

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA
February 28, 2022**

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council members Michael Leman, William Daily and James Leeper were present. Also present were Trend Weldy, Director of Operations; Ben Wright, Foreman of the Electric Department; Alex Mikel, Superintendent of the Water Department; Chief Brad Kile, Police Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Austin Langdon, Superintendent of the Street Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park Department; Ken Jones, Town Engineer; Janet Anglemyer, Clerk-Treasurer; and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

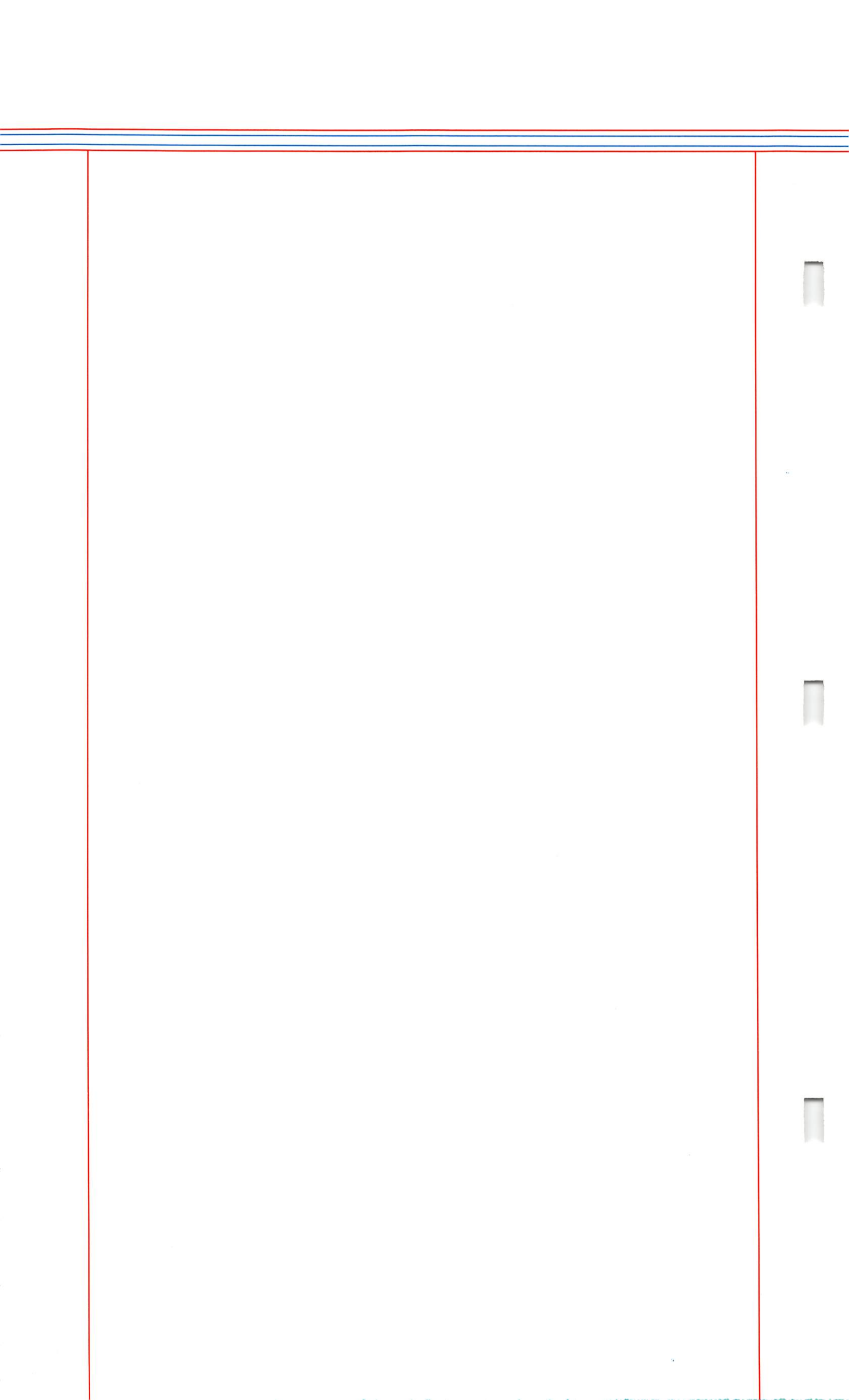
MINUTES: Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting, as amended, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

