

By GRETCHEN STONE

The Times Co-Editor

The Brazil Board of Public Works met Sept. 14, where they heard about officer staffing changes with the Brazil Police Department and discussed the sale of the old City Garage.

First, they approved the Aug. 24 minutes.

Members Melissa Dorsett and Linda Messmer, and Mayor Brian Wyndham were in attendance, along with city attorney Traci Orman.

Member Ruthann Jeffries was absent.

There were no audience comments.

BPD Chief Clint McQueen requested that the board appoint a part-time special officer, Dylan Dorn, who currently works as a full-time Clay County Sheriff's Department deputy.

Dorn wants to work part-time in law enforcement while pursuing private business interests.

The board approved the appointment.

In other BPD news, Brandon Crowley plans to resign from his full-time position, but stay on part-time with the department, while also pursuing his own private business venture.

McQueen will also ask the Board to appoint Josh Lynch as a full-time officer, once he finishes up required evaluations for the pension fund, as is normal with any new officer.

He and the mayor were in agreement that several vacancies just popped up as a coincidence.

McQueen expects to fill any remaining vacancies soon.

"The down and dirty, we have these vacancies but they will be filled by qualified officers," Wyndham said.

Chief Jake Bennett with the Brazil Fire Department had nothing to report.

Next, Orman opened a public hearing on one property, the old city garage on U.S. 40, which is comprised of the garage on one parcel, and a parking lot on two parcels, one in front and one in back.

Due to the value of the property, both the mayor and the City Council must each approve the recommendation for sale.

Orman said the average of two appraisals on the parcels is \$110,000. An auction is planned for Oct. 5, but no time has been set and notice still must be published in the newspaper.

They also need to work on a contract for the auctioneer.

The board recommended to the mayor that the property be sold.

Next, the board approved a memorandum of understanding and provided Wyndham with the authority to sign a Parks Association \$2,000 donation for security cameras.

Numerous options exist for buying the cameras and the price tag isn't too hefty, he explained.

Orman said grants may be available toward the purchase.

"We are experiencing more vandalism there (in the parks), so we must address it," Wyndham said.

Next, they approved an MI Windows and Doors request to remove monitoring wells placed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, at 16 S. Murphy Ave., next to the PPG building.

The well locations are on East Knight Street, Johnson Street and Jackson Street.

Previously, a machine shop was located on the property. When it transferred ownership, IDEM began a brownfields study, including the monitoring wells, in the city's right of way.

The term with the city was 10 years or until site closure, beginning in 2018.

No contamination was found and the study has now concluded, due to an IDEM staff recommendation.

The board next approved a right-of-way request for gas lines, from Centerpoint Energy, at 904 E. National Ave.

They also approved a right-of-way request for broadband Internet, into a new facility, by Joink, at 438 N. Murphy Ave.

They also OK'd an Ornduff adjustment, and the mowing and cleanup lists.

Claims were approved: Clerk's claims for three weeks were \$431,392.60, utility office claims were \$259,525.06 and the golf claims were \$58,489.11.