

The Santa Claus Town Council & Santa Claus Town Council met in regular session on December 28, 2022 at the Santa Claus Town Hall located at 90 N Holiday Blvd Santa Claus, In. The meeting was called to order by President, Michael Johannes at 5:01 pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**YouTube-** Would not connect

**Town Council Present:** Jason Little, Patricia Vaal, Michael Johannes, & Kevin Burke

**Absent:** Seth Windell

**Also, Present:** Water Board President; Scot Elliott, Clerk-Treasurer; Kelly Greulich, Town Attorney; Kevin Patmore, Water Board member; Stephen Leiberling, Fire Chief; Max Meyer & Superintendent; Russ Luthy

**MINUTES**

Jason Little made a motion to approve the November 14, 2022 meeting minutes and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Stephen Leiberling from the water board presented to the council the 2023 water budget for approval, the expense amount of \$ 2,479,404.00, revenue of \$ 2,102,100.00, spending cash on hand of \$ 377,304.00 and the capital fund expenses of \$ 1,808,806.00. Does the council have any questions concerning the water budget?

With no questions, Kevin Burke made a motion to approve the 2023 water budget as presented and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

**FIRE DEPARTMENT MAX MEYER**

Patmore has ORDINANCE 2022-19 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND for the council. After the fire department received the FEMA grant Kelly contacted me concerning requirements of the grant. The funds are in the bank account and a fund must be set up to receive the money and also to expense the funds out for the SCBA equipment. The council may want to consider suspending the rules and adopting the ordinance tonight.

Jason Little made a motion for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ORDINANCE 2022-19 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND and Kevin Burke seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Jason Little made a motion to suspend the rules and Kevin Burke seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Jason Little made a motion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and adoption of ORDINANCE 2022-19 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Max Meyer stated he had the Clay Township fire contract with increase for 2023 of \$ 100.00 for a total of \$ 6,500.00 and asked the council for a motion to approve signing of the contract.

Jason Little made a motion authorize Max Meyer to sign the 2023 Clay Township Fire Contract in the amount of \$ 6,500.00 and Kevin Burke seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

### **BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Todd Hays submitted by email his 2023 information concerning compensation as the town's Building Inspector at \$ 1,300.00 a month and will continue as the Zoning Administrator at no charge until the council hires a town manager.

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve Todd Hays as Building Inspector & Zoning Inspector for 2023 pending his signed contract and proof of liability insurance and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Greulich informed the council that Matt Taylor has resigned from the APC & BOZA boards effective immediately. Matt Taylor represented the Republican party on the board. Michael Johannes expressed interest in the board as a Republican representative.

Patmore stated he will notify Bob Grundhoefer about Matt Taylor resignation.

### **TOWN ATTORNEY KEVIN PATMORE**

Patmore stated the town has received information from a law firm Jackson & Lewis concerning a federal lawsuit the new councilmen Brain Warran has filed against Holiday World.

Jason Little authorized town attorney Kevin Patmore to notify Mr. Warran that he may have a potential conflict concerning Holiday World and Kevin Burke seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Patmore has RESOLUTION 2022-14 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A DEDUCTION FOR TAX ABATEMENT IN AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA (ERA) KIMBALL FURNITURE GROUP, LLC. Kimball is increasing the project to 3.7 million this will replace the one from earlier this year.

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2022-14 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A DEDUCTION FOR TAX ABATEMENT IN AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA (ERA) KIMBALL FURNITURE GROUP, LLC and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: Little, Vaal, Johannes Nays: None Abstain: Burke Motion carried

### **CLERK-TREASURER**

Greulich stated the meeting dates for 2023 for all boards were sent out prior to the meeting, the council needs a motion to approve the 2023 dates.

Kevin Burke made a motion to approve the 2023 meeting dates as presented for all boards of the town of Santa Claus and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Greulich informed the council the Federal guidelines for the town's 457B retirement plan has changed if you remember correctly in 2020 COVID hit and the guidelines were changed to accommodate issues pertaining to the impact of COVID on families. Those guidelines are no longer acceptable and the council must approve the new Federal guidelines. Basically, we are going back to pre-COVID guidelines.

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve the Federal guidelines and authorize Clerk-Treasurer Kelly Greulich to sign the form and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

### **WASTEWATER2023 BUDGET**

Russ Luthy presented the 2023 Wastewater Budget to the council expenses in the amount of \$ 1,377,219.00 revenue of \$ 1,314,000.00 with spending cash on hand of \$ 63,219.00 and capital expenses of \$ 1,750,000.00. for council approval.

Kevin Burke made a motion to approve the 2023 Wastewater Budget as presented and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Nothing

### **VOUCHERS**

Jason Little made a motion to approve general vouchers in the amount of \$ 122,629.93 and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Jason Little made a motion to approve wastewater vouchers in the amount of \$ 95,180.16 and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Greulich asked the council for a motion to pay invoices through the end of 2022.

Patricia Vaal made a motion to approve Clerk-Treasurer Kelly Greulich to pay invoices through the end of 2022 and Jason Little seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Reminder the Public Hearing is this Friday, December 30, 2022 at 12 (noon) concerning water rates and charges.

Kevin Burke thanked Michael Johannes for his many years of service to the community and his knowledge throughout the years.

Johannes wanted to bring to the council attention the email that town attorney Kevin Patmore sent out concerning more than 8 million dollars in transportation grant money. This would be a perfect time to apply for the grant to have the Santa Claus Lincoln Discovery Trail finished for small communities there is no match. The trail has already had the archeological, environmental,


and preliminary engineering studies done. Patmore stated the application is due by February 28, 2023.


Kevin Burke made a motion to have Kevin Patmore complete the application for the grant to possibly finish the Santa Claus Lincoln Discovery Trail and Jason Little seconded the motion.  
Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

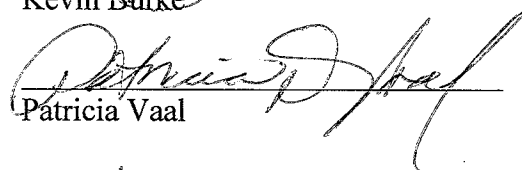
**ADJOURNMENT**

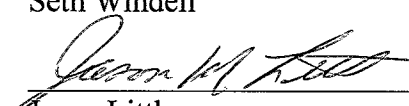
Jason Little made a motion to adjourn the town council meeting at 6:17 P.M. and Patricia Vaal seconded the motion.


Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

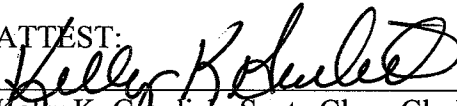
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Burke

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Windell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia Vaal

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Little

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Warran

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly K. Greulich, Santa Claus Clerk-Treasurer

**ORDINANCE 2022-19**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT FUND**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Santa Claus has applied for and may receive grant funds for the Town's use in providing support and purchasing equipment for the Santa Claus Volunteer Fire Department, including from the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency and other sources; and,

**WHEREAS**, a separate fund is necessary to properly account for the receipts and disbursements of such grant monies.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana, that a new Section 1.110 is hereby added to Municipal Code of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana, as follows:

**"1.110 Fire Department Grant Fund**

**1.110.010 Established.** That there is hereby established a special fund known as the "Fire Department Grant Fund."

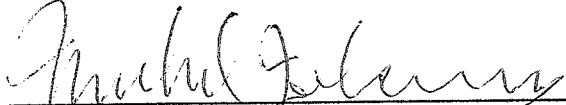
**1.110.020 Contributions.** That contributions to the fund shall be any and all Federal and/or State monies received as grant funding for the Town's use in providing support and purchasing equipment for the Santa Claus Volunteer Fire Department.

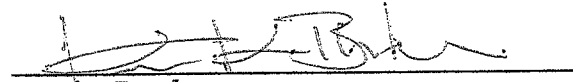
**1.110.030 Use of Funds.** That expenditures may be made from the fund by appropriation or resolution by the Santa Claus Town Council to accomplish the purposes for which grant funding is received by the Town and deposited into the fund.

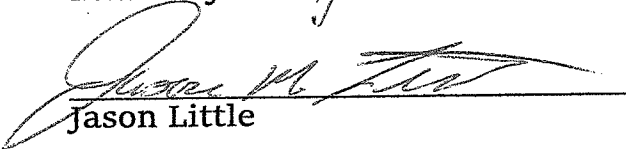
**1.110.040 Termination.** That this fund shall be a perpetual fund until terminated by future ordinance, and any funds remaining at time of termination shall be returned to general fund of the Town unless required to be returned to a granting agency by the terms and requirements of the grant."

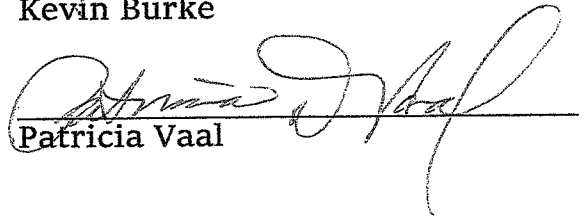
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL


  
Michael Johannes President

  
Kevin Burke

  
Jason Little

  
Patricia Vaal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seth Windell

Attest:  
  
Kelly Greulich, Clerk-Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A DEDUCTION FOR TAX ABATEMENT IN AN  
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA (ERA)

KIMBALL FURNITURE GROUP, LLC.

WHEREAS, IC 6-1.1-12.1 allows for a partial abatement of property taxes attributable to the rehabilitation/redevelopment of real property and/or installation of new personal property in an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA); and

WHEREAS, IC 6-1.1-12.1 empowers the Town of Santa Claus to designate Economic Revitalization Areas (ERAs); and,

WHEREAS, the Town previously has designated the Santa Claus Industrial Park as an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA); and hereby confirms such designation; and,

WHEREAS, Kimball International, Inc. owns real property within the Santa Claus Industrial Park; and,

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2022, Kimball Furniture Group, LLC filed a Statement of Benefits requesting the approval of a deduction for the purposes of Tax Abatement in an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) for a period of ten (10) years on real estate improvements, which Statement of Benefits and Supplement are attached hereto as EXHIBIT "A" and which Statement of Benefits replaces the Statement of Benefits filed on April 5, 2022 and approved by Resolution 2022-06 and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SANTA CLAUS, that

I. The Town Council finds that:

- A. The estimate of the cost of the new manufacturing equipment, new farm equipment, new research and development equipment, new logistical distribution equipment, or new information technology equipment is reasonable for equipment of that type; and,
- B. The estimate of the annual salaries of those individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained can be reasonably expected to result from the proposed installation of new manufacturing equipment; and
- C. The estimate of the annual salaries of those individuals who will be employed or whose employment will be retained can be reasonably expected to result from the proposed installation of new manufacturing equipment; and,

- D. The tax base of the Town of Santa Claus and all relevant taxing districts can be reasonably expected to increase from the proposed installation of new manufacturing equipment; and,
- E. The total benefits are sufficient to justify the deduction.

- 2. The Statement of Benefits filed December 8, 2022 is hereby approved.
- 3. Kimball Furniture Group, LLC shall be entitled the opportunity to apply for property tax deductions for the increase in assessed value resulting from the redevelopment of real estate over a period of ten (10) years in accordance with the following abatement schedule percentages:


Year	Percentage
1	100
2	90
3	80
4	70
5	60
6	50
7	40
8	30
9	20
10	10

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

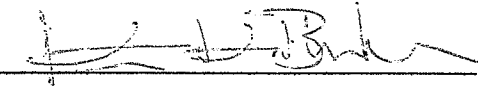


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Santa Claus, Indiana this 28th day of December, 2022.

SANTA CLAUS TOWN COUNCIL



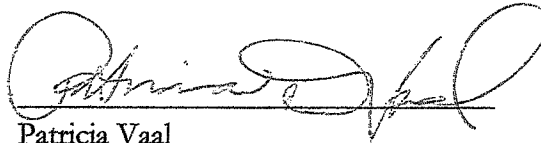
Michael Johannes, President



Kevin Burke



Jason Little

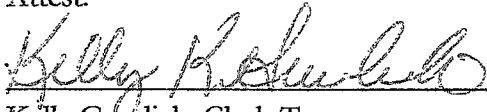


Patricia Vaal

---

Seth Windell

Attest:



Kelly Greulich, Clerk-Treasurer