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## HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED in this week's *PULASKI COUNTY JOURNAL*

# Francesville has follow-up discussion on water, sewer mapping

**Megan Galbreath**

With all board members present, the Francesville Town Council was able to enter into more discussion on the water and sewer system mapping that was proposed at their meeting last month.

At a regular meeting on Oct. 5, the council had heard a proposal from Kurt Wanninger from Wessler Engineering about utilizing a GPS mapping system. He explained that the program would collect data and store a history of issues such as water main breaks. They could then use the information to better prioritize what lines need attention.

After hearing the proposal, watching a short demonstration and getting a \$50,000 quote for both the sewer and water mapping, the town council ultimately decided to table a final decision. They agreed that they wanted to consult with council member Lynn Johns first, who was absent from the meeting.

Fast forward to this month's meeting on Nov. 2, the council opened up for more discussion with everyone present.

President Tom Thomas suggested that they go ahead and formally table the matter.

Council member Johns agreed, saying that they should look more into utilizing the mapping system that they have now.

"I'd like to maybe meet with somebody on the system that we have first and see if it can be upgraded," he said.

Johns went on to say that if nothing else, it would just be beneficial to compare the two. The current mapping system is with WTH.

"I feel like we need to have a mapping system, but I'd like to see if we can utilize what we have," Johns reiterated.

Clerk-treasurer Cathy Elston said that she can contact their WTH representative to see if a meeting could be set up with the council.

In addition to that, the council also reviewed a quote from Town and Country Paving for the paving of the town parking lot by the park and the basketball courts.

The quote was for \$48,218 for the full job. Council member Lynn Johns said that the paving would include the entrance from Bill St. as well. He said the quote includes the grinding, binding and paving over the top.

"It's just something that we are all going to have to be aware of. We will have to figure something out in the near future, though. Another winter - I hate to see what it's like next year. I mean, we're just going to try and patch it together to get through another year," Johns said.

It was determined that the matter will be taken under advisement for now. The town will try to factor in the cost into the 2024 budget as it is too late to get it into the 2023 budget.

Clerk-treasurer Cathy Elston also reported that all counties in the state of Indiana will be getting money from the state from the national opioid settlement. The town of Francesville will be receiving some money from the settlement, although Elston said that it would not be a lot.

Elston explained that they will receive about \$2,040 next year, but then the amount goes down fairly considerably each year after that. She said that there will be stipulations on how the money can be spent, but the guidelines are continuously changing.

However, the state is requiring that a restricted and unrestricted fund is set up for the monies. To do so, the town had to adopt Ordinance #8 of 2022, an unrestricted opioid settlement fund, and Ordinance #9 of 2022, a restricted opioid settlement fund. It passed unanimously.

### In other business:

- During the fire department and town marshal report, it was mentioned that the town had a really good turnout for Halloween trick-or-treating this year. The room concluded that it might be due to Medaryville and Francesville having trick-or-treating on different days.
- It was reported that they are trying to get quotes for wall repairs to the building next to the fire station, which houses the generator for the town. However, they are having a hard time getting people to actually come out and look at the building to see what exactly can be done.
- Town marshal Doug Lee gave the police report for Oct. 3 through Oct. 31. The report indicated that there were 11 traffic enforcement hours and seven calls for service. Lee also mentioned that trick-or-treating went well.
- Amended Ordinance #6 of 2022, establishing total

compensation for the town of Francesville, passed.

- It was noted that Brad Stevens from the street and sanitation department is no longer with the town. President Tom Thomas said that the town is continuing to do water testing until the position is filled.
- According to the street report, they've used the leaf vacuum on eight streets so far. The town reminds individuals to not mix sticks or brush in with the leaves or other hard items such as toys, dog chains or trash.
- The park report indicated that there are two shelter rentals in November.
- A motion was made and passed to get a new master meter in the amount of \$1,800.
- Amended Ordinance #7 of 2021, the 2022 wage and salary ordinance, passed.
- Elston said they had claims and vouchers in the amount of \$183,512.19. She added that she also closed out the Indiana Trust Account, where she does the taxes on the people that owe money to the town. Elston said she usually closes out that account in September or October.
- The Uptown Project hosted their Outdoor Holiday Market on Saturday, Nov. 12. Councilwoman Sydney Disinger advised town marshal Lee of Bill St. being closed for the event so he could notify dispatch.
- A quote was received for a new radiator, but it was noted that the quote was fairly high. The council determined that the matter would be tabled so they can look into it more.
- The Oct. 5 regular meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- Claims were approved.

