

MEETING MEMO

APRIL 2025 – TOWN OF SUNMAN PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 04.17.2025 TIME: 6:30 P.M. LOCATION: 604 N. MERIDIAN ST., SUNMAN, IN 47041

CALL TO ORDER

Randy Zins called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: John Kellerman, Carol Eckstein, Randy Zins, Dakota Gill, Don Foley, Cheryl Taylor, Connor Getz, and Zachary Powell

Absentees: Brian Maynard

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the agenda; Don Foley seconded.

REPORTS

MARSHAL

The report will be forwarded at a later date. He is out of town unexpectedly.

ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

Zack attended Taser training last week.

A question from the floor asked Zach if the people were caught kicking in doors. Zach responded that it is an ongoing investigation. Cheryl Taylor asked Zachary Powell if we were allowed to know if charges were pending. He responded that it was on the prosecutor.

UTILITY

The report is attached.

- Gum Tree Removal on 101
- Emergency Repair Invoices
- Water Towers

In addition, we are working on the procedures for phosphorus removal, and the Christmas decorations are finally down. We will start cold patching next week. Customers were encouraged to contact Cheryl Taylor with questions or concerns, and she would relay them to Dakota.

A guy is coming out to look at the lift station generator. It calls when we lose power, but it won't start up on its own, or perform the weekly start-up. The generator at the well field is beyond repair and should be a top priority for replacement.

Carol Eckstein motioned to approve emergency repairs to Living Waters Company for \$4,051.00 and BH Motors for \$9,931.77. Don Foley seconded.

Mr. and Mrs. Hammer approached the Council for a wastewater adjustment because they found a toilet leaking in their garage. Cheryl Taylor reported that although they don't normally do wastewater adjustments, for leaking toilets, she would like the Council to keep in mind that they were forced to estimate for three months in a row... Because of this, the Hammers were not aware of the toilet leaking. So an adjustment may be warranted in this situation. The Clerk-Treasurer will average the usage over one year and adjust the bill for the overage in wastewater. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the adjustment. Don Foley seconded.

PARK

Julie Brock reported that all of the equipment from the gran has been ordered, and they're waiting for that to come in. Once that equipment arrives, they will coordinate between the park board and the utility to get it installed. The painting of the Campbell Building will be completed next week by Ripley County Corrections, and they are doing a great job. Our seasonal worker for the summer starts at the end of this month. Julie Brock asked Cheryl Taylor if they had their unique identifier number to write grants yet... Cheryl Taylor. Stated that this process will take several months.

CLERK

- Approval of Meeting Memorandum, 03.20.2025
Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the 03.20.2025 meeting memo. Don Foley seconded.
- Utility Adjustments, Fund Reports, Financial Report
Carol Eckstein motioned to approve utility adjustments, fund reports, and the financial report. Don Foley seconded.
- APV Registers – March 2025
Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the March APV register. Don Foley seconded.
- Certified Payroll
Randy Zins reviewed and approved the certified payrolls.

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED/TABLED

- Annexation of Utility Customers
Cheryl Taylor presented a letter to the council that would go out to all of the properties that the council decided to approach for annexation. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the letter,. Don Foley, seconded.
- Pond Complaints – Lisa Taylor
My name is Lisa Taylor, and I have been the manager of Trees Mobile Home Park for eight years now. Thank you very much for letting me speak. I have some concerns and issues with the pond next door to Trees. If you hear me out, you may be able to see my point, and we may be able to come to a resolution. When it rains, the pond water and because they dyed at blue, we noticed that the outflow is so strong that it is pushing our rainwater back, which normally went towards the road into the sunman drains. The way the pond is set up, and the way the pond flow is set up is it is impedes the flow of Mother Nature. There, and in other words, the natural flow of the water has been disturbed. This would be OK if it affected the property owners only, but this is not the case. We were originally told that this was an inlet to let all the water go into the pond. If this is what is supposed to be, it is not working. All this may have been avoided had the proper permits been obtained before construction was started. We request that the pond flow be moved and drains towards the road it as the original flow of Mother Nature had intended.

Second, my safety measures within the town limits, we have 80 homes in our community, and we have a lot of children. I'm going to begin with questions. Say if a landowner wants to build a pond next to

the local school or daycare that's within the town limits, could they just have that pond out there, as the children could run in? Without any safety measures. OK. Second, do you, as first responders, want to have a call, have to call the dive team because you need to recover the body of a two two to three-year-old that happened to wander into the pond? I already know the answer to that question. In an ideal world, all the little ones would not get out of the house and away from their guardians, but it happens more than you think. Just last week, we had a couple running around looking for their three-year-old. He was found riding the bike on the road next to the pond. We live not too far from the pond. I'm just trying to. I find it hard to comprehend that to have pools, there are safety measures that need to be in place by law. I am requesting that the town look at creating some sort of ordinance that is in effect this. My other thing is the mosquito control. We live in a terrible, wet part of town, and like I said, I don't blame the pond owner for putting the pond in because that is so wet there. I think the pond is beautiful. I am in no way against this pond. I would just like some of the issues that are directly affecting my community to be resolved in some way, shape, or form.

Like I said, I have no issues with the pond. I'm really worried about the safety of children. Being in the town limits, it's different if it were off on some County Road. But definitely the overflow, and you guys have had pictures to show where that blue dye is pushing the water where the normal water fluid would go that way. And that is also because they built up the sides of the pond. So all the water is now running around the sides, which is what you normally do with a pump.

Zachary Powell responded: We have no ordinance for ponds, pools, etc., no fence, no nothing. But when he, when he did build this, we did ask him just out of kindness if he was gonna put a fence up. He said he was. His end goal was to put a fence up. It's roughly \$15,000, but one. So that's just what he said. Again, the mosquitoes, we did say something about that. He did put an aerator in it. It did go through the county for a permit. I don't know. I just know that it's not his responsibility to get it from was contractors. He did get it. I don't believe kids were riding next to it because there's no road by it. Did you mean to say that? Maybe on your side? I'm not defending him. No way. I mean, he said he would put a fence up. I just assumed he would. What I think is going on, I do. I don't believe he built the sides up. It was done straight down from the start of the plans to now that I've seen. I will study a little bit more for you. Lisa stated, I can send you some pictures. Sure. I took pictures the whole time, but I think it's going on the right of way. This is what I do daily in my real world. What I think has happened is that there is a ditch line that runs between his home and the home to the North. I think over time, there has been some settlement in that ditch line. I think it's adjusted the flow of the water, and I think the water is flowing to you guys because of that. This line. I don't know who we would need to contact to maybe see if that's true, because I do see water. No water goes to the road either. Even from his houses on the road, and that's before my time, but I have, because I've gotten a few complaints. So I did do some water studies when it was raining. I did write up and check it out just because I like to have all my grounds in one bag before we bring it. I have always known that to be an overflow.

Continued talking over one another – unable to dictate.

Randy Zins: Couple things. So water drainage, surface runoff should be dealt with by the county drainage board. The tricky thing for us that would really become a slippery slope is the definitions in this case. Because if we define a pawn is technically a waterway. If we divine every waterway, then every road, every ditch, every drainage, everything that would have water flowing through it as a waterway, we would have to ordinance. So detention structures or retention structures, depending on their design, are either an integral part of a storm system or they're a naturally occurring or man-made waterway. So your detention pond fills up to overflow and runs over. A retention pond is when

you are basically preventing water from reaching an area. By definition. To kind of resolve a flood issue, if I can stutter through that, good enough for you. But yeah, I think your best case would be if they are putting water on your property from their structures, you need to talk to the county drainage board.

Zachary Powell: I know we had spoken before of moving because of his overflow pipe, I guess, would be the West side, that's where I'm stuck at. The whole thing is that the ditch is flowing the wrong way. Maybe over the years it's filled up with some settlements, and maybe it hasn't. It'd be a good study to get. Maybe the state can come down here, whoever that would be, and say, you know, we want to make sure before we have his guy move all this and do all this. Is it even worth doing because is it still going to run to your property at the end of the day? Even if he takes the pipe and moves it to the back of his house in that ditch line, it's still going to flow to your property. You get what I'm saying?

Lisa Taylor: I kind of don't, only because of the dyed water. You could actually, I have pictures that you can see.

Zachary Powell: We got 12 inches of rain. I'm sorry, a little under 12 inches of rain, and if a ditch line is flowing towards your property, is overflow pond probably rose, it went out that overflow, and it ran back that way. That's where you're getting your blue water. But, you know, here or there, I can always ask him as we can always ask him as a town, you know, just out of like kindness and say, hey, do you mind moving that up there? But I don't know if it's going to resolve anything.

Lisa Taylor: I just thought it was kind of against the law to disrupt, as far as I've looked, and of course, Kellerman would know this better than I. To disrupt the flow of Mother Nature or water that it it then, for lack of a better word. Umm, impede on someone else's property?

John Kellerman: And the best organization enforcing that is the county drainage board.

