

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 27, 2004  
PORTER TOWN HALL

President Jennifer Granat called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were Sandy Snyder, Paul Childress, Sandy Boothe, Bill Sexton, Jennifer Granat, Atty. Dave Hollenbeck, Clerk-Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Chief of Police John Lane, and Superintendent of Public Works Scott Guy.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Granat asked for a motion to accept minutes of the January 13, 2004 meeting. Sexton motioned and Boothe made the second. Motion carried 5-0.

Granat asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the special January 20, 2004 meeting concerning personnel. Childress motioned and Snyder seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Granat asked for and received a motion from Boothe to accept the minutes of the CEDIT workshop, January 20, 2004. Sexton made the second. Motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS**

**Accounts payable**

Granat asked for a motion to accept the claims as presented for January 1-23, 2004. Sexton made said motion with Booth making the second.

Discussion – Childress questioned the amount of \$119,601. 01 plus in claims submitted. Questions were asked of Chief Lane on the cost of a new computer and vest replacements. Lane said these were from last year.

Guy explained the Uniform Fee. He is currently trying to buy out of the contract to reduce this cost.

Fire Department expenditures were also from last year. Chief Craig was not present for questioning.

Sexton commended the departments on controlled spending since January 1, 2004. Motion was carried 3-2 with Childress and Boothe voicing no votes.

**Payroll Claim**

Pomeroy presented for approval \$47,577.35. for the January 15, 2004 payroll. Childress made a motion and Sexton seconded to approve. Motion passed 5-0.

**PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Rita Newman, 315 Franklin thanked the Street Dept. and Supt. Guy for clean up near her house.

**REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS**

**Clerk-Treasurer** Carol Pomeroy reported the general fund shows \$249,631. Claims total \$ 119,601. The Town has a grand total of \$631,308. There is a drop in spending by the Department heads so far in January.

## Attorney

Dave Hollenbeck reported on his contact with Robert Vaughn of Indiana American Water on the Fire Hydrant Fee. There is a charge of \$50.00 per hydrant billed to the municipality. In May 2003, the Porter Town Council passed an ordinance changing the way payment was made from the town to be collected from each water customer. The town was paying \$5,165.45. IAW does not care how the bill is paid so the ball is in Town's court. Nearly 1/3 of the town is without water. It can be changed back to the town paying. Granat stated she wanted more investigation. She shows 123 hydrants in the town. She wants to know the size and the usage homes and businesses would use. Hollenbeck will contact IAW agreeing that 123 (including four additional hydrants in Waverly Heights) is a correct figure.

Current rates figured on the number of hydrants times \$50.00 each and divided by the number of customers to determine the cost per customer (residential and larger). The Hydrant Fee can be transferred within the General Fund. Larger customers pay more toward total.

The Sewer Department is in the process of a change over in computer programs. They will be at the Town Hall on January 28 working with Carmen Lorenz.

Hollenbeck stated that the local government dividend is based on population, not levy, and \$247,177 will be the annual fee CREDIT money Porter will receive. Money will probably be distributed in April or early May. He urged Council to get the CREDIT requests in order.

By declaring a retroactive Emergency Declaration- Porter must agree to repay the money by June 30, 2004. Questions were raised as to what would happen if the town could not pay. Hollenbeck said all audit findings of non-compliance of Indiana law are forwarded to the Prosecuting Attorney but that the money should be available by that due date.

The County Auditors office is experiencing delays: checks should be out by January 30 and if necessary he would hand deliver the check to Pomeroy at the Town Hall on January 30.

He is still in the process of examining bills from the Redevelopment Commission last year and hopes to have answers by the next meeting.

Hollenbeck is also in the process of writing to the previous Town Council for the return of materials belonging to the town.

Pomeroy said the State Board of Accounts auditors are now at the Porter Town Hall. No real problems at this time and there is no idea how long the audit will take.

## Police

Police Chief John Lane – recognize Sgt. Torok, Fire Department and EMTs for meeting with Boy Scout Pack 208, taking the boys through the station, explaining bicycle safety and talking to the boys.

On the issue of the Animal Warden –he had received many positive calls on the appointment. Three dog issues had already been taken care of in the short time the plan had been in effect. One dog stolen from Cedar Lake had a chip in the dog's fur was found in the Porter Beach area. The second dog wandered away from home and had tags. The third was an animal involved in an accident and was taken to Westchester Animal Clinic.

Gunlocks will be available for residents. Anyone interested may go to the Police Dept.

