

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2007

President William F. Sexton called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Council members Lorri Wickberg, Vice President, Sandi Snyder, Jennifer Granat and Paul Childress. Also present were Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer; Patrick Lyp, Attorney; Police Chief James Spanier, Building Commissioner Brenda Brueckheimer, Public Works Director Karl Bauer, Park Superintendent James Miller. Fire Chief Lewis Craig was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Snyder made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Wickberg made the second. Vote 5-0.

CLAIMS:

Childress made the motion to approve as presented \$182,159.96 and sewer claims in the amounts of \$108,997.52 and \$11,979.09, Wickberg made the second. Vote 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM FLOOR:

None

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

Pomeroy asked the Council their pleasure on sewer delinquent fees since no fees are being administered to delinquent sewer accounts since Indiana American Water is now doing the billing. The Council agreed by consensus that no late fees should be applied at this time.

Pomeroy asked the Council if she could quit doing Purchase Orders for Department heads since they are not being done correctly. She suggested that the Department heads put all claims in their liaison folder on the 3rd Monday of each month and then the liaisons would have Monday night and Tuesday to sign all claims and then claims would be ready to pay on Wednesday. After much debate Granat made a motion for Department heads to get approval first from liaisons before purchasing anything and if item is over \$100. they have to get a Purchase Order signed before buying unless it is an emergency, Childress made the second. Vote 5-0.

Pomeroy also said that a representative of the insurance company was coming on January 25th in order to review departments for risk management. Spanier was appointed to organize department heads for the Risk Management program.

Pomeroy also asked the Council since the Building Department has combined inspections for Bill Lewis and Brenda Brueckheimer if their gas usage could be changed. The Council agreed by consensus to combine the gas usage to 60 gallons each for Bill Lewis and Brueckheimer.

ATTORNEY REPORT

None

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Spanier asked the Council for permission to buy 3 Dodge Chargers in the amount of \$77,307.10 which includes all equipment except the radios and graphics. Childress asked Pomeroy how much was in CCD Fund and she said \$52,900 which would not be enough to pay for cars. Childress made a motion to pay the \$52,900 from CCD and take the remainder from CCI Fund until the Town receives their tax draw

from County and then the money would be repaid from CCD back to the CCI Fund, Snyder made the second. Vote 5-0.

Sexton asked the Council's pleasure to allow the Lakeshore Striders to have their Ride of Joy walk on April 1st without getting a permit. They will provide their own security when they cross Waverly and Mineral Springs roads, Lyp advised the Council to make a motion to do this. Wickberg made the motion to allow the Lakeshore Striders to have their walk/run on April 1st without getting a permit, Granat made the second. Vote 5-0.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Craig was absent due to illness.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Bauer reported the following:

- South Bailey Road is closed until tomorrow evening because the culvert collapsed. County is working on it and should be done tomorrow.
- Wagner Road pot hole. He has tried to use cold patch but it will not hold so he will need to dig down to sub surface and then fill.
- Dune Meadows drain has been installed.
- 4 lift stations have been inspected and passed.
- Shem advised the Council that they have 30 days from when they received their letter from IDEM to advertise for the Oak Hill Pump Station which would be at the end of February.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Brueckheimer has 42 new contractors for a total of 163. Childress made the motion to approve the new contractors and Wickberg made the second. Vote 5-0.

PARK DEPARTMENT

Miller reported that the playground equipment has been installed at Dune Meadows Park which completes Phase 1. He hopes CEDIT monies will be available later to complete Phase 2 which includes installing a Gazebo. To save money Miller has applied with Rebuild Together to accomplish 2 jobs of water proofing the treated wood at all playgrounds and also to spread wood chips. Granat asked Miller if he has had the new Park truck decaled yet. He said it will be done in a week or so.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Opening bids for wheel loader:** Lyp opened the bids and they are as follows:
 - McCann \$79,500. with trade in
 - Hardings \$76,258.
 - Holt \$148,549 with discount of \$59,049 and trade-in of \$14,000 for \$75,500.
 - Roland Machinery \$69,655.

Childress made a motion for Bauer to review and to make sure all bids complied with specs and to report at next meeting, Wickberg made the second. Vote 5-0.

➤ **Consultant Contracts:**

Childress made a motion to approve the contracts for Cender & Company and James Mandon because they did not raise their rates from 2006, Wickberg made the second. Lyp said that BTBH did not raise their rates and asked what 2006 rate was. Childress said last year BTBH rates were \$18,750 and this year it is \$20,000. Lyp said that was done in error and to change BTBH rate to the \$18,750. Wickberg withdrew her second. Childress said he had a problem with Haas & Associates raising their rates between 10-15% and Granat felt that Haas had worked with the Council in 2004 when they took office and does not feel their rates to be excessive and Snyder agreed. Childress made the motion to accept Cender & Company, James Mandon and BTBH contract as written and Snyder made the second. Vote 3-2 with Granat and Snyder voting no. Motion passes. Granat stated that she would like to give Cender & Co., Mandon and BTBH 3% raises even though they did not ask for them. Wickberg made a motion to approve Haas & Associates contract as presented and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-1 with Childress voting no. Motion passes.

➤ **Disconnect agreement with Indiana American Water Co.**

Lyp said he had just received a copy of a contract from In. Am. Water Company and Chesterton and that In. Am. Water wants to keep all contracts the same in Indiana. Lyp did not have time to review and will have ready at next meeting if ok.

NEW BUSINESS

❖ **Taxi-cab Ordinance.**

Spanier was told to take to the Police Commission and have them review it.

❖ **Rainy Day Fund.**

Childress said we can't fund this Fund until we receive money from County.

❖ **Budget Spending.**

The Council told all Departments to watch their spending since we have not received the rest of 2006 taxes and they do not know when we will receive our first draw for 2007.

❖ **Health Insurance.**

Insurance Consultant for United Health Care Insurance, Steve Brady was on hand to tell the Council that so far UHC Ins has not signed a contract with Porter Hospital and the contract expires February 1st. He feels confident that they will sign by January 29th but if they don't, the employees of the Town will not lapse in coverage since he has had them fill out an application that he has submitted to 4 other insurance companies. Sexton said that the Council could call a special meeting next week to switch insurance companies if the need arises. Granat questioned Brady about pre-existing conditions and emergency surgery and Brady said that would be covered. Snyder thanked Brady for all the work he has done.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Snyder: asked Childress if Chief Craig had received many landlord applications for smoke detectors, and Paul said not many but they will check with Craig at next meeting.

Granat: said after reading the newspaper about TIF funds, asked Pomeroy if Signature Graphics has submitted their CFI forms. She stated that this tax abatement for them was approved by the former Council and the last copy of the CFI form was dated 2002. Pomeroy advised the Council that she called County and Westchester Assessor’s office and they did not have anything on hand. Pomeroy then called Signature Graphics on January 5th and advised them to file this report and send her a copy of it. She has not received anything at this time. The Council advised Lyp to look into the matter.

Sexton: stated that he has received a complaint about Regional Industries knocking down mail boxes at Woody Dunes. Jeff Jones of Regional was in the audience and responded that he had fixed them today temporarily, and in the Spring will fix them permanently. Sexton thanked him.

Snyder made a motion to adjourn and Wickberg made the second. Vote 5-0.

Dated this _____ day of February, 2007.

William F. Sexton, President

Lorri Wickberg, Vice President

Sandi Snyder

Jennifer Granat

Paul Childress

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer