

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
WORK SESSION**

April 30, 2024

Present: Supervisor Lewis Grubham
Councilmember William Diffendorf, Jr.
Councilmember Katie Legg
Councilmember Sandy Wasson
Councilmember Robert Weingartner

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Kelley Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch Jr., Commissioner of Public Works
Karen Ferguson, Historian

1. Summer Schedule: (LCG)

Resolution rescheduling the June 25, 2024 Work Session to Monday, June 24, 2024 due to the Primary Election and combining the June 24, 2024 Work Session and the July 2, 2024 Town Board Meeting into one night to be held Monday, June 24, 2024.

Resolution combining the July 30, 2024 Work Session and the August 6, 2024 Town Board Meeting into one night to be held August 6, 2024.

Resolution combining the August 27, 2024 Work Session and the September 3, 2024 Town Board Meeting into one night to be held September 3, 2024.

2. Discussion – Resolution rescheduling the November 5, 2024 Town Board Meeting to Monday, November 4, 2024 due to Election Day. (LCG)

3. Resolution rescheduling the Tuesday, December 31, 2024 Work Session to Monday, December 30, 2024 and scheduling a Special Town Board Meeting for Monday, December 30, 2024, after the Work Session, for the purpose of auditing year end bills and any other business that may come before the Board. (LCG)

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4. Discussion – Request for Change in Zoning – Robert Evans – 205 Gorman Road – Residence 1 to Agricultural/Rural Residence. (LCG)

Robert Evans spoke to the Board about rezoning his property and starting a small farm/homestead, stating he is surrounded by agricultural properties. He would like to do everything correctly before moving forward with anything. Supervisor Grubham noted this is the only property in the area not zoned agricultural. The Board members did not appear to have any issues with this request and will vote on this resolution next week. If the Board does entertain this request, the first step is to pass this on to the Planning Board.

5. Discussion – Water System Evaluation by Delaware Engineering. (LCG)

After several recommendations from other towns, Supervisor Grubham reached out to Delaware Engineering for a project proposal, and if the Board agreed he would ask them to come next week and explain in detail what they would recommend the Town do to fix the water system issue. The cost for the evaluation is \$18,500. Councilmember Legg questioned if three bids were required with such a large fee involved. Since this is a professional service three bids are not required. Councilmember Diffendorf agreed something needs to be done and that it is not easy to find people with expertise in this area. Mr. McKertich explained the resolution will be ready to go next week and the Board can decide to vote or table it after hearing the proposal from Delaware Engineering.

6. Discussion – Cameras at River Park. (LCG)

After talking with Sentry Alarms, Supervisor Grubham and John Finch received a quote for a security system with five top notch cameras for \$13,600. The cost for Spectrum to run cables to the park would be approximately \$4,900. Supervisor Grubham averaged about \$20,000 for the entire system to be installed with access to the cameras at any time to see what is going on in the park. This will help stop some of the vandalism that has been happening down there. The monthly subscription will cost between \$65- \$100 per month in total. Councilmember Weingartner asked if public WI-FI would be available with this new system, looking at it more on the safe side for someone that may need to use their cell phone through a WI-FI network. The money to pay for this system would come from the Park Reserve Fund. One camera will be facing the

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entrance to the park so license plates should be able to be seen at that point if needed. Notifications from the app can be sent to the phones of whoever wants to get them, most likely John Finch, Tim Finch and Supervisor Grubham.

7. Discussion – Work to be done at Grange Hall Park. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham explained that he applied for a grant to complete the work that needs to be done at Grange Hall Park but unfortunately did not get it. But the work still needs to get done. The parking lots have needed paving for quite some time. The posts on the pavilion need to be replaced, which is a fairly extensive job because concrete needs to be used this time. Also, five light poles around the track need to be replaced. Since these poles get knocked down each year and need to get replaced Supervisor Grubham is recommending replacing the lights around the track with poles in the parking lot with lighting that shine out on the track area. The cost is about the same and they won't need to be replaced each year. Supervisor Grubham assured Councilmember Legg the lights would shine bright enough on the far end of the track for people to feel safe walking at night. Councilmember Diffendorf confirmed the lights would be on a timer and would not illuminate on any neighbors, it was noted they can be adjusted if needed. Supervisor Grubham estimated the cost for the work at the park to be between \$30,000-\$35,000. There should be about \$35,000 left of the ARPA stimulus money so that can be used to fund these projects.

8. Discussion – Proposed Bench and Plaque Donation Policy. (LCG)

Supervisor Grubham asked the Board to review the new bench policy as it is more detailed than the original draft given to the Board.

Councilmember Legg asked John Finch about getting at least four benches around the perimeter of the new playground at Veterans River Park. More are being built and will be installed at Veterans River Park soon.

9. Discussion – Local Law Amending the Water Mains Local Law. (LCG)

John Finch had inquired about this local law so when a valve box or gate valve is leaking at a local business he has something in writing to show the owner that it is their responsibility to fix the leak. Commercial properties are responsible for their main lines coming off of our main lines, regardless of whether or not it is

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on private property or within the public right of way. Residential is different, the resident owns from the curb box to their house, but the Town owns the curb box.

10. Discussion – Resolution appointing Adisen Harden as Member Planning Board, effective May 8, 2024, for a term to expire December 31, 2027, to fill the unexpired term of Jim Bukowski. (LCG)

11. Discussion – Resolution approving the Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Official for James Smith, Budget Officer, in accordance with the attached resolution. (LCG)

12. Discussion – Price Quote from Burr Truck to repair Truck 38. (JAF)

Truck #38, a 2016 dump truck was taken to Burr Truck in need of repairs to the turbocharger and the 7th injector, with a quote of \$5,892.35. This would be paid from the equipment repairs budget line.

13. Discussion – Request to hire a 3-month temporary person for the Highway Department. (JAF)

John Finch asked permission to hire a temporary employee for 3 months at \$16 per hour in the Highway department to do flagging and minor labor. The person hired last year did not work out after half of a day, Councilmember Legg questioned if the temporary person was needed. John Finch confirmed the extra help is handy and the position is in the budget.

14. Discussion – Paving Haskins Road and Harvey Smith Road. (JAF)

Both of these roads were able to get paved before the oil and gas prices went up again for the season and they both look great.

15. Discussion – Resolution hiring Benjamin Diffendorf as MEO Heavy to work in the Highway Department, effective May 8, 2024, at a rate of pay of \$20.50 per hour.

John Finch reported two applicants were interviewed for the position and both were good candidates. Benjamin Diffendorf has been a lifelong resident of Kirkwood, is the Assistant Chief of the Kirkwood Fire Company, and has worked

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previous summers for the Town Parks department. He will be replacing Chuck Monta, who recently retired.

16. Audit of Claims.

Reach Mower. Councilmember Diffendorf asked John Finch to explain the problem with the John Deere Reach Mower. The mower has no power, a possible pump issue, the tractor is at Casenovia in Cortland. They came and picked it up and are taking it apart to try and diagnosis it now. John Finch confirmed to Councilmember Legg that this is the reach mower that was just purchased recently.

Hydrant Replacement. After looking at vouchers, Councilmember Diffendorf questioned if Boland’s had recently replaced a hydrant and why the Town did not replace the hydrant. John Finch explained this was in regards to an insurance claim about a year and a half ago by the Rocket Plaza. It ended up being a difficult job, with a valve blowing off and a huge amount of concrete behind it. With insurance claims a quote is given through a contractor and then the contractor is reimbursed through the insurance company. Councilmember Diffendorf expressed his thoughts on the matter, stating the Water department should be working on these jobs, since they have all the available resources now to do the work. The more you do them, the better you get at them.

17. Executive Session.

Councilmember Diffendorf moved to adopt resolution to recess the meeting for an attorney/client session to obtain legal advice. Councilmember Weingartner seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Councilmember Diffendorf	- yes
	Councilmember Wasson	- yes
	Councilmember Legg	- yes
	Councilmember Weingartner	- yes
	Supervisor Grubham	- yes

MOTION CARRIED.

60:24
Executive
Session