

**PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2004
PORTER TOWN HALL**

In the absence of President Jenny Granat, Vice President Bill Sexton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Sexton asked for roll call. Those present were: Paul Childress, Sandy Boothe, Attorney Richard Rupcich, Asst. Police Chief Jim Menn, Public Works Dir. Scott Guy, and Fire Chief Louie Craig.

Sexton opened the Public Hearing on 2004 Appropriation Reduction. Pomeroy said that an additional err of \$900.00. Bottom line grand total is \$233, 400. 00 they are reducing. The line items were correct as advertised. Sexton called for proponents 3 times and there was no public comment. Sexton also called for opponents 3 times and there were no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 14, 2004 - Childress made a motion. Boothe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Claims: September 1 through the 9, 2004 totaled \$72,179.91 Childress made the motion and Boothe seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Payroll: ending September 15, 2004 totaled \$47,663.18. Childress motion to accept payroll claims as presented. Boothe second. Unanimously accepted.

Sewer Claims: Childress made a motion to accept the claims of \$60,999.46. Boothe seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Barbara Miller (no address given) spoke on the severity of the West Nile Virus and mentioned the problem still facing Porter. She urged that the money received from the State Board of Health (\$600.00) be used to address that issue. Public Works Director Scott Guy asked permission to respond to the matter. He said that he had attended schooling on the mosquito issue and has found different ways of dealing with the problem. He has ways of combating the problem now in the fall and again in the spring when the larva is appearing. Miller urged the town to continue their pursuit of the problem. Guy and Boothe both said this is a town wide problem and that all residents should be aware of breeding places for the mosquitoes.

Dan Geissler, 429 Franklin spoke on the speeding problem in front of his home. He has skateboarders in the street in front of his house and the cars go speeding by disregarding the children. Menn addressed the issue and said that Geissler is not alone in the problem as Menn lives on East Oak Hill Road and it is a problem there also. He said he would carry the information back to the department and they would get on it.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Pomeroy reported that the town had received \$350,288.90 from the County, which is 50% of the total due. The rest will be coming in two to three weeks. Another draw will be forthcoming, hopefully in December. The

amount of \$2,000.00 for the contract with Keystone Computrol needs to be paid by October 1. She asked for a motion to pay the amount. Childress made the motion with Boothe seconding. Motion was carried unanimously.

BUILDING

In the absence of Dave Babcock, Pomeroy also gave his report. Nine new contractors have asked for approval bringing the total to 302. This amount already surpasses last year's total for the year. Childress made the motion to accept the contractors with Boothe making the second. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTORNEY

In the absence of Atty. Hollenbeck, Richard Rucpich attended. He had no report for the Council. Childress asked about the letter to the National Lakeshore concerning the exchange of land. It is due by September 30. Rucpich presented a letter addressing the subject saying that the Lakeshore had everything they need. The letter will be sent.

Sexton asked about the Animal Control contract with Dr. Reed and the Westchester Animal Clinic. Boothe reported that nothing had been received at the Police Dept. Rucpich said he would contact Hollenbeck on the matter.

Sexton then asked about the Fire Contract and the Sewer Policy. Rucpich said he would inquire about both.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Asst. Chief Menn was in attendance for the Chief. Lane asked that the contract for a computer software program be put on hold for two more weeks.

FIRE

Chief Craig had nothing but his written report. He had distributed a copy of the long term planning for the department to each Council member. Sexton said they would need time to review the report. Craig then said that someone had misinterpreted something he had said about Chesterton Fire Department not responding to Porter Fire calls. He said about 20 years ago, the Town of Porter signed a Mutual Aid contract. Everything in Porter County is at his disposal as a result of this contract. Recently, Craig has gone into an agreement with Chesterton for Automatic Response. This means if he has a structure fire, they tone Porter out for the fire and they tone Chesterton out at the same time. They were responding automatically to Craig's calls and he found a glitch. He then went back to Chesterton and asked that they stand by on their station response. As it stands right now, Chesterton is dispatched the same time Porter is for any structure. Sexton said the Council approved the Mutual Aid Agreement and that contract cannot be altered without their approval. Sexton's concern deals with concerns with Porter residences on the south side of the tracks should there be a train. Childress pointed out that our Fire Department respond to Chesterton for the same issue (i.e. trains). Sexton said, "It is appropriate that nothing is change; if there is a structural fire – Chesterton goes." Craig said the Council did not sign the Mutual Aid agreement. Sexton said that he would look into the matter and Boothe said it would protect both ends. Craig said Chesterton is dispatched to our fires, but we are not dispatched to theirs. Sexton said that Chesterton should be contacted. It was tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING DEPT.

Guy said that a Storm Water Management project along Woodlawn needs to be addressed in conjunction with Chesterton. They would like between \$30,000 - \$40,000 to make the project a reality. There is \$31,352.15 available in the Riverboat Revenue Fund. Guy said that Chesterton is ready to act. Childress made a motion to use that money. Boothe seconded. Vote was 3-0.

Guy said that the items stolen several months ago need to be replaced. Insurance money has been received and light control box, radios and a couple of other items along that line. The entire check was issued to the Fire Department. Pomeroy suggested that Craig purchase the items and give them to the Street

Department. He was given permission by consensus of the Council.

Leaf pick up will begin next week.

Childress said he was at the Dune Meadows Home Owners Meeting and there is no sign at Dunes Meadows/Wagner Hills at Wagner Road. Menn spoke up and said that usually the Police go out and see the best possible place for the signs and then bring that back to the Council. Guy said the developer is ultimately responsible for the signage and he would advise him.

OLD BUSINESS

2004 APPROPRIATION REDUCTION - Childress moved to accept 2004-14 Appropriation Reduction Ordinance by title only. Boothe seconded. Vote was unanimous.

ABLE DISPOSAL - Jim Smith returned with the exact proposal he offered at the September 14, 2004 meeting. Childress confirmed it is the last year of a three-year contract. Childress said that if there were a 5% increase, he would just deal with it because he does not want to change recycling to every other week. Sexton concurred saying that we are now the largest community recycling in the area. The Council said that the contract would be renegotiated next year, as they do not want to charge the residence for an increase.

Guy spoke up that the alleys off Wagner between Lincoln and Beam St. are going to be torn out and replaced. He has talked to the businesses and with Able to pick up rubbish. This is between Wagner and Pleasant. It will begin October 1st. It will take a week to seven days for it to set with no traffic on them.

TOWN WEBSITE is back up and running. Sexton thanked Childress for his attention to this matter.

Childress said the site is www.townofporter.us. Sexton said as he was exploring this site, he discovered the Fire, Street, and Police all have sites too. Menn said that Chris Scott was taking care of the site until he left three years ago. He said it had not been updated since then. Sexton said that tells him the sites should be updated and combined so the Town of Porter is not paying multiple fees. There will be a maintenance fee on only one site. He instructed the department heads to gather their information and provide it to Childress so that links could be established. Childress pointed out there is no allowance in the 2005 for maintained of the Website and that needs to be looked into.

J. Craig is taking care of the Street and Fire Departments. Menn said Spanier is in charge of their site. Sexton stressed that the Council needs to exercise control over the Website.

Childress said most of the minutes are included with a possible exception of the first meeting in January. He will add those as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

STORM WATER COMPLAINT – DUNE MEADOWS Sexton said there had been a complaint from a resident. Each Council member had reviewed the problem. There is a trickle of water coming down from the north and they are trying to figure out why with no recent rain. They found there are several sump pumps draining into the gutter, which is okay. However, there is one where a resident has their washer hooked into their sump pump, which is not okay. It should not be discharged into the street into the sanitary sewer. More investigation will be done as they noticed there is an inflow to the sewer system from the sump pumps. This is also illegal. Sump pumps and floor drains cannot go into the sewer. If IDEM finds that a washer is being discharged into the street, fines can be assessed.

Childress said that all sewer connections need to have holding tanks so that all that goes to the lifting stations is water. The newer portions of Wagner Hills have standard sewers and are in a different situation. The Building Commission will return from vacation and will begin inspecting the area at that time.

SALARY ORDINANCE- Pomeroy said that when she goes to the County next month, she needs a salary ordinance. She suggested that the same ordinance from 2004 be used. If and when more money is

available, adjustments may be made. Childress made a motion to for first reading and pass by title only 2004-15. Boothe seconded. Rupcich read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 3-0.

PRESENTATIOIN/DISCUSSION LIABILITY INSURANCE - Snyder has been ill and has not been able to meet with all parties. Sexton tabled the issued until the October 12, 2004 meeting.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Boothe said she had been working on an ordinance for violations bureau involving a time limit on fines. If fines have not been paid to the Clerk Treasurer after a certain length of time (ten days), they will go to the Porter County Clerk of the Circuit Court. The fines could then carry a \$100.00 plus price tag on them. Childress asked that the Ordinance be put on the next meeting's agenda.

Sexton said the town's insurance carrier has given an Insurance Award. The employees have received this award for three consecutive years. The council congratulated the employees for their safety efforts and said the plaque would then be added the award on the wall.

Childress made a motion to adjourn with Boothe seconding.
Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Vice President William Sexton

Sandy Boothe

Paul Childress

ATTESTED: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk-Treasurer

This _____ day of _____ 2004