Town Board Meeting

August 7, 2025

Monthly expenses were reviewed and approved.

Minutes were approved and reviewed.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Those in attendance at tonight’s meeting: Mike Geels, Josh Geerken, David Bard, Justin Shaffer, Clayton Lengerich, Steve Bailey, Barry Melton, both newspaper journalists, Mike Werling, Rodney Rinkenburger and 1 Monroe resident (name?).

**New Business**

Nothing new to discuss.

**Old Business**

Nothing old to discuss.

**Town Superintendent**

Justin Shaffer was present tonight and said things have been so busy this last month. Justin said the Dodge truck has seen better days and it’s nearing the end of life. He’s trying to push it through to next year and then start looking at replacing it.

He is still working on the sewer force main issues. The Polk Street study is done but they are modifying some things still.

The CCMG grants are due in October but could be November. His plans for next year’s road work is partial resurfacing of Andrews and Keller, widening Andrews from Studebaker to Keller and Andrews to the highway. He’d like to add curbs for drainage, finish the sidewalk where it doesn’t exist and making it ADA compliant. This area is very narrow and the goal is to open it up and make it accessible to emergency vehicles as well resident and those coming in for ball games. Justin would like to see if we can build some funds to help towards Polk Street and splitting it up between a couple projects. The match on the CCMG grant was 75/25 but it’s been changed to 80/20 but they are only doing 1 round per year and less money will be awarded.

Justin is still working through the lead and copper issues around town. There are some excavations that need to take place in order for him to check and see is lead or copper are in certain areas. He needs to rent a specific piece of equipment. Justin is asking Clayton if he can sign off on this sort of rental. Clayton says as long as council approves it, yes, he can sign off on this rental and any future rentals through this specific company, BEC which is out of Roanoke. Josh asked if Justin feels confident he can get the work done in a weeks’ time. Justin said it won’t be a problem. Josh made a motion to allow Justin to sign off on this rental with BEC. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Water project is complete and came in under budget. Right now, the final change order has been signed and submitted to SRF. The pay app still needs signed by Mike Geels, and then Fleming can get paid for the job they did. Josh made a motion to allow Mike Geels to sign the paperwork outside of a meeting. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Justin said they’ve been working on some stormwater items around town.

In recent months, the town has been considering taking over the town park from the Adams County parks & rec department. Right now, the retention pond and ditch need some work. Justin has met with Mike Werling, county surveyor, Rodney Rinkenburger with the Maumee River Basin Commission as well as Steve Bailey, one of the county commissioners. With their help and guidance, the plan to take over the park should be seamless but will need some attention. Mike Werling is here tonight to discuss those plans and offer some assistance. He would like to estimate and plan to develop a stormwater plan in phases. The first phase will be the need for an overall view, where water is coming from. The second phase will be looking at the detention pond to determine how much it holds. The third phase will be looking at the wagner tile and the drains into the yellow creek. There could be a fourth phase that would invlude the Hocker Street tile since it still has old drains that need to be replaced.

Rodney knows there have been issues down here but they’ve not been able to gain traction to come down and servey the town. The MRBC can help fund the study and then assist financially and technically as Rodney is a professional land surveyor. He’d like to look take a holistic approach and look at the big picture. They need to see what kind of work it would take to alleviate some of the water trouble the town has. Justin added that he’d like to use the wetlands and add some elevated trails to make this a great place for Monroe residents. Steve said these guys have connections and can find resources to help Monroe. The county is a part of the MRBC so the town plays a role in their services. Steve said that with all this help, the county wants to see this drainage system function properly and added it’s not all on the Town of Monroe’s shoulders.

Justin has been working with Wessler to create an agreement for the creation of a GIS system for the town. He would like permission to move forward with this plan. Clayton spoke up and stated that council will need to approve this with a contingency that it not exceed 10k, Justin said that it’s currently at 5k. Josh made a motion to accept. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Fire Department**

Kris is not at tonight’s meeting so Josh Geerken spoke on his behalf. There was a total of 11 calls for services this past month. 7 were medical and included automobile crashes. One included an extraction. The other calls were fire related. A new fireman has been hired. The fire department is still conducting interviews.

**Clerk-Treasurer**

Rachel Tague was present. She is asking for permission to turn off all comments on any Facebook post made by Justin and Rachel. This will take away the ability for anyone to comment on a post. Josh made a motion to accept this. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Town Marshal**

No one present at tonight’s meeting. However, David brought up the need to purchase the body camera system for the police department. The cost is about $30,146. The town will need to use part of the rainy-day fund to cover this expense once the public safety funds have been exhausted. Josh made a motion to approve this purchase. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Mike spoke and said that at this time we need to announce a new town marshal. Both Derek Loshe and Nathan Hunter have mentioned they would like to work together to fill this position. Josh made a motion to accept both police officers under this title. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0. At this time, both Derek and Nathan will act as town marshal for the Town of Monroe.

**Town Attorney**

Clayton Lengerich was here tonight. His first business was to read Resolution 2025-1 to close streets during the Monroe Day event on September 6, 2025. Josh made a motion to accept this resolution. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0. Clayton recommends keeping the downtown businesses up to speed by sending a letter out to them making sure they are aware of the street closures and parking lot closure. Rachel will take care of this.

Claytons next order of business is making 2025-4 Sewage ordinance increasing rates official. This is the 2nd reading of this ordinance. He is asking council if they approve of this increase. Josh made a motion to accept this ordinance. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The last piece of business is the first reading of the updated ordinance 2025-5 Golf Cart which now includes UTV’s. This new ordinance will replace 2009-2 & 2019-3 which relates to the authorization of golf cart usage and UTV usage in the Town of Monroe. There have been some changes that include registering golf carts along with a registration fee of $30.00 per golf cart. It also mentions not to exceed posted speed limits within the town. A public hearing will be needed prior to accepting this new ordinance. David made a motion to accept this introduction. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0. The next reading and formal acceptance will take place at Septembers monthly meeting.

Justin spoke up and is asking for speed limit signs to be posted in various spots throughout town where there are no signs. He’d like to see 15 mph in alleys, on Keller and E Andrews by the ball park. Josh would like to see a police presence and or speed limit lowered on Adams Street as well. Nothing more was mentioned on this.

**Other Business**

Barry Melton was present at tonight’s meeting to discuss Strick Trailers tax abatement request. He reviewed how things have been going over the last year. He stated that things have been slow but not as slow as they had been. He mentioned things have picked up over the last few weeks and they have just put up signs that they are hiring. They have about 100 employees right now. David asked when they were last staffed with 180 employees and Barry said it was in 2024. He said the tariff talk last year slowed business down. People had put things on hold but it has since picked back up. David asked what kind of pay they start their employees at, Barry stated about $20.00 an hour and then up from there. David asked how many layoffs they’ve had since last year, Barry said they had 1 layoff last year. Barry did mention there were several employees that had willingly left Strick within this past year. David asked with the new hiring, how many they’d like to hire on, Barry stated he expects to get back up to 180 to 200 employees. With the unemployment down, he’s not sure how quickly they can get employees. There are 2 other locations, one in Pennsylvania and the other in North Carolina. He anticipates Strick staying in Monroe indefinitely. David made a motion to continue the tax abatement with Strick. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

The resident at tonight’s meeting wanted to make council aware of the company who did the chip and seal work a couple weeks ago. The resident said that they pushed stones into his yard and it’s preventing him from mowing his yard for fear he’ll damage his mower. He is very unhappy with the company that did this job and is asking for them to be notified of his dissatisfaction. Mike has asked Justin to see if he has something to remove the stones from the resident’s yard. Justin said he’ll take care of it.

With nothing else to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Town Board President

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Clerk-Treasurer