

**PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**July 26, 2005**  
**PORTER TOWN HALL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President William Sexton called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

In addition to Sexton, those in attendance were: Vice President Sandi Snyder, Councilperson Jennifer Grant, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Police Chief Jamie Spanier, Building Commissioner Bill Lewis, Public Works Superintendent Karl Baurer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The July 12, 2005 minutes were postponed until the August 9 meeting due to lack of signatures.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS**

Claims- In the amount of \$117,529.49 Granat made a motion to accept and Snyder seconded. Vote was 3-0.

Payroll- In the amount of \$54,490.16. Granat made a motion to accept and Snyder seconded. Vote was 3-0.

Sewer Claims- In the amount of \$94,067.24. Granat made the motion to accept and Snyder seconded. Vote was 3-0.

**PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Jennifer Klug asked if the Spangler, Jennings and Dougherty lawyer bill from the previous Council had been paid. Sexton said yes and that they had reduced it substantially.

Bud Tilden said the Taste of Porter will be August 27<sup>th</sup> and asked if the American Legion Post 503 could have a beer permit. Chief Spanier stated that the police have not had any problems in the past. Sexton stated that they needed to get a permit for the Taste. Granat made a motion to issue permit for the American Legion Post 503 to sell beer and wine. Sexton seconded. Vote Granat & Sexton yes, Snyder no. Motion did not pass. Tilden said it didn't matter that the law read that the Council could only deny for 30 days and the Taste is after that. Attorney Lyp said he would check on that law.

**CLERK TREASURER**

Pomeroy stated that she was working on the budget and asked the Council if the following days were ok to advertise – August 10<sup>th</sup> first publication, August 17<sup>th</sup> second publication, August 23<sup>rd</sup> public hearing and final adoption on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Council agreed by consensus. She also reported that Porter County Auditor had until August 1<sup>st</sup> to send their Certification of tax distributions to the local towns.

Pomeroy also said that the sewer bills will be late being sent due to software problems, if all goes well the bills should be out by next week with an extended due date to August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Also, the town has received their health insurance renewal from United Health Care with an increase of about 8%. Sexton noted that the town has saved almost \$100,000. with this policy.

### ATTORNEY

Lyp said that the lawsuit of Cohen/Jocius is pending with, and there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal with Dines/Schmoll pending. He said the Council needs to consider an overlay outline for the Porter Beach area. If the Council had this in place it would reduce having public hearings on new construction. Unless something is done the Town will continue to have lawsuits. Sexton said something needs done for the present plus 15-20 years down the road.

### POLICE

Spanier said that the Police Commission has an ordinance that would charge police applicants a \$25. application fee. Lyp said he would review it.

Spanier also asked permission to interview for a police officer to fill an empty position left when Officer Eric Moore left the department. Council agreed by consensus.

Spanier also said one of the new cars has arrived and only needs a radio and it will be ready to go. The second should be ready for pick-up in a week or two.

He has also received compliments from Porter Beach residents for the new signage at the beach.

### FIRE

Lewie Craig was not present due to a drowning at Dune Acres. He had told the Council earlier that he had received the grant money for new equipment and wanted permission to spend it. Snyder made the motion to give him permission to spend the grant money, Granat seconded. Vote 3-0.

### PUBLIC WORKS

Bauer submitted an 8 point worksheet of various jobs that need to be done (see attached).

1. Woodlawn drainage project- Chesterton needs to advertise and should start at the end of August.
2. Triangle Lift Station- has had numerous problems and needs repairs and chart recorder. Hw was advised to get proposals for repairs and chart recorder.
3. Bauer asked for permission to lease 3 new trucks for \$17,400. He has \$15,000 in leasing and would take the other \$2,400. from vehicle repair to pay for them. Granat made the motion to lease the 3 trucks with the stipulation that Attorney Lyp would review the lease agreement. Snyder seconded. Vote 3-0
4. Paving- Bauer asked the Council permission to advertise for paving projects that total \$231,746. Sexton wanted to know if he had enough money to cover additional base repair. Bauer said that was figured in the cost. The Council approved with Snyder making the motion to advertise for bids to resurface the roads, and Granat seconded. Vote 3-0.

Linda Hodges asked if the Town could apply for grant money to widen Wood St. Sexton

said there is very little right-of-way to widen. Hodges suggested to make it a one-way street.

5. Bauer is having trouble getting Indiana American to repair Duneland Dr.
6. Marquette Point- the Town is ready to accept this subdivision waiting on Letter of Credit. Granat made the motion to accept Marquette Point contingent on the letter of credit arriving. Snyder seconded. Vote 3-0.
7. Girl Scouts cleaning Porter Beach. Council advised to check with Dahlin and National Lakeshore for permission.
8. Porter Ave sewer line repair. Council advised him to have Boothe call a special meeting with the Redevelopment Commission

Bauer also included a letter concerning the remarks made about Indiana Avenue at a Redevelopment meeting. See Attached. Bauer overall rating was a 9 with 10 being excellent.

Bauer also presented a proposal from H2O for \$4,950 to vacuum our left stations, see attached. Granat made the motion to clean the lift stations per the proposal. Snyder Seconded. Vote 3-0.

#### **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Lewis said that 10 new contractors had furnished necessary papers for approval bringing the total to 340. Snyder made the motion and Granat seconded. Vote 3-0.

Lewis said that Attorney Hollenbeck had sent letters on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to the owners of the sheds at Porter Beach that are on town property to remove them by July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the sheds have not been removed. Lyp suggested that he will call their Attorney Walsh and give 24 hours notice as to when the town will remove them, at the owners expense.

Six Box Lane cleanup. The owner has asked for more time. Sexton said this is his 4<sup>th</sup> extension. Granat said to give him to August 1<sup>st</sup> as agreed upon. No more extensions.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Public hearing sewer rate increase- Bill Cantrell is opposed to increase. He asked if Porter has considered reducing its flow to Chesterton and turning to Burns Harbor for connecting some of the town's users. Sexton replied that it has not been ignored. Sexton is going to ask to be on Burns Harbor agenda.

Linda Hodges is also opposed to rate increase. She is concerned about senior citizens on limited or fixed income.

No one spoke in favor of rate increase.

Public hearing was closed.

Granat made a motion to number and read the sewer rate increase ordinance. Snyder seconded. Vote 3-0.

**Ordinance 2005-06 had first reading. Granat made to motion to suspend the rules and have 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by title only. Snyder seconded. Vote 3-0. The ordinance is effective August 1, 2005.**

**Animal Control Ordinance was tabled until next meeting.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL**

**Granat said Mayor Olson has called a meeting of all area towns to meet with Indiana American Water Company to discuss the poor communication for the recent boil alert. Karl Bauer will attend on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:30 p.m.**

**Granat made a motion to adjourn with Snyder making the second. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**

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**William F. Sexton, President**

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**Sandi Snyder, Vice President**

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**Jennifer Granat**

**ATTESTED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Carol Pomeroy, Clerk-Treasurer**

**This \_\_\_\_ day of August, 2005**