

**PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 10, 2005  
PORTER TOWN HALL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by President William Sexton. He led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL** Also present were: Vice-President Sandi Snyder, Sandy Boothe, Paul Childress, Jennifer Granat, Atty. Dave Hollenbeck, Police Chief Jamie Spanier, Building Commissioner Bill Lewis, Supt. of Public Works Karl Bauer, Park Superintendent Jim Miller and Hesham Khalil of Haas & Associates.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April, 26, 2005 – Sexton asked for a motion to approve. Granat made such motion and Childress seconded. Vote was 3-0 with Boothe and Snyder voting present.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS:**

Claims – April 15-30, 2005 – totaling \$32,916.98. Childress motion to approve. Granat made the second. Vote was unanimous.

Payroll Claims – April 30, 2005 - \$51,272.94. Childress made a motion to approve with Granat seconding. Vote was unanimous.

**PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Bud Tilden of 320 Lincoln offered a correction on the Memorial Day observance. It will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.

Barb Miller, 500 Riverview Lane returned for the third year to comment on the mosquito problem in her area of the Little Calumet River. She asked what had happened to the \$600.00 grant Porter had received when Scott Guy was there. Sexton told her the money was still there and asked that Bauer phone Mrs. Miller to address the subject as the time to address the larvaecide is now. Granat said that Bauer should check into the legality of such a project.

**REPORTS**

**CLERK TREASURER** – Pomeroy said she had called County found out the tax bills should be mailed this week with the first installment due on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hopefully, Porter will have their money by mid July. Hollenbeck said Pomeroy should contact them for a request for advances. Pomeroy would call at the end of June to see where the matter stands.

Pomeroy said that the town had received an invitation to participate in Indiana Operation Lifesaver train ride on May 18<sup>th</sup>. It will depart at 10:00 and return at 11:35. Those interested in attending should let her know by May 12.

The Website is up and running. It is townofporter.com. Any departments who have corrections should contact her.

**ATTORNEY-** Hollenbeck had contacted NIPSCO and spoke to Jim Fitzer (sp) concerning the gas odor in the downtown area. He suggested Fire Chief Craig and Granat meet with him on this issue.

He had also spoken to Randy Moore of Indiana American Water concerning the change of resident's rental fee reverting back to the town. Because it is the first time ever that a town has requested this, it had to go before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission on April 15. The commission had neglected to advertise the meeting ten days in advance. The second hearing occurred May 5 and it takes about two weeks to get it in motion.

Hollenbeck said the second item was looking into linking the sewer bills with the water bills so that delinquent sewer bill could have their water turned off. They do have a program. Sexton and Hollenbeck had a discussion with Indiana American during the day. He distributed literature to the council members to have them consider Indiana American do the billing. A total of 1800 sewer bills are sent out. They have all the records and will use Porter's rates. Residents will receive just one bill and it will also include the trash bill. Hollenbeck said that it could possibly turn into cost savings to the town. No specific figure could be given. If the Council would like further information as to cost, they would do the collection as well as the billing. By consensus, the Council agreed to look into the cost of such an operation. If done, an ordinance must be passed.

He also had a copy of the Volunteer Fire Dept. When asked by Sexton, Craig said he would like to have a meeting with the fireman before signing the contract. A special meeting was set up at May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

The legislature has adopted a Transportation and Development Authority Bill that Porter County has an opportunity of joining with Lake County at a cost of 3 ½ million. The funding is vested in the Porter County Council. One option will be to use the existing CEDIT money. They could also fund it by a 1% Food and Beverage tax or they could increase the CEDIT tax. He said that any thoughts or comments should be forwarded. It has been described as the most fantastic economic development opportunity since the arrival of the steel mills.

**POLICE –** Spanier said at the last meeting he was asked to assess the noise ordinance. He said from the police aspect is specific and technical. He found a similar ordinance from Franklin and would like to forward it to the Plan Commission for review. By consensus, the council agreed.

Granat has received the animal ordinance from Valparaiso from Hollenbeck. She was given permission by consensus from the Council to send it to the Police Commission.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT-** Craig had submitted his monthly report. He had received a pamphlet from the Army Corp of Engineers concerning the Nike Base.

**PUBLIC WORKS –** Bauer distributed his report to the Council. (See attached). He had the department do in house paving costing \$1050.00 saving the town approximately \$3000.00.

He found out the culverts at US Hwy 20 and East Oak Hill Road needed to be cleaned. They also cleaned up debris left from a car accident.

The ditch at State Park and Waverly may need to be clean but the culverts are open now. A resident has asked the town to install a culvert in a ditch alongside their home. The homeowner has agreed to pay for the culvert. It is in the right-a-way and was agreed to by Scott Guy previously.

The town is working on cleaning up the sand at Porter Beach parking lot.

**Verizon is going to bury the phone lines at the Oak Hill lift station.**

**He has sent a letter to the developer of Wagner Hills Subdivision asking for a copy of the performance bond so that the town can sign off on the subdivision. When forwarded to the town attorney, the streets can be added to our inventory.**

**Bauer is still waiting for response to the questions at Marquette Point Subdivision on repairs to the infrastructure.**

**Bauer had prepared a cost estimate for in house repair to drainage at Dunes Meadow Dr. (See attached).**

**Bauer presented a memo stating his suggestions for Nike Base and that situation.**

**Sexton said the Dunes Meadow Dr and the Nike Base issue would be on the next agenda.**

**PARK DEPARTMENT –Miller said the summer program for the children beginning on June 6, 2005. Jill Bucy will return as program director. Children 5-10 are welcomed. Five applications have been received for the Park Administrator’s position. There will be a special meeting at 7:30 at Hawthorne Community Building Wednesday, May 11, 2005.**

**Jim Nadratowski has returned as park laborer.**

**Hollenbeck said he has a series of questions from Dave Kinel about the remodel at the Community Building. Sexton asked if the Park Board had approved the plans. He said it needed to be done before bids come in.**

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT– Lewis has eighteen new contractors bring the total to 286. Granat made a motion to approve the contractor and Snyder seconded. Vote was unanimous.**

**Lewis had talked with someone set to demolish the Nike Site and was told that they are going to pump silos and filter the water before it goes into 5000 tankers. They already have a permit and okay from the town of Chesterton to dump in a designated area. He suggested that with the current drought, the town might want to hold off on making a decision on the Dunes Meadow problem. He feels that one the Nike Site issue is taken care of, the water problem at Dunes Meadow will go away.**

**Trailer Transit is building a \$1.8 million dollar next to their present site. A few things need to be addressed but it is looking good. This should be finalized by the next meeting.**

**Granat thanked Lewis for keeping on top of the Garage Sale signs around town.**

**Sexton asked if there was a permit issued to new building on West Oak Hill and Davis said yes.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**JOINT AGREEMENT WOODLAWN DRAINAGE PROJECT- Hollenbeck distributed the finalized version of the agreement with Chesterton. It says that upon completion, Chesterton and Porter agree to equally divide the cost of the operation. Sexton questioned the fact that Porter’s engineer did the design work and is Chesterton agreeing to split that cost also. Charles Lukman, attorney for Chesterton said that is his understanding.**

**Childress made a motion to accept and Boothe seconded. Vote was unanimous.**

**ORDINANCE 2001-07 – Pick up of Large Bulk Items. Bauer has looked at and revised parts of it. He has forwarded to the attorney’s office and each council member should have a copy. Not all had received their copy. Sexton said that Atty. Lyp has some reservations so he would like it to be tabled until the next meeting. Childress so moved with Granat seconding. Vote was unanimous.**

**TIF EXPANSION – The Redevelopment Commission has given Cender and Association the go ahead. They will alter it as they go. Childress said there will be a formal request after the Plan and BZA have reviewed the matter. Childress suggested it be taken off the agenda until that time.**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, ALLEY VACATION REQUES – Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Superintendent Dale Engquist spoke on the recent decision of the Porter Town Council to reject their request to vacate a public alley parallel to Wabash Ave. He reiterated what was said at the previous meeting by Mr. Fred Goldbin. There is no money designated for what Porter wants. If they do not use the \$300,000 grant for the work it was intended, they will lose it. Engquist said the Lakeshore would work with Porter any way they could but they need to use this grant this year. Sexton asked Engquist if Porter were to grade the alleyway, could the Parking enter on Wabash and exit on Duneland Dr. Engquist said officials may want to conduct an environmental analysis but that the plan may work. Engquist said he would work with the town so that the new facility would not aggravate congestion at the cul-de-sac. Childress suggest that Sexton and Spanier would work with officials to devise an acceptable plan. Snyder asked and was assured by Sexton that a new traffic plan would not require a public hearing.**

**WAVERLY ROAD REZONE PETITION – 2005-03 – Childress reclused himself from discussion on the subject. Granat made a motion to title and read. Boothe seconded. Vote was 4-0. Hollenbeck read the ordinance. Granat made a motion to have the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by title only and adoption. Snyder seconded. Vote to do so was 4-0. Hollenbeck read by title only.**

**US 20 & BABCOCK ROAD REZONE PETITION- Atty. Charles Lukman representing Ramesh Savani of Schaumburg, Illinois thanked the plan commission and the town planner, Jim Mandon for his co-operation. Childress made a motion to title and read 2005-04. Granat seconded. Vote was unanimous. Hollenbeck read the ordinance. Granat then made a motion to suspend the rules having the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and adoption by title only. Childress seconded. Vote was unanimous. Hollenbeck read.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**BUDGETING- Clerk Pomeroy and Assistant Clerk Karen Spanier attended a budgeting seminar. She suggested that the department heads should be getting their appropriation and the budget procedure should begin.**

**DISCUSSION OF CHESTERTON SEWER UTILITIES- Childress began the discussion saying that he is seriously disappointed with the discussion about the sewer to the Chesterton Utilities. He felt the town should proceed in determining how we can change ownership of that facility from Chesterton to Porter. He then made a motion to have Hollenbeck draft a letter to start the process. Boothe seconded. Vote was unanimous. Hollenbeck had not received a reply from Chesterton on a previous letter. Granat voiced**

her disappointment on the lack of communication from Chesterton. Hollenbeck said he would have a report at the next meeting.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL-** Sexton offered a resolution proclaiming Municipal Government week May 23 – May 27, 2005.

He also offered a resolution on Operation Lifesaver concerning public awareness concerning the railroad crossings.

A workshop on the employee handbook was set for Monday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m.

Boothe made the motion to adjourn and Childress seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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President William F. Sexton

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Vice-President Sandi Snyder

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Sandy Boothe

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Paul Childress

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Jennifer Granat

ATTESTED BY

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Carol Pomeroy, Clerk-Treasurer

This \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 2005