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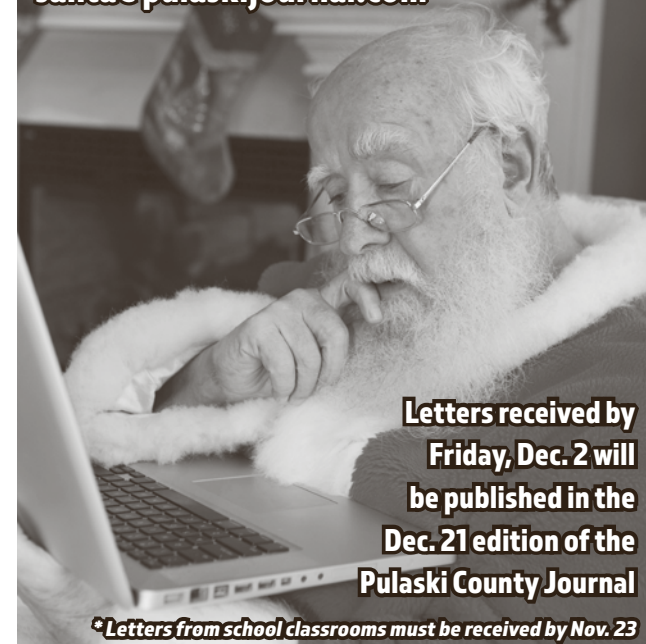
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**Francesville:** Gorgeous and immaculate custom-built home on large corner lot. Home has covered front porch and large back deck off the dining room. Inside boasts an open-concept kitchen, dining room and living room, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Has lots of closets and storage and mechanical room. All kitchen appliances included along with washer (no dryer). \$229,900



**Francesville:** Charming 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath home in the heart of Francesville. This home has a full basement, 1.5 car detached garage, fenced-in backyard and is close walking distance to the town park and downtown shopping. \$209,900

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# HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED in this week's PULASKI COUNTY JOURNAL

## Panhandle Pathway updates on progress, community support

Megan Galbreath

The Friends of the Panhandle Pathway are looking forward to the next phases of their trail extension project. They recently acquired a Next Level Trails (NLT) grant from the state of Indiana.

John Bawcum and Fred Kasten from the Friends of the Panhandle Pathway were on the agenda to update the county commissioners on how their organization is doing. The meeting was held on Monday, Nov. 7.

Bawcum told the commissioners that they received the official letter from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the week prior, formally recognizing that they were awarded a \$2.5 million grant. Verbal confirmation was given to them on April 20. He advised that the grant money would have to be spent by December 2025.

"We decided early on that we'd split the project and do the north end first and then the following year we'd pick up at the south end. As it's set up - it's laid out 'park to park' - that's the vision," Bawcum said. "This coming year, we're hoping to get started on construction from where it stops right now on SR 14 and 11th St. in town and take it out

behind McDonald's out here on US 35."

Later, on the south end, the trail will connect with France Park in Cass County.

Bawcum also addressed the recently approved INDOT sewer and water line project to be put in by the Tippecanoe River State Park and the potential connection it can have with the project.

"We're hoping we can piggy-back off that project and put the trail on top of that and finish this. That has not been approved on our end yet, but the state has approval to put the water lines in," he said. "That's in 2024 [the INDOT project] - that part for us would be 2025 or 2026. We'd like to go up the east side of US 35 and take the trail right to the entrance of the state park."

It was also explained that the Pathway had to have 20% matching funds for the grant and currently they are sitting at 25% - well over what was needed. Bawcum said that in turn they received more "points" for doing so.

He noted that the matching funds they received were both from people they knew as well as people from far away. "We received funds from people we didn't even know

- their pledge came from out of state. Some people who made pledges added more to it than originally pledged. Of all the pledges that were made, we only had two we couldn't make good on," Bawcum said. "We've more than made up for that loss, though."

Fred Kasten and Bawcum agreed that all in all, the pledges and the community have been very supportive of the trail and its vision.

"It's very surprising of how many of the local people really approve of the trail," Kasten said.

Commissioner Maurice Loehmer asked them if they have seen an increase in trail usage annually.

Bawcum said in 2020 during the pandemic they really saw an uptick in use and it has held its own since. More people from out of state are using the trail as well.

He added later that the trail is well used and they make sure to keep up with the maintenance on the trail.

"This last weekend with the wind storm in Pulaski County, we had seven trees down on the trail and as of today they have all been cleared. We work hard to keep it clear and keep it in good shape," Bawcum concluded.

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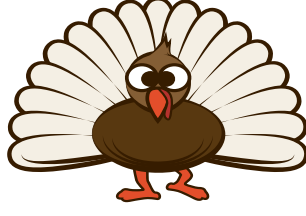
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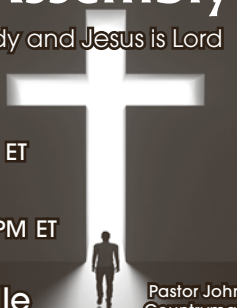
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