CLERK-TREASURER: Ms. Anglemyer submitted the docket of claims without amendment; Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve the docket as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Wagner presented the grant writing contract for Priority Project Resources, Inc. Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the contract as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner also brought the Councils' attention to a recent email from IMPA regarding pending legislation in the state legislature to amend the eminent domain process; Mr. Wagner encouraged the Council Members to contact Senator Mishler if they had strong feelings regarding the law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were offered.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS: Mr. Weldy told the Council that Ms. McLoed had begun the income survey for the Jackson Street project, and was waiting to see if they would need to do a neighborhood walk-through to get the number of surveys needed. Mr. Weldy informed the Council that Jack Alvey was elected the new CEO of IMPA and expressed his confidence in him. Mr. Weldy submitted Resolution 2022-5, regarding a standard 10-year tax abatement on \$10.7 million dollars in real estate for Southwire. Mr. Weldy explained that their new construction project would add approximately 50 jobs to the 442 existing employees. Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-5, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Weldy then presented Resolution 2022-6, regarding the standard 10-year tax abatement on \$24.178 million dollars in personal property for Southwire. Mr. Weldy explained that this was an investment into equipment for the new building and noted that it again supported the addition of the previously mentioned 50 jobs. Mr. Daily made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-6, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Weldy then told the Council that he had attended a county meeting regarding the proposed regional sewer district, an estimated that it was approximately 2 years away from activity. He also noted that the Donnybrook neighborhood was second on their priority list. Mr. Leman asked whether the reception at the meeting was positive, and Mr. Weldy and Mr. Jones stated that it had been mostly positive from their perspective.



DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Mr. Wright requested permission to hire Brant Hedington for the open position in the Electric Department. He explained that Mr. Hedington was already a licensed electrician, and proposed to start him at a wage of \$24.35 with 5 days vacation, beginning on March 28, 2022. Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve the hire of Mr. Hedington at the proposed terms, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Mikel had no new information to report on behalf of the Water Department.

Chief Kile requested approval of out-of-state training for four (4) officers from May 1 – May 6, with use of the town car. He explained that the training would take place in Chicago, Illinois, and that it was a cost-effective way to cover training for multiple officers at once. He added that a county grant would cover most expenses, although he also expected to use some of his budgeted training fund to cover other costs. Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the request for out-of-state training, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Chief Kile also noted that he had received a few applications for the dispatcher position, but was struggling because the shift was less favorable.

Chief Neher had no new information to report on behalf of the Fire Department.

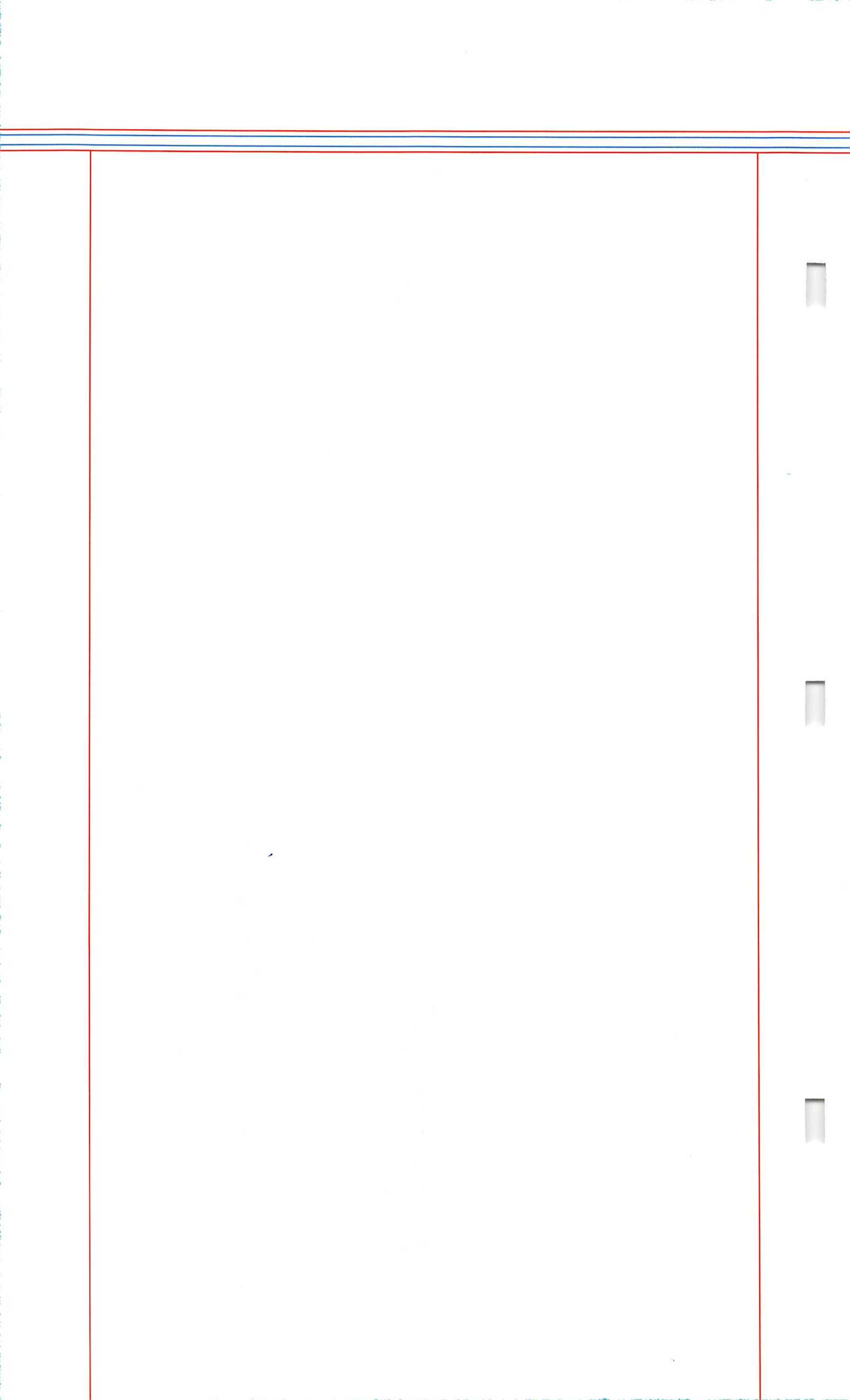
Mr. Langdon requested that the Council promote Tim Kulczar to foreman as of February 28, 2022. Mr. Daily made a motion to promote Mr. Kulczar to Street Department foreman, which was seconded by Mr. Leeper and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Cunningham presented the BCI wastewater permit for renewal, which Mr. Leman signed.

Mr. Main had no new information to report on behalf of the Park Department.

Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mr. Leman stated that it was time to conduct the public hearing regarding the preliminary engineering report for the wastewater plant project. Mr. Jones explained the schedule for SRF and USDA funding and reiterated the intent to obtain any amount of subsidization possible along with reduced interest rates. He reminded the Council that the proposal constituted \$16 million dollars for a new facility, a new discharge to the river, and an improvement of the existing interceptor line. He explained that they could seek SRF funding in July and USDA funding in September, with an eye for construction to begin in spring of 2023. He also noted that the current facility could stay online until the new facility was ready. He described the project as necessary to meet modern environmental compliance, meet the Town's capacity needs, and to remedy physical issues with the elevation of the plant relative to the flood plain. Mr. Jones said the new plant would be state of the art, more efficient than the current plant, and would include automated features. He also explained the problems with the aging interceptor line that needed repair. He added that the rate impact was difficult to determine without knowing the final funding and project bids, but he complimented the Town for stretching the useful of the existing plant as far as possible. He acknowledged that the Town had no choice but to replace the plant at this time but stated that the timing was good with the funding options. Mr. Jones also described the project materials left in the Town Hall for public review. Mr. Leeper made a motion to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. One member of the public asked Mr. Jones about the length of the rate increase, if it would fall off after a certain period of time. Mr. Jones explained that the SRF funding would be part of the



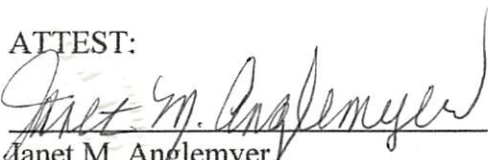
rate for at least 20 years, which would be more like 40 if USDA funding was obtained. He also acknowledged that that he had never seen utility rates decrease. Mr. Wagner asked whether there were any other sources of capital funding that would reduce the overall cost of the project to the Town. Mr. Jones explained that the SWIFT from the American Recovery Plan might have some funds available but that more information about the program was yet to be released. He explained that the Town's problem was that its current rates were so low that a substantial increase nearly moved the rates up to a normal level compared to many other communities. Mr. Jones noted that the Indiana Finance Authority is scheduled to be fully funded at double capacity for the next five years but added that he did not expect the SRF or USDA to be willing to subsidize part of the project due to the reasonable rates. Mr. Jones also described a new economic development grant from the Federal Department of Commerce that could be used to help with the project in certain circumstances. No other public comments were offered. Mr. Leeper made a motion to close the public hearing and re-open the regular meeting which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.


TOWN ENGINEER: Mr. Jones requested that the Town award the Community Crossings project to E&B Paving, Inc. for their bid of \$376,006.07 as the lowest bidder. Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve the bid submitted by E&B Paving, Inc., which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Jones noted that he was working with Mr. Cunningham on storm sewer improvements from Center Street, and that he believed the project could be mostly paid for from the remainder of the storm water bond plus savings from their previous projects. Mr. Jones then asked the Council to approve the preliminary engineering report for the wastewater plant project; Mr. Leeper made a motion to approve the report as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: No Council comments were offered.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Leeper made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

ATTEST:


Janet M. Anglemeyer
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen


Michael Leman, President

