

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

President William Sexton called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

ROLL CALL

In attendance were William Sexton, President, Sandi Snyder, Vice President Council members Sandy Boothe and Paul Childress, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Building Commissioner Bill Lewis, Police Chief James Spanier, Public Works Director Karl Bauer. Council member Jennifer Granat was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Childress made a motion to approve September 13, 2005 minutes as written. Boothe seconded. Vote was 4-0.
- Childress made a motion to approve September 17, 2005 Special Meeting as written. Boothe made the second. Vote 3-0. Sexton was absent from that meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

- Claims of \$116,640.82. Childress made the motion to accept the claims excluding the Park claims. Boothe made the second. Childress stated that the Town Council cannot approve Park claims, which must be done by the Park Board. Vote 4-0
- Payroll of September 15, 2005 in the amount of \$47,808.90. Childress made the motion to approve payroll with the exception of Park employees. Boothe made the second. Childress stated again that the Town Council cannot approve Park employee's payroll. Vote 4-0

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

- *Roger Abraham, Stormwater Board President 402 Lincoln Street* recommended to the Council to write an ordinance creating a preliminary \$4.00 monthly user fee to pay for federal mandates triggered by the MSS stormwater program. This fee would be assessed on the owner of each parcel of land located in the town. This fee was based on 5,062 properties within the town. Abraham said the fee is only interim and more calculations are needed to determine a fee for commercial and industrial sites. This years budget was set at \$250,000 although there was no funding. In 2006 a line was added to receipt income from this fee.
- *Ken Young, 750 S. 23rd Street.* Questioned the accuracy of his sewer bill, which is based on water consumption. He asked the Council to look into this matter.

- *Roger Abraham 402 Lincoln Street* also stated that his bill had tripled even though he had a new meter installed plus was on vacation for 2 weeks.
- Sexton advised them to call Indiana American Water Company.

CLERK TREASURER

- Pomeroy told the Council that the Town had received \$18,463.27 for CEDIT.
- Perf has increased the employer contribution rate to 1.25% of the gross payroll effective January 1, 2006.
- Pomeroy asked for new quotes for codification. American Legal new quote was \$7,950 and Municipal Code quote was \$7,675. Sexton appointed Snyder and Granat to meet with Pomeroy and representatives to go over quotes.
- Keystone Software. Sexton and Childress want to meet with a representative and review the new software.

ATTORNEY

- Hollenbeck was asked at last meeting to look into adding a lost key policy of employees paying for keys if they lose them and the locks have to be changed.
- Hollenbeck advised he has been negotiating with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management over the July 22, 2004 illegal pumping of raw sewage from an overflowing lift station at the corner of Oak Hill Road and Highway 20 which drains into the Calumet River. Porter was cited for illegal pumping and failing to report the incident. IDEM is imposing a fine of \$1,750. and is requiring Porter to have a plan of action for reporting future incidents plus have a plan filed with IDEM for evaluating the lift stations and sewer collection system, to take necessary measures to assure proper operation and maintenance of equipment and to manage flow capacity to avoid future overflows. Karl Bauer, Director of Public Works agreed that the terms of IDEM were acceptable. Snyder made the motion to approve the fine and the orders from IDEM. Boothe seconded. Vote 4-0.
- Childress asked how the appraisal was coming of the Chesterton sewage treatment plant. Sexton said that Chesterton officials have been asked to provide documentation and the appraiser felt he could make a preliminary appraisal prior to an actual inspection. A final appraisal is due after the first of the year.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Spanier had nothing to report

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Craig asked the Council for approval to buy lights and have graphics put on the 2006 Trail Blazer that was bought out of Fire Cedit money. He said he has \$4,200. left over in Cedit and the lights and graphics are approximately \$3,600. Consensus of 4-0

PUBLIC WORKS

- Woodlawn Project has been delayed a few days, should start by next week.
- Munson Place the sewer line has been started.
- **Washington Street paving.** Rieth & Riley would like to have a change order of the contract or have the town waive the performance bond for this road only because Washington Street has sub surface failure. The additional cost to fix this dead end road would be \$39,570. Since there are only 4 houses on this road Childress made the motion to waive the performance bond for this road only. Boothe seconded. Vote 4-0
- **Babcock Road** Sub base failure was also found at Babcock Road The Council by consensus agreed to pay an additional \$7,000. to fix this highly traveled road.
- Council agreed by consensus to buy a salt spreader for truck #20.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Commissioner Bill Lewis said there were 6 new contractors for the month. Snyder made the motion to approve and Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0. Lewis reported that construction has begun on sewers for Munson Place. Also, the water lines are being installed at the new parking lot and restrooms at Porter Beach.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Animal Control Ordinance # 2005-07.** Page14 section 20 and page 16 section 24 needs amended. Tabled until next meeting
- **Accident Review Committee - #4** needs to be amended to read 1 part time Park employee. By consensus the Council approved the creation of this committee.
- **Able Disposal contract** was extended under the current terms to December 31, 2005. Childress made the motion and Boothe seconded. Vote 4-0.
- **Auto Insurance Uninsured/underinsured.** Childress made the motion to include uninsured motorist's coverage at the standard state required limits. Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0
- **Summer Sewer Rates** was tabled until next meeting.
- **Sewer Collections.** Hollenbeck said that Randy Moore has left Indiana American Water company, until they replace him negotiating for water shut offs will be put on hold.
- **Collection Agency.** Hollenbeck will write a proposal and advertise for bids to hire a collection agency that will do collections for delinquent sewer accounts with a deadline of October 21st. The Council will look at proposals at the October 25th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Halloween.** The Council by consensus set October 31st 5:30 to 8:00pm for trick or treating.
- **Sidewalks.** Becky Mateja 1105 Dune Meadows Dr. told the Council that her subdivision Dune Meadows is in need of sidewalks. The Council took it under advisement.
- **Baillytown.** Peter Vankeuren, 297 Arbre Croche, asked the Council to consider paving in 2006. He was advised some streets in Baillytown are on the list for next year. Bauer said he does not know how much money he will have for paving next year.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Sexton thanked Porter Cove Homeowners Association for adding sidewalks in their subdivision.

Childress made the motion to adjourn at 8:50pm and Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0

William F. Sexton, President

Sandi Snyder, Vice President

Sandy Boothe

Paul Childress

ATTEST _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer

Dated this _____ of October, 2005.