

June 1, 2022

To The Residents of the Town of Rossville,

This letter is in response to misinformation that is circulating anonymously around Town concerning the Town Marshal and information concerning the upcoming water rate increase effective July 1, 2022.

The misinformation erroneously states, “the Town Marshal failed to complete the required training” and “this information has been kept from the public”. As stated in the October 12, 2021 minutes of the Town Council meeting, the Council appointed an Interim Town Marshal pending his completion of the Indiana Police Academy. The Town used the term “Interim” Town Marshal because, although he was a sworn/qualified Deputy Marshal, he could not be considered a qualified Town Marshal until he graduated from the Academy; however, the Academy was closed at the time due to COVID. The candidate was able to perform the duties as Interim Town Marshal because the State gave him a waiver. This waiver allowed him to perform at full capacity as Town Marshal until graduation from the Academy. The waiver expired May 1, 2022; therefore, the Interim Town Marshal has lost his powers of law enforcement.

The Police Academy has recently reopened and our Interim Town Marshal is now enrolled and is completing preliminary studies/work before going to the on-site Academy. He is working as “part time” and completing the administrative duties of Town Marshal. He is authorized to do all the “paper” work associated with law enforcement which includes scheduling the work schedule for the Deputy Marshals. The Deputy Marshals do have law enforcement authorization.

“Part Time” Town Marshals is nothing new to this area. Other towns have part time Town Marshals. As part time, the Marshal does not receive any fringe benefits (i.e. health insurance, vacation time, holiday pay, etc.) The Salary Ordinance, which is public record, established the “Interim” Town Marshal as “Part Time”.

The other issue residents need to be informed of is the recently passed Ordinance 2022-02 to increase the water rate 10% effective July 1, 2022. After passage of the ordinance, notification was received the State Legislature had passed HB 1002 eliminating the 1.4% Utility Receipts Tax all water utilities were required to pay quarterly to the State. Due to the passage of this bill, all water utilities are required to reduce their water rate 1.4% effective July 1, 2022. The Council must now amend Ordinance 2022-02 to reduce the increase from 10% to 8.6%. The new amended ordinance to reflect this reduction will be introduced at the June 14, 2022 Town Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Rossville Town Hall. A public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rossville Town Hall for public comment and passage of the amended ordinance.

In closing, the Town Council does not operate in a vacuum. All decisions made by the Council are openly discussed in Council meetings and documented in the minutes or ordinances.

Respectfully,

Rossville Town Council