Hydrant – 223 Maple St.
The codes of hydrant placement need to be looked into.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance for Fire Safety W & WW Contributions
Kellerman explained that this is to allow some of the fire safety contract to be paid for out of water and/or wastewater funds. The way I've got it worded is that the Clerk will decide how much that contribution will be. Don Foley motioned to approve the ordinance 2025-04, Carol Eckstein seconded.
- Annual Utility Rate Increase Resolution
Kellerman explained that this will increase water rates and the sewer rates by 3% across the board, effective July 1st, 2025. Cheryl Taylor stated that the effective date would be July 15, 2025. Carol Eckstein motioned to approve Ordinance 2025-05. Don Foley seconded.
- 2025-03 Salary Ordinance
Carol Eckstein motioned to approve the amendment to the 2025 Salary Ordinance (2025-03), moving the part-time to a permanent 35 hours per week. Randy Zins seconded.
- Building Permits
Cheryl Taylor requested to table until Brian Maynard is back.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Wade Clyde introduced himself and his new manager of the mobile home park at 310 Eastern Avenue. My Clyde requested a stay of the ordinance violation # 1385. Carol Eckstein motioned to continue the fine to the next public meeting. Don Foley seconded.

ADJOURNMENT

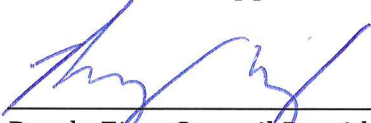
ADJOURNMENT

Carol Eckstein motioned to approve adjournment at 7:56 PM. Don Foley seconded.

NEXT MEETINGS

May 15, 2025, 6:30 PM

Memorandum approved this 22nd day of May 2025



Randy Zins, Council President



Carol Eckstein, Council Member



Don Foley, Council Member



Attest, Cheryl Taylor, Clerk-Treasurer

MEETING AGENDA

MARCH 2025 – TOWN OF SUNMAN PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: 03.20.2025, TIME: 6:30 P.M. LOCATION: 604 N. MERIDIAN ST., SUNMAN, IN 47041

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

REPORTS

MARSHAL
ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS
UTILITY

- Clarifier
- Gum Tree Removal on 101

PARK

- Unique Entity ID (UEI)
- Easter Egg Hunt Donation

CLERK

- Approval of Meeting Memorandum, 01.23.2025, 03.04.2025, 03.10.2024
- Utility Adjustments, Fund Reports, Financial Report
- APV Registers – January 2025, February 202, and End of Year.
- Certified Payroll
- Emergency Repair Invoices
- Reimbursement for Travel
- Sanitation Cost Increase Announcement

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED/TABLED

- Annexation of Utility Customers
- Appointment - Zoning and Planning
- Agreed Order WWTP

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance for Fire Safety W & WW Contributions
- Annual Utility Rate Increase
- Rainy Day Fund Resolution 2025-01

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

ADJOURNMENT


NEXT MEETING

April 17, 2025, 6:30 PM

Other Matters Tabled
Insurance Carrier
Filter Media/Well Field Needs
Insurance Bids
DORA

Mobile Home Regulations/Ordinance

Posted on Front Door (IC5-14-1.5-4) Date: 03.26.2025 Time: 3:20 PM

By: 

Dahkota Gill
Utility Superintendent

Monthly Report

04/17/2025

- Gum Tree Removal on 101
Spoke with the County, the Right of Way is 18 feet from the center line. Upon measuring, the tree is not in our right-of-way, but continues to dump into our stormwater system.
- Emergency Repair Invoices
Living Waters Company, \$4051.00
BH Motor, \$9931.77
- Water Towers
In an attempt to overflow the towers today, an unforeseen circumstance caused an iron backup in the water system. All lines have been flushed. We will schedule another day to flush the towers.
- Grant
We received \$40,000.00 in a grant from the Rising Sun Regional Foundation to purchase snow removal equipment and a skid steer.
- Clarifiers are both online and running.

April 18, 2025

Hello Neighbor,

We are reaching out to begin a conversation about annexation into the Town of Sunman. Currently, we are providing essential services to your property, such as water and sewer services. We understand that you are currently paying property taxes to the county, and we would like to know how you feel about the idea of annexation.

There are several perks to annexing into the Town of Sunman, such as having a say in your town, voting on the governing body, and the removal of the 20% surcharges you are currently paying on your water and/or wastewater charges. Additionally, annexation would increase revenue to care for roads and sidewalks, provide access to municipal services, improve emergency response times, and potentially increase property values. Trash and recycling services may offer some financial relief if you were to become a resident.

We would love to hear your thoughts and concerns about annexation. Please feel free to reach out to the Clerk-Treasurer by email at clerk@townofsunman.org or by mail at P.O. Box 147, Sunman, IN 47041, with any questions or feedback. Your input is valuable to us as we consider this important decision.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to become a part of the Town of Sunman community.

Warm regards,

Sunman Town Council

Pond on 101 flooding trees

5 messages

Lisa Taylor <ldisley1969@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 4, 2025 at 3:53 PM

To: Town Marshal <marshal@townofsumman.org>, Sunman Utilities <water@townofsumman.org>, Cheryl Taylor <clerk@townofsumman.org>, "powell@townofsumman.org" <powell@townofsumman.org>

Good afternoon,
I would like to be put on the agenda for the next meeting or sooner if possible. The pond that was built with out any permission is draining onto our property located at 328 south meridian st.

When this pond was being built, I voiced concern about the drain and I went unheard.

I would now like this issue address and fixed. We have a big enough mosquito issue without a pond draining on to our property
Please note, at this point and time we have had less than 3" on rain in 2 days.

I am sorry but I am very upset. This pond should have never happened and at the very least, this is within town limits and we have very young kids, there should be a fence around it.

You can't have a pool without proper safety measures taken. I have attached pictures for reference.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards

Lisa Taylor

812 621 7543

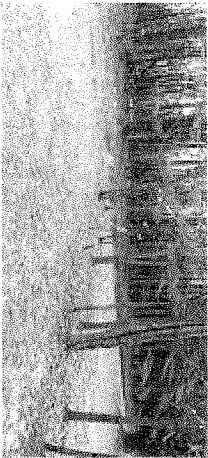
Property manager

Trees Mobile Home community

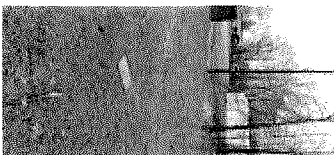
5 attachments



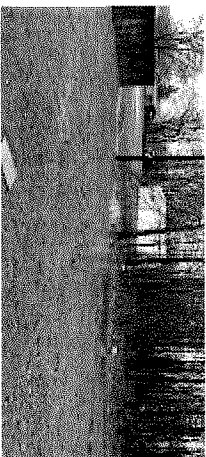
10000222600.jpg
3970K



10000222602.jpg
4514K



1000022599.jpg
4379K



1000022601.jpg
4332K



1000022598.jpg
4145K

Fri, Apr 4, 2025 at 4:21 PM

Lisa Taylor <ldisley1969@gmail.com>
To: Town Marshal <marshal@townofsumman.org>, Sunman Utilities <water@townofsumman.org>, Cheryl Taylor <clerk@townofsumman.org>, "powell@townofsumman.org" <powell@townofsumman.org>

Also... as you can see, the pond is NOT overflowing
[Quoted text hidden]

Lisa Taylor <ldisley1969@gmail.com>
To: Town Marshal <marshal@townofsumman.org>, Sunman Utilities <water@townofsumman.org>, Cheryl Taylor <clerk@townofsumman.org>, "powell@townofsumman.org" <powell@townofsumman.org>

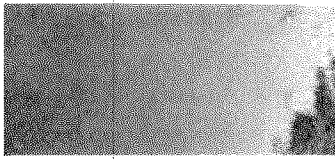
Fri, Apr 4, 2025 at 5:07 PM

It's over flowing into your sewer drain here in the park.
[Quoted text hidden]

6 attachments



20250404_170407.jpg
4012K



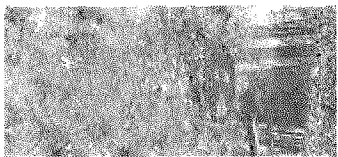
1000022611.jpg
1530K



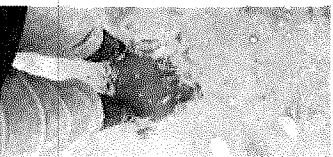
1000022612.jpg
1515K



1000022617.jpg
3788K



1000022618.jpg
3855K



1000022609.jpg
2189K

Mon, Apr 7, 2025 at 8:21 AM

Cheryl Taylor <clerk@townofsumman.org>

To: Lisa Taylor <ldisley1969@gmail.com>

Cc: Town Marshal <marshal@townofsumman.org>, Summan Utilities <water@townofsumman.org>, "powell@townofsumman.org" <powell@townofsumman.org>

Lisa,

Thank you for letting me know. I have printed the email and pictures for the Council. You will be placed under 'Old Business' as a follow-up to the ongoing pond issues.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Cheryl

[Quoted text hidden]

Cheryl A. Taylor

Clerk-Treasurer

Summan, Indiana

Office 812-623-2066

Cell 401-710-1404

email: clerk@townofsumman.org

website: townofsumman.org



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you have received this message in error and are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Lisa Taylor <ldisley1969@gmail.com>

To: Cheryl Taylor <clerk@townofsumman.org>

Cc: Town Marshal <marshal@townofsumman.org>, Sunman Utilities <water@townofsumman.org>, "powell@townofsumman.org" <powell@townofsumman.org>

Mon, Apr 7, 2025 at 8:25 AM

Thank you

[Quoted text hidden]