The computer software program the Indiana State Police will cost \$199.00 and he would like to also get a one computer with the donations the department received before Christmas. By consensus, the board agreed.

The department hoped to buy two new vehicles and wants to switch to Chevy Impalas. He wants them ready for the road when then arrive. If ordered by February 4, the delivery date could be as early as June 1<sup>st</sup>. Cost will be approximately \$25,750. per car, equipped. He said there is currently \$77,000 in the CCD funds. Childress felt the formal proposal could be written for the next meeting without giving the approval to buy at this time. Lane received a consensus of the board to do so. He stated this would not add more police officers and two cars would then be retired.

### FIRE

No report

### PUBLIC WORKS

Superintendent Scott Guy – reported it was good to be back at the Town Hall and thanked the Council for the wheels on the chairs. He stated that the current storm was not using near the salt that the previous storm had needed for the ice. He urged citizens to call his office if they need help.

Guy had just come from the first Storm Water Management meeting. The three- member panel held their organizational meeting. Roger Abramham was elected president with Steve Rohe as vice-president and Jennifer Gadzala as secretary. The commission is going to address flooding of the 300 block of Woodlawn and the infiltration on the storm water from Worthington Steel. They will be putting together a packet and working on a grant that is due early in February. Phase 2 was also discussed.

### BUILDING

No report

Atty Hollenbeck asked the Council for a written contract be drawn up with the amount of his firm's charges previously discussed. A yearly fee for the BZA and the Plan Commission will be set at \$17, 500.00 and for extra charges \$125.00 per hour. Sexton motioned to accept and offer contract. Childress seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Because of the addition of the Animal Warden and his salary to the Ordinance, a motion to amend Ordinance 2003-07 was made to pay \$125.00 per month or \$1,500.00 per year and to increase the secretary fee for the BZA and Plan Secretary to \$73.50 per meeting with an additional \$9.20 per hour for extra work not to exceed \$250.00 per year.

Sexton made the motion to amend Ordinance 2003-07 and re-titled under Ordinance 2004-02. Boothe seconded and motion carried 5-0.

After Atty. Hollenbeck read the revised ordinance, Childress made a motion to suspend the rules to have the 2<sup>nd</sup>

reading. Snyder seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Snyder motioned to read the second reading by title only, Childress seconded. Carried 5-0.

Granat said the next matter is to amend the town Municipal Code – release/impound fee

Ordinance No. 2004-03. Motion by Boothe to amend said ordinance, seconded by Sexton and carried 5-0.

Hollenbeck read amended ordinance showing - \$15.00 first offense, \$25.00 second offense, and \$ 5.00 per day (each 24 hours period) for each addition day.

Childress motioned to suspend the rules and read by title only. Sexton second. Carried 5-0.

Booth made a motion to approve 2004-3 ordinance and adopt for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Childress seconded and motion passed 5-0.

### COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

*Sandy Snyder* made a motion to change the meeting times on the Redevelopment Commission to 6:00 p.m. and the Town Council meetings to immediately following the RDC meeting or 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Granat asked the Clerk-Treasurer to send notices to the newspapers and post the information.

*Bill Sexton* addressed the Purchase Order forms that are now being used by the town. They have not been used and State Board of Accounts said that they should be. He would like to adopt a policy limiting a Petty Cash account to \$100.00 and anything over that amount should go through individual liaisons with purchase orders. Childress made a motion to adopt this policy with Boothe seconding. Motion carried 5-0.

Upon questioning whether there should be an ordinance creating the liaisons to each department, Atty. Hollenbeck said it does not require one.

Childress also re-addressed the Riverboat Revenue. After discussion on whether money in can be transferred to the General Fund and reassurance from Hollenbeck, Childress made a motion to transfer the \$31,439.59 from Riverboat Revenue to the General Fund. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Childress then ask permission for Storm Water Management president Roger Abraham to apply for a grant since it needs to be applied for before the next meeting. Motion by Childress and seconded by Sexton for the Town Council's President to examine and approve the grant bid after Abraham has completed it.

### Point of Order

Rita Newman speaking on behalf of the Friends of Porter said that her group would like to take over collecting memorabilia from the town for the Town Hall. This includes the contents of the time capsule from the previous Town Hall that is now in the possession of the current Town Council. She received permission by consensus from the Council.

Snyder asked to set the CEDIT workshop on February 4 at 6:00. Chief Lane said that he would be unable to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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**Jennifer Granat, President**

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**William Sexton, Vice President**

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**Sandy Boothe,**

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**Paul Childress**

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**Sandi Snyder**

**ATTEST**

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**Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer**