Town of Monroe

Town Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Monthly expenses were reviewed and approved.

Minutes for April were approved.

Those present at tonight’s meeting are Mike Geels, Josh Geerken, David Bard, Justin Shaffer, Craig Marcum, Clayton Lengerich, Brett Grover, Rachel Tague, both newspaper journalists from the Berne Witness and Decatur Daily Democrat.

**New Business**

Nothing new to report.

**Old Business**

Nothing to discuss.

**Town Superintendent**

Justin was present at tonight’s meeting. He said that hydrant flushing went well.

Justin said that the paving is done which turned out phenomenal.

The next round of grants have been applied for in order to receive CCMG money. They lowered the matching requirements from 75-25 to 80-20. Announcing the award for the next CCMG will come sometime in October and if the town doesn’t receive any we will apply again next year. Justin also stated that they are now only doing one round of grants instead of two in previous years.

Justin thinks the new sewage pump is going to run 20k. This is to be installed within a 6 week period of time.

INDOT has hired a company to do some work on the stormwater drains along 124.

There is a collapsed storm line that needs replaced behind the school. It will be taken care of but he’s waiting on a crew to come in and repair.

Justin would like to update council on alley work and Polk Street. Since the alley’s weren’t worked on last year and still need work this year, Justin would like council to consider doing additional appropriations for alley repair. We designated 20k last year but it wasn’t spent due to the company not being available to do the work. We have budgeted 20k this year for alleys so Justin would like to see these jobs combined and do it all this year. Mike commented that he’d like to continue with the alley improvements. Josh agreed. Justin is asking council to commit to the additional work and then ask for the additional app come fall. Bard made a motion to move forward with this plan. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

County is doing a slurry band aid patch on Polk until we find out what happens on the state level to see what kind of permanent work they will approve. Justin said he can cold-patch some spots to get by until then. County may do a chip and seal in the meantime.

Justin stated the sewage rates need to be increased in an attempt to get the sewage fund in a better position. He would like to see the rates increased to 7.85% which is slightly higher than what Baker Tilly suggested. Baker Tilly suggested increasing rates by 6% however that just breaks the sewer fund even, it doesn’t add any cushion. By increasing to the 7.85%, which adds .45 extra from the 6% increase, this will only help the fund. Justin also stated that by doing this increase now, we can then do a smaller increase next year to ease the burden on our residents. Josh made a motion to accept this 7.85% increase. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Police Department**

Brett Grover was present and reported there were 35 traffic stops, 1 gun permit and 194 hours logged in the month of May.

Brett mentioned that the Monroe Lions Club Run will go from 8:00 - 9:15am on May 10, 2025. Monroe PD will be on hand to work this event.

Brett stated that the computer for the office & car has been received and AJ is working with the county IT to get that hooked up. This should be done by next week.

AJ is waiting on a SIM card from AT&T to switch the squad car to the current wifi provider.

The previous battery charge the PD had worked up has now been turned over to the county detectives. This will be followed up on as needed.

**Fire Department**

No one present at tonight’s meeting.

**Clerk-Treasurer**

Rachel was at tonight’s meeting. She asked council to decide what kind of mileage reimbursement we want to offer the town employees. The State sits at .49 per mile and Federal sits at .70 per mile. There is also an SBOA form that needs to be submitted to the Clerk-Treasurer. Clayton recommends that form along with a map showing the mileage. Josh made a motion to accept the States mileage amount. David seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Rachel would like to see the travel policy updated to raise the amount spent on food per meal. As it is right now, the town allows $35 per meal with a daily total of $70 max. Rachel is asking that the town meet the States recommended amount of $41 per meal with a daily total of $123 per employee. Council said they’d like to table this until the next board meeting. This is something they’d like to think about before moving forward.

Rachel asked council if they would consider donating the opioid fund to Crossroad Community of Adams County which is an organization that offers assistance to those who are addicted to drugs and trying to repair their lives. Since the money can only be spent on this sort of service, she thought that it would be a good idea. Council agreed. David made a motion to donate to Crossroad Community. Josh seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

**Town Attorney**

Clayton was present at tonight’s meeting. He didn’t have anything to present but did say that next month he’ll have the sewer rate ordinance and will continue working on the employee handbook.

**Other Business**

Michelle Lengerich was at tonight’s meeting to discuss how well the Adams County Transit Services have done in the last year. She explained that they have grown and have been able to supply those in need of transportation with such services. They are to the point now where they can ask for transportation fees. They charge $5 for the first 0-10 miles traveled and $10 for an additional 10-20 miles and so on. She is asking council for the continued support and to ask if she can rely on the Town of Monroe for another $1000 in the 2026 year. Mike asked if council was in agreement to continue with this support. David abstained due to his father working for this service. Josh made a motion to continue. Mike seconded. Motion passed 2-0.

Craig with Baker Tilly was on hand to offer some information about how the town is sitting after the 2024 year. Moving forward Rachel would like to have this report presented every 6 months for the current year so council knows how things are moving in that year in order to make adjustments as needed. Craig brought the 2024 report and explained each page. This report will be available in the Clerk-Treasurers office. Craig stated the town did pretty well last year. Craig also told council where the money comes from. In order from highest to lowest amounts received were property tax at 260k, income tax came in at 172k, local taxes received at 82k, the last being from local revenue i.e., local permits at 1k.

With nothing further to discuss, this meeting was adjourned.

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Town Board President

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Clerk-Treasurer