

SPICELAND TOWN COUNCIL

August 12, 2025

President Jack Garner called the regular session of the Spiceland Town Council to order at 6:00 pm. at the Spiceland Town Hall located at 130 E. Main Street.

Council present: Robert Blake, Jack Garner, Scott Fitch, Jody French and Darrin Jacobs

Audience present: Hope Stevens, Julie Newhouse, Jeff Lane, Karen Fink, Lila Mondrush, Donnie Murray, Donna Tauber, Jessica Thomas, Keith Jarvis, Tracy Raley, Darrin and Jodie Reichart, Evan Reichart, April Hunt, Matt Pierce and Jamie Fitch.

President Jack Garner asked for approval of the July minutes. Scott Fitch made motion for approval of the minutes as presented, Darrin Jacobs seconded the motion, Motion carried 5-0.

Floor was opened to Jeff Lane Superintendent, Water Well house controls were struck by lightening back in July, The Town has turned in a claim into our Insurance company, still waiting on this to be settled. Jeff is currently working with Engineered Solution Midwest Inc. on getting the new controls done, so that we can get the well back up and working, estimated that this should be done by the end of this week. Jeff is also concerned on the grading that is in place in the parking lot in front of the Fire Department. Back in March the Town added onto the Fire Department Building, including new cement work, there is a concern that the grading of the parking lot will cause issues in the future from water runoff. They had initially thought about just putting in a drainage tile to help with the runoff. Concern is that the drainage tile might not be able to handle excessive water runoff. Jeff is currently getting quotes to fix the issue. Will get back to the Board in September with more information as to what can be done as well as quotes.

Floor was opened up to Clerk/Treasurer Hope Stevens. Hope presented the 2026 contract with the Human Society, no changes were made and the contract is still set at the amount of \$2200.00 per year, Scott Fitch made motion for the approval of the 2026 Human Society Contract as presented. Jody French seconded the motion, motion was approved 5-0. Hope then presented to the Board, that every quarter we work with Krohn and Associates they along with IMPA let us know what the tracking factor needs to be changed to for the next quarter electric billing. It was discovered that back in March of 2023, an error was made in how the tracking factor was entered. This number was always entered as a fuel tracking factor, in March it was entered as a tracking factor, which would have been ok, but the fuel factor was not removed. This has caused an overcharge of the Electric Billing from March 2023 to June 2025. This error was fixed for the next quarter which would have been for July billing in August 2025. Brandon with Krohn has gone into each account and figured out what the credit should be for each individual account as these amounts vary between each account, depending on usage. Hope presented to the Council that we give the individual accounts a credit on their Electric Bill starting next month, this credit will ride out on the Electric portion of the bills until the credit is used. She feels that this will be the easiest as well as most efficient way to handle this issue. This would only affect the Electric portion of the bill, the Water and Trash portion of the bill would still need to be paid by the individual accounts. Council asked how we would proceed with those customers who have moved out of the address. Hope recommended that we put something in the paper that notifies those customers that if they lived in Spiceland during that time frame to contact the Town office, so that they can proceed with getting them taken care of. Scott Fitch made motion to go ahead and proceed with giving each individual account their credits on the next month bill. Jody seconded the motion, the motion was approved 5-0. Scott Teague Chief of the Fire Department, was not able to attend the meeting but asked Hope if she could present to the board about getting new tires for the new Fire truck. They currently have a quote for \$2200.00. Scott Fitch made a motion for the approval of up to \$2500.00 for the purchase of new tires for the New Fire Truck, Jody seconded the motion and motion was carried 5-0.0

Jack Garner opened up for discussion of claims for approval. Scott Fitch made motion for approval of the claim as submitted, Jody French seconded the motion, motion was carried 5-0.

President Jack Garner opened the floor back up to old business or business from the Council. Nothing at this time.

Floor was opened up to any new business, none was presented.

The Floor was then opened up to the audience, Tracy Raley, owner of the property located at 119 S Pearl St., presented to the Board a proposal that she would like to put in a Beauty Shop and Coffee shop at this location. The Town does not require any certain permits or requirements for her to do this, it is recommended that she use Indiana 811 before doing any construction, as well with working with the State for recommendations on what they require for a business of that type. Donna Tauber spoke on behalf of the Spiceland Township, at the July meeting a discussion was made about the Town owning and Fire truck at one point in time, and that the Town no longer does. She presented to the Board a copy of the title, where the Township bought and paid for the newest truck. She was upset that discussion were made about this, and that she was not involved in the discussion. She asked that an apology be made to her and that for any discussion in the future that we contact her so that she can be involved in the discussion as well. Scott Fitch and Jack Garner both made mention that they did not intend for her to be pointed out, but going forward it would be in the best interest of the Town Council, Township and the Fire Department, that all discussion involving the Department should be done with all the present. Donna also present the 2026 Fire Department contract

between the Township, Fire Department and the Town of Spiceland. The 2026 contract was presented as is no change to be made. Tabled for approval at next month meeting, once Council had a chance to look over it. Karen Fink, was next with audience participation, her question involved the cleaning of the sidewalks. A few months back Care Days asked if this could be something that could be done by the Cares day program back in May. It was advised at that time, that they would have to talk to each individual homeowner to make sure they had no problem with the program weed eating the sidewalks. Karen asked who owns the sidewalks and should be taking care of them. The Council made note, that the sidewalks should be maintained by the homeowners. Karen asked if the Town was to take care of any of them, again it was told to her that, the homeowner is to maintain the sidewalk in front of their homes. Ordinance was also read to her. She did make mention that the Fire hydrants do look nice with the fresh red paint, but she was concerned if they were painted the correct color to code. Red is an appropriate color for Fire hydrants. Jessica Thomas, in the audience, asked about the Ordinance that we have in place for abandoned cars and maintenance of properties. Matt Pierce our local police officer was able to let her know the procedures that the Town has in place for taking care of those matters. Jessica also asked about what can be done with individuals here in Town who continue to park of the sidewalks, making it difficult to walk. Matt also said there are things in place for that matter as well, and that he would continue to work on getting them taken care of.

Nothing else was brought forward at this time, Scott Fitch motioned for meeting to be adjourned, Robert Blake seconded the motion, Motion carried 3-0 approval. Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

David Day
Robert Blake

Joey French
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