

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 11, 2006

AMENDED

President Sandi Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:00pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Jennifer Granat, Vice President, Council members Sandy Boothe, William F. Sexton and Paul Childress, also present were Attorney David Hollenbeck, Police Chief James Spanier, and Public Works Director Karl Bauer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sexton made the motion to approve March 28, 2006 minutes as written, Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0

Sexton made the motion to approve the Executive Session minutes for April 5, 2006 as written, Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0 with Childress voting present.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

No Claims

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

CLERK TREASURER

Pomeroy said that the office would be closed Good Friday, but Deputy Clerk Karen Spanier and her would be working. Keystone was coming to help correct mistakes to the program that was made when loading. Pomeroy also reported that there were 9 new contractors. Childress made the motion to approve with Sexton making the second. Vote 5-0.

Sexton asked Pomeroy if the Budget cuts have been made for the Departments and asked for them to be done by next meeting.

ATTORNEY

➤ INDIANA AMERICAN WATER CONTRACT.

Hollenbeck said he had received the Indiana American Water contract on Monday and had sent it to the Council members on Tuesday. By consensus the Council said that they had not had time to review. IAWC manager Jeff Henson stated that it would take about 90 days to input the data and make a test run and would be up and running for the August billing if they approve the contract at the April 25th meeting. Hollenbeck also suggested that the Council insert into the

contract to have IAWC be able to shut off water to residents who are overly delinquent if they approve the contract.

➤ **POLICE GENERATOR**

Hollenbeck has confirmed that the generator for the Police Department has been paid.

➤ **EXCESS LEVY APPEAL**

The Council authorized President Snyder to submit a letter to the DLGF seeking an expedited decision prior to April 24 on Porter's appeal for up to \$270,000 more in property taxes to be collected this year. Hollenbeck said he hopes the Town will be granted at least \$233,102 of its request. He said it appears that the DLGF can allow \$169,330. in appeals by approving the budget that Porter submitted last year. Hollenbeck also stated that the remainder of \$63,766 also has a good chance of being approved because the Town's 2005 assessed valuation was set artificially higher than it should have been so an error has occurred. Hollenbeck also advised Pomeroy that the County will advance 85% of tax revenue due the day after the tax bills are due.

➤ **REGIONAL INDUSTRIES**

Hollenbeck said that he has been sent the letter of credit in the amount of \$90,000. and he will have for next meeting.

➤ **ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE 2006-06**

Granat made the motion to rescind Ordinance 2005-07 and have first reading of Ordinance 2006-06. Sexton made the second, Vote 5-0

➤ **NATIONAL LAKESHORE ROAD CONTRACT**

Hollenbeck will meet with Bauer and have ready for next meeting.

➤ **BEACH PARKING ORDINANCE**

Hollenbeck will meet with Patrick Lyp and have ready for next meeting.

➤ **SEWER ORDINANCE FOR CHESTERTON**

Hollenbeck advised Bauer and Shem of Haas & Assoc. to revisit and reconfigure the capacity issue and get back to him.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Spanier said that April 14 Lieutenant James Menn will be retiring with 34 years of service. Menn has proven to be a wealth of information on past cases. President Snyder said that he has held

every possible rank including acting chief, has worked in uniform and undercover on homicides to robbery including cracking a multi state burglary ring.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

No report Chief Craig is on vacation.

PUBLIC WORKS

- **Solid Waste District.** Bauer is working with Porter County Waste District for a new compost site.
- **Dead Tree at Marquette Point..** By consensus of the Council Bauer was advised to get 3 quotes to have tree removed.
- **Brush pickup.** Bauer advised residents to put at the curb instead of the street.
- **Beach clean-up.** May 13th the Girl Scouts will be cleaning Porter Beach and the Street Dept will remove bags as done in prior years.
- **Traffic Counter.** Bauer asked the Council if he could purchase a traffic counter in the amount of \$3000 to \$5,000. Chief Spanier advised the Council that it would also benefit the Police Dept. Childress advised him to get a proposal on the exact figure and have ready by next meeting, by consensus the Council agreed.
- **Part time summer help.** Postponed till next meeting.
- **Specs and standards manual.** Bauer will review at the TAC meeting in April.
- **Shem & Bauer** are updating how much wastewater we are sending to Chesterton.
- Snyder stated that she had received a letter from IDEM saying the Oak Hill Lift Station is in compliance

By consensus the Council advised Snyder to write a letter to Mrs. Gersna that the sewer bill that she was contesting needs to be paid because she was aware of the problem and took no action.

BUILDING COMMISSION

Childress and Granat are interviewing applicants for Building Commissioner. Sexton, as acting Commissioner wants to hire someone as soon as possible. They have 5 more to interview. Snyder also stated that they need a Democrat for the Park Board and also need to appoint a member to the Building Corp.

OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ **Police Commission.** Snyder asked Hollenbeck is it was ok to change the Police Commission form 5 to 3 in mid-stream of the year? Hollenbeck was to check options, This was tabled until next meeting.
- ❖ **Plan Commission member.** The Council agreed by consensus that the Building Commissioner will not automatically be appointed to the Plan Commission. After discussion it appears that Snyder will make the appointment to the Plan Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

- ✓ **Discussion of Sewer Treatment Options.** After Snyder read a **statement** (see attached) Sexton made the motion to table any sewer discussions until after the Executive session on April 15th and Granat made the second. Granat said the reason she made the second was because of the words pending litigation. She thinks the Council needs to take another look and it is not in the best interest of the Town to go into any great detail until after the Executive session. Vote 5-0. Snyder asked the Council to schedule a regular meeting after the scheduled Executive session at 9:00am on April 15th. The Council agreed to 11:00am for the regular meeting. Childress made a motion that there would be no more talks with Chesterton until after the April 15th Executive session. Vote 5-0.
- ✓ **Discussion of Chesterton merger.** Childress stated that Chesterton sent a formal letter to Porter at the end of last year and feels that the Council needs to respond. Sexton said that the Council would need a petition of 10% of the registered voters to be put on the ballot for a vote. He asked if anyone has received a petition and the response was no. Snyder was told by consensus of the Council to send a letter to Chesterton saying thanks but no thanks.
- ✓ **Midnight Parade.** Roger Abraham and Mike Smith asked the Council if the Town could sponsor the parade. Hollenbeck said that the town's ramifications would be significant and its level of accountability raised if they sponsored the parade. By consensus the Council tabled the matter until next meeting.

Boothe made the motion to adjourn with Granat making the second. Vote 5-0.

Dated this _____ day of April, 2006.

Sandy Snyder, President

Jennifer Granat, Vice President

Sandy Boothe

William F. Sexton

Paul Childress

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer