

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN OF BREMEN, INDIANA  
March 25, 2024**

The Town Council of the Town of Bremen, Indiana, met in regular session at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2024, at the Bremen Town Hall pursuant to notice previously published. Council Members Michael Leman, William Daily, Bryan Miller, and Alex Mikel were present. Also present were Keith Fraine, Director of Operations; Janet Anglemyer, Clerk-Treasurer; Ben Wright, Superintendent of the Electric Department; Henry Aguayo, Superintendent of the Water Department; Sergeant Matt Schnaible, Police Department; Austin Langdon, Superintendent of the Street Department; Matt Cunningham, Superintendent of the Wastewater Department; Chief Matt Neher, Fire Department; Brian Main, Superintendent of the Park Department; Nate Lockwood, Cemetery Sexton; Ken Jones, Town Engineer, and Anthony Wagner, Town Attorney.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024, meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

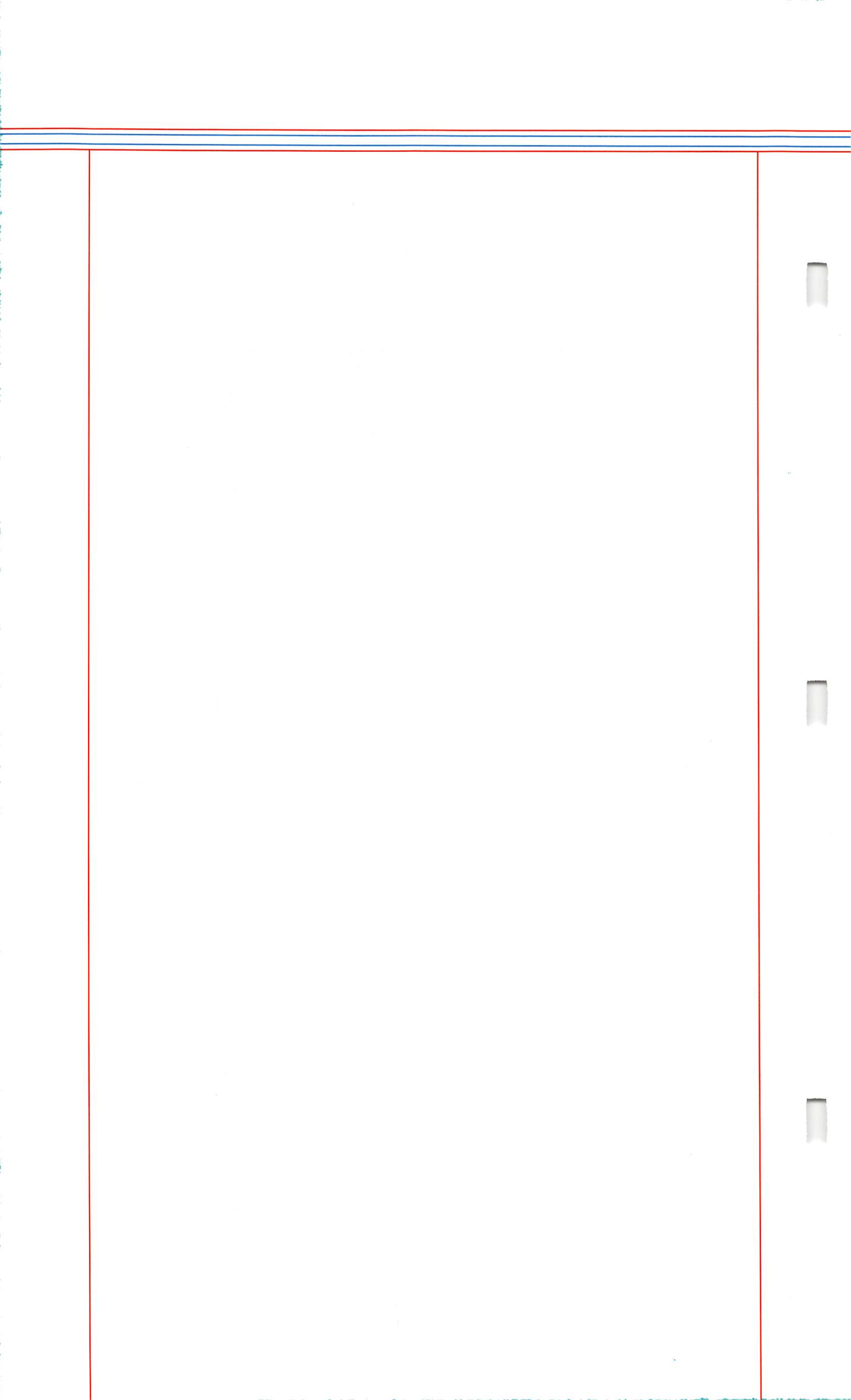
**CLERK-TREASURER:** Ms. Anglemyer submitted the docket of claims without amendment; Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the docket as submitted, which was seconded by Mr. Mikel and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Anglemyer presented the annual TIF management report from the Redevelopment Commission for the Council's review. Ms. Anglemyer also told the Council that she would be creating a bank account for the sewage works revenue, which would begin on May 1.

**TOWN ATTORNEY:** Mr. Wagner presented Ordinance 2-2024, the bond ordinance for the Wastewater Treatment Plant/Interceptor project, for first reading. Mr. Daily made a motion to approve Ordinance 2-2024 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner also presented Ordinance 3-2024, amending the unsafe building ordinance for community membership of the Board. Mr. Mikel made a motion to approve Ordinance 3-2024 on first reading, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wagner also presented an annexation petition from several property owners on 3<sup>rd</sup> Road.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business was brought before the Council.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Tyler Coffel from Baker Tilly appeared and reviewed the financial management reports for the water and wastewater utilities. In regard to the water utility, Mr. Coffel explained the effects of the rate increases and also detailed the items that went into the rate forecasting. In regard to the wastewater report, he explained that he would review some of the information in more detail as the bond issue for the Wastewater Treatment Plant/Interceptor project, moved forward, and he also noted that that the rate forecasting accounted for the planned increases.

Mr. Leman asked if anyone in attendance wished to speak in regard to the amendment of the animal control ordinance to permit chickens within the Town limits. Jonathan Zakutansky appeared and spoke in favor of owning chickens. He explained some of his educational experience with chickens and suggested that chicken ownership was beneficial for children and families to allow 4H participation, to grow eggs and meat, and to encourage sustainability. He explained that raising chickens was a hobby for him but that he was not opposed to reasonable restrictions, including numbers, types of fowl, and lot sizes. Marie Huxhold also appeared and told the Council that she would like to be able to raise her own eggs, but that she also supported reasonable rules; her





daughter, Susan Huxhold, also spoke in favor of allowing chickens. Another resident, Thad Hochstetler, also appeared in support of amending the animal control ordinance to allow chicken ownership. No other comments were offered. Mr. Leman thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting but expressed concern that he had received significant opposition outside of the meeting. The other Council Members shared his concern. Mr. Leman also stated that he was opposed to an amendment that allowed ducks and geese and was only interested in chickens. The Council Members stated that they would be looking at other ordinances to see if a compromise between the positions could be found. The Council discussed what requirements they might consider.

**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:** Mr. Fraine submitted his report.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Mr. Wright informed the Council that Cordell Matteson and Mitchell Yoder had both completed their 4-year apprenticeship. Mr. Wright asked the Council to promote Mr. Matteson to Assistant Superintendent as of March 25, 2024. Mr. Mikel made a motion to promote Mr. Matteson to Assistant Superintendent as of March 25, 2024, which was seconded by Mr. Daily and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Miller asked whether Mr. Matteson and Mr. Yoder had completed had met all of the requirements for their promotions, which Mr. Wright confirmed. Mr. Wright asked the Council to promote Mr. Yoder to lineman first-class journeyman as of March 25, 2024. Mr. Mikel made a motion to promote Mr. Yoder to lineman first-class journeyman as of March 25, 2024, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays. Mr. Wright also submitted his report on behalf of the Electric Department.

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

Sergeant Schnaible had no new information to report on behalf of the Police Department.

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

Mr. Langdon asked the Council for authorization to improve the parking lot across the street from the Police Department. He explained that he wanted to combine that work with repaving certain alleys. Mr. Jones told the Council he would update the estimate from several years ago as to the cost. Mr. Leman asked if the project had any funding at this time, and Mr. Langdon replied that he was not sure yet. Mr. Daily had asked if anything had been budgeted for the project and Mr. Langdon had told him that there were some funds could be applied. Mr. Mikel asked what the Town's long-term intent for the property would be, and Mr. Wagner suggested to the Council to do some long-range planning before investing in improvements to the parking lot. The Council discussed the proposal. Mr. Jones suggested that the Council conduct a space-needs study across all departments. The Council asked Mr. Jones to prepare a proposal for the study.

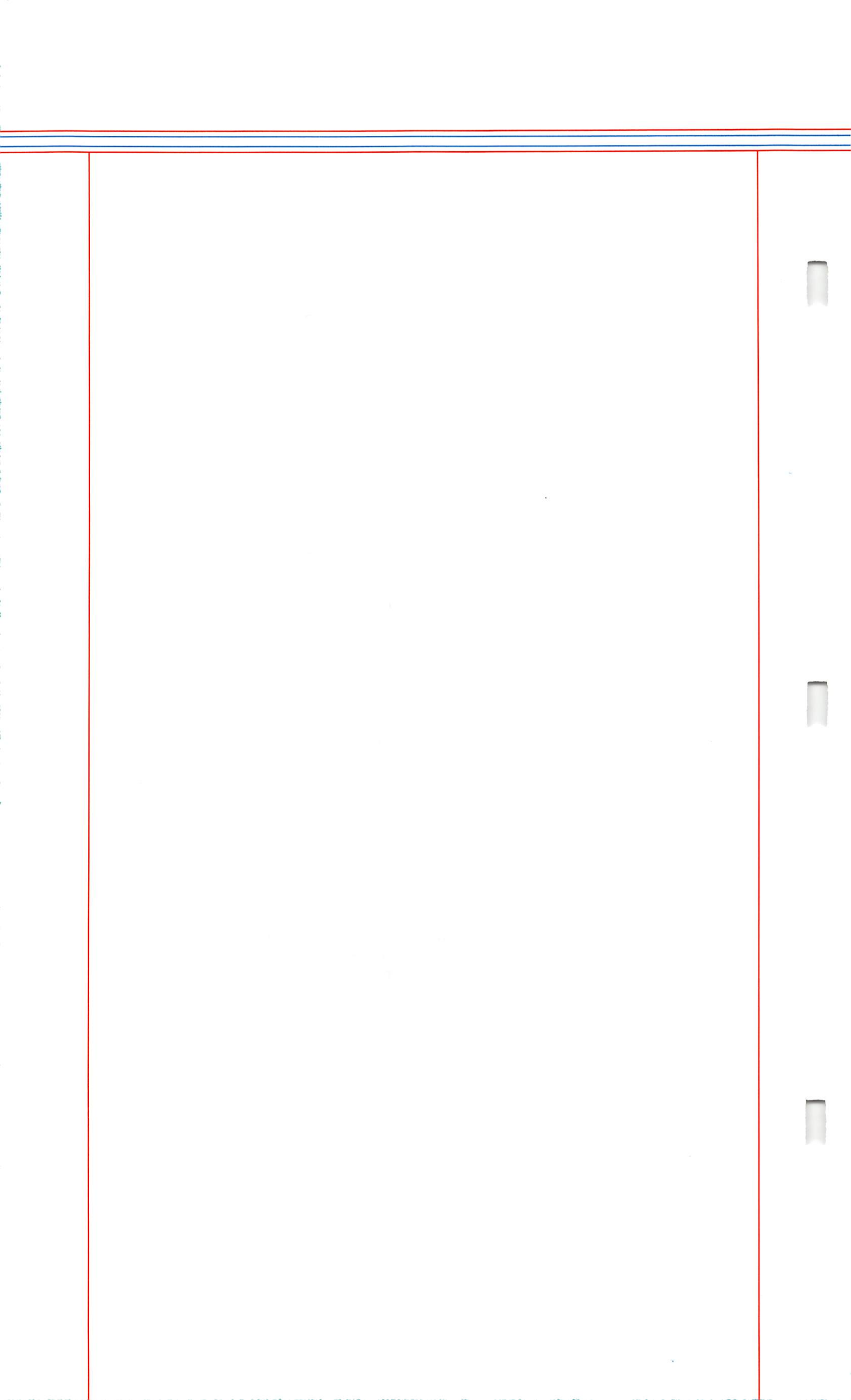
Mr. Cunningham had no new information to report on behalf of the Wastewater Department.

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

Mr. Lockwood had no new information to report on behalf of the Cemetery Department.

Mr. Daily made a motion to approve the Department Head Reports, which was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays.

**TOWN ENGINEER:** Mr. Jones was joined by Dan Byam for his report. Mr. Byam told the Council that the USDA had contacted JPR about removing some of the

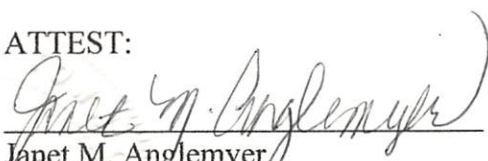


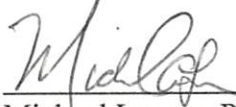
restrictions on funding that had pushed Town towards SRF funding for the Wastewater Treatment Plant/Interceptor project. Mr. Byam acknowledged that the USDA rates were somewhat better than the SRF funding, but expressed concern that the program could not fund any cost escalation and that some other conditions would result in at least 3-6 months of delays. The Council directed Mr. Byam to decline the USDA offer and to continue to pursue the SRF funding. Mr. Byam also noted that the bid deadline date was scheduled for April 8, 2024, which is the same day as the solar eclipse. Mr. Byam explained that he had several contractors express concern that the eclipse events were going to keep the contractors from obtaining up to date information for their bids. Mr. Leman asked what would need to be done to move the submission date, and Mr. Byam suggested that it be moved back three dates to April 11 and Mr. Jones added that his office would just need to send notice to the bidders. Mr. Byam asked to have one Council Member attend the bid opening hearing. Mr. Byam, Ms. Anglemyer and Mr. Wagner discussed when to advertise the bid opening hearing. The Council set the meeting for 4:30 p.m. on April 11, 2024.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Mr. Daily asked Mr. Fraine if he had heard from the Troyer Group regarding the fire pit remediation, and Mr. Fraine replied that he had spoken with Mike Reese but that they were both waiting on additional information from the contractor.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Miller 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. Anglemyer,  
Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Bremen

  
Michael Leman, President

