

## PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 2006

President Sandi Snyder called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag at 7:30pm. Present were Vice President Jennifer Granat, Council members Sandy Boothe, William Sexton and Paul Childress, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewie Craig and Public Works Director Karl Bauer.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**December 27, 2005:** Sexton made the motion to approve and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0.

**December 28, 2005:** Granat made the motion to approve and Sexton made the second. Vote 5-0

**January 3, 2006:** Granat made the motion to approve with Boothe making the second. Vote 5-0.

### APPROVAL OF SEWER CLAIMS

In the amount of \$145,445.63. Childress made the motion to approve with Sexton making the second. Vote 5-0.

Snyder made an announcement since there were a few residents in the audience awaiting the Duneland Youth Baseball rezone which was on the agenda. Duneland Youth Baseball had faxed the Town Hall late in the afternoon that they wanted to withdraw their petition at this time. Hollenbeck said that the Council had 90 days to make a decision on this issue unless they withdraw their petition completely. The Plan Commission voted on November 16, 2005. Snyder will put them on the next agenda which is January 24, 2006.

### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

- Bill Cantrell, 371 Waverly Road complimented the Council for looking into the Rainy Day Fund.
- Lyle Munn and Mary Klein of Porter Beach, was told by the Council to come back after they had a survey done for their septic system (September 28, 2005 meeting) which is crossing an alley. He submitted them to Attorney Hollenbeck.
- Attorney Robert Welsh wanted to clarify that the Duneland Youth Baseball rezone would be on the next agenda unless the petition was totally withdrawn. Snyder confirmed that it would be. Welsh said that the 2 week delay was acceptable.

### CLERK TREASURER

- Pomeroy noted that the Town had received a quarterly payment of CEDIT in the amount of \$71,474.00.
- Pomeroy told the Council that she had encumbered \$15,425.00 for 2006:
  - \$7,675.00 Purchase Order 2005-TH-36 to Municipal code for codification of town records and
  - \$7,750.00 Purchase Order 2005-TH-37 to Keystone for the second installment of software.Childress made the motion to approve with Boothe making the second. Vote 5-0.

## **ATTORNEY**

Hollenbeck had no report. Snyder asked Hollenbeck about the following issues:

- Soil Erosion and Illicit Discharge Ordinance, which is part of the MS4 Program, Hollenbeck said he would have at next meeting.
- Sewer Collections. Which was advertised with a January 9<sup>th</sup> deadline and received no bids. He said he would call Indiana American Water Company again. He said they have had many changes in Department Heads and maybe now they will discuss turning off water to residents that have arrear sewer bills. He advised the Council that they may solicit collection agencies since the Town received no bids when they advertised.
- Towing Bids. Which was also advertised with a January 9<sup>th</sup> deadline and received no bids. Boothe asked if she could solicit towing companies and Hollenbeck advised that she could since no bids were received.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Spanier reminded the Council of the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council, Police Commission and Plan Commission for the Noise Ordinance. Granat stated that 9/12 was the last draft and on 11/28 Attorney Lyp had suggested some changes that could be made.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Craig invited the Council to come to the Diving Team training sessions at Chesterton High School every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:00pm.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Bauer advised the Council that he had received from Solid Waste Recycling a bin to collect household batteries.

- Next month Solid Waste would be locating bins for glass, cardboard and newspaper bins.
- They are still collecting limbs and Christmas trees. Residents are advised to place in front of their house for collections.
- Regional Industries has pick-up times and information available on the Towns website.
- Lance Hodge of Regional Industries advised that residents may purchase an additional roller bin for \$30.00 a year.
- Bauer stated that he has received a quote to purchase recycling bins. He suggested ordering 900 bins @ \$6.90 each. He asked Pomeroy what she charges for recycling bins, she replied \$10.00. Residents complained of recycling going to every other week instead of the former of weekly recycling, and stated that residents will put recyclables in with their regular garbage. Granat said that this is a trial and the Council can review and have the ability to go back to recycling every week. Childress said that the contract is \$9.53 for every other week and \$10.23 for every week recycling. Granat wants to look into the \$5.00 a month charge on sewer bills that helps offset garbage pickup. She feels this is a backdoor tax. Childress said that this charge helps support the General Fund. Hodge said that residents do not have to buy the bins to have them pickup recyclables. They may buy any can (no larger than 30 gallon) and mark recycling on it and they will pick it up. They may also use bags as long as they are marked and they do not have to separate recyclables. They have a machine that does that automatically. Sexton said that residents can go buy cans with a lid cheaper than what we would charge. Bauer was advised not to purchase bins at this time. Bauer said he would add this information for residents to the website.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Lewis said that there are 135 contractors registered for this year. Boothe made the motion to accept and Sexton made the second. Vote 5-0.

Sexton told Lewis that he has received a complaint of a resident on Arrowhead Trail with trash in their yard. He advised Lewis to follow up on this complaint.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Employee Handbook. Council scheduled a workshop to review handbook before adopting. Workshop is scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Childress advised Department Heads not to spend money unless it was necessary until the tax issue is resolved.
- Sexton is questioning Porter County Auditor about lost assessed valuation. Town of Porter has lost \$28 million in assessed valuations since 2002, and has built \$5 million in new homes and business since then. He said County found \$12 million because they forgot to put in the Utility rate. He has figured that \$12 million was lost to refunds from appeals. He stated that we need to get these figures at their highest level to keep our tax rate low. County will get back to him. Sexton asked Hollenbeck with will the Town receive their TIF money? He cannot give a time when this will be done.
- Snyder has a request from Rebuilding Together to waive the building permit fee for a local resident. Sexton made the motion to waive the fee and Granat made the second. Vote 5-0.

Boothe made the motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm with Sexton making the second. Vote 5-0.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandi Snyder, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
William F. Sexton

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Granat, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Childress

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy Boothe

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer