

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 27, 2007

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES;

Snyder made the motion to approve March 13th minutes as written and Wickberg made the second. Vote 3-0.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Wickberg made a motion to approve claims in the amounts of \$157,251.60 and Sewer claims in the amount of \$27,814.32, Snyder made the second. Vote 3-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Mark Zaranski of 60 E. Oak Hill Road who resides in Porter County asked the Council to be connected to Porter's sewer system. He stated that he needs a new septic system and County said if he is near a sewer line he should tap-on. Sexton said that Porter policy is not to allow a tap-on if living outside Town boundaries unless the resident agrees to a voluntary annexation. Lyp asked Zaranski if 1/8 of his property is contiguous to Porter. Zaranski stated that he is only 1/12th his frontage is 94 feet by 500 feet deep. Sexton said that Porter's agreement with Chesterton prohibits a tap-on if outside Porter's limits. Sexton told Zaranski that the Council was not telling him no but they need time to further investigate. Lyp suggested asking Chesterton if they would waive the agreement for this case or for Zaranski to ask his neighbors to also annex to the Town. Zaranski said his neighbor is vacant land and he does not feel they would do that. He also asked the Council how long this process would take and how much it would cost to tap-on. Lyp said if he was annexed it would take around 3 months and Brueckheimer said to tap-on would be \$3035.

Jeff Wolfe of Chesterton asked the Council if he could donate a bike rack to be installed at Porter Beach. He said it would have a sleeve installation so that in the winter it would be removable and would not interfere with snow plowing. He would also like to install a plaque in memory of his son David Wolfe an avid cyclist. Brueckheimer felt that the rack was needed because of all the bikes in the summer time. By consensus the Council agreed and thanked him for his donation.

Christine Livingston of Save the Dunes reported to the Council that they are presently surveying the Dunes Creek watershed which includes property in Porter, Chesterton and Westchester Township. The object is to reduce E.coli contamination to all creeks and Lake Michigan. All the residents that have been contacted have been very cooperative because by participating in their survey they have their sewer system evaluated. They may also receive free septic system maintenance. Out of the 69 evaluations there has been 26 failures either to their leech fields or their systems and have been referred to Porter County Health Dept. Pomeroy would give her addresses of residents on sewer and who has septic systems.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT

Pomeroy stated that she has collected \$27,000 of the delinquent sewer accounts.

Pomeroy said that Porter County Voter Registration office contacted her and said that all voting for the primaries and general election will be at the Town Hall only. Pomeroy asked Jim Miller if he could bring 2-8' tables to the Town Hall on May 7th for the election, which he agreed to do. Since this is a Town Council meeting night the Council will need to change the date. Jennifer Klug thought this would be a problem because of parking. Lyp said he would raise the parking issue with voter's registration office. He said the reason for consolidation of polling places is because lack of poll workers.

Pomeroy also asked the Council to pass an ordinance revising the violations ordinance.

Ordinance 2007-02 amending violation ordinance.

Snyder made a motion to number and read by title only, Wickberg made the second. Vote 3-0. Snyder made a motion to suspend the rules and have second reading by title only, Wickberg made the second. Vote 3-0. Wickberg made the motion to have final reading by title only and to adopt, Snyder made the second. Vote 3-0. Ordinance passed.

Pomeroy also had an ordinance to reimburse employees for travel expenses. Council told Pomeroy to revise and they would look at next meeting.

ATTORNEY REPORT

- Lyp advised the Council that the internet issues with PCCRVC has been resolved.
- Wheel loader will be published and will be opened at the April 10th meeting.
- Peddler's ordinance has been forwarded to the Police Commission.
- Signature Graphics tax abatement. They have completed the 2007 CF1 form and will be at the April 10th Council meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Craig announced that the Fire Department was having a car wash on March 31st from 9-1.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Spanier stated that Detective Mike Veal has completed a course on voice stress analysis and this has helped lighten his work load.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Bauer reported on the following issues:

- ✓ Spring cleaning will be April 9 through April 13th.
- ✓ Repairs to lift stations as follows:
 - ❖ Gasvoda has repaired guide rails to Porter left station
 - ❖ A new D-152 control panel has been installed at Marquette Point left station
 - ❖ Mineral Springs lift station has had 2 S & L check valves rebuilt
 - ❖ Guide rails were repaired at Six Box Lane and Oak Hill lift stations
 - ❖ Repaired a pump at 23rd Street lift station due to seal failure
 - ❖ Installed a new Barnes pump at Triangle lift station
- ✓ They have recently did a smoke test on sewer lines from Triangle left station area and will be conducting video taping next month.
- ✓ The Town plans to reline the sewer main under Beam Street this spring or early summer.
- ✓ He has moved forward with Oak Hill lift station design and it will be put out to bid soon.

- ✓ Bauer feels with the new pump being installed at Triangle lift station that should eliminate the surcharge at the manhole West of the lift station. There has been a few rain events since the installation and there has not been any surcharges.
- ✓ He has a quote from Gasvoda on a flow meter for the Porter Avenue lift station. This meter will record any overflows that may occur. This will give data that is very critical for the new design for that station.
- ✓ They will be videoing the sewer main that runs from Lincoln Street to the bridge over 94 overpass. This is in conjunction with the paving of Wagner Road this summer.
- ✓ Bauer recommended to the Council to establish a 5 ton weight limit on roads at Porter Beach.
- ✓ Bauer said he is done rating roads and will have a paving list ready for next meeting.

PARK DEPARTMENT

Miller reported the following items:

- Porter Park annual Easter Egg Hunt at Hawthorne Park is March 31. The age groups are 1-3, 4-6, and 7-9. The event will start at 10:00am. Prizes and refreshments will be served following the event in the Community Center.
- Sutton Excavation has made the necessary drainage repairs around the Memorial at Hawthorne Park. Hobart Paving is expected to resurface the repair area in the next couple of weeks when the asphalt plant opens. He would like to expand that repair to include an adjacent area which is in desperate need of work. Bauer has discussed this with Miller. The repair bill is \$1,400.00.
- Bill and Zathoe Sexton have donated 6 Crusader thornless Hawthorne Trees. Three of the trees will be Memorial trees honoring family members. The Park Dept. started a tree planting replacement program 15 years ago and has planted 38 new trees.
- Indian Springs and Lake Charles Parks will open for the season on April 7th.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Snyder made a motion to accept the 7 new contractors, Wickberg made the second. Vote 3-0.

Bruckheimer said that the Risk Management Committee will meet on April 11th and she will have a report at the following meeting. Sexton advised Brueckheimer to contact the owner of Andershock's Fruit Market to maintain the area, all the truck bays are filled with water. Also, Sexton said that there is work being done in Hunter's Glen. He advised Brueckheimer not to issue any permits or road cuts since this section needs to be re-plotted. Lyp has sent the realtor and contractor a letter also advising that the lots need to be re-plotted. Snyder stated that they are advertising these lots for sale and there are no disclosures on these properties.

OLD BUSINESS

Shem gave a contract from the Storm Water Board to the Council, Council will review for next meeting. He also stated that bids are due April 17th for upgrading the Oak Hill lift station and that costs increased by \$20,000 for adding a generator. The total cost is about \$145,000.

Wickberg made the motion to adjourn and Snyder made the second. Vote 3-0.

Dated this _____ day of April, 2007.

William F. Sexton, President

Lorri Wickberg, Vice President

Sandi Snyder

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer