings. The first is an Executive Session to conduct interviews for the open position at the Town Hall. The session is on February 18, 2025 starting at noon and ending approximately 6:30-7:00 pm.

The next scheduled Town Council meeting will be March 11, 2025 at 5:30 pm in person and by Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m. by a motion from Mike Baehl, seconded by Randy Rankin, and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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B. Jodie Rankin, Clerk-Treasurer  
Town of Poseyville

**ATTEST:**

  
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Justin Rutledge, Council President