

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2005

PORTER TOWN HALL

CALL TO ORDER

President William Sexton called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were Vice President Sandi Snyder, and Council members Jennifer Granat, Sandy Boothe and Paul Childress, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Police Chief James Spanier, Public Works Director Karl Bauer and Park Superintendent James Miller. Building Commissioner Bill Lewis was absent due to illness.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Boothe made a motion to approve September 27, 2005 minutes as written. Childress seconded. Vote 4-0. Granat was absent at that meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

- Sewer Claims totaling \$109,416.12. Childress asked if the maintenance agreement for the software could be transferred to the new software if we bought it. Pomeroy said yes. Childress made the motion to approve and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0
- Claims totaling \$32,240.19. Childress made the motion to approve and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0
- Payroll totaling \$48,687.02. Childress made the motion to approve and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

- *Karen Pisowicz, 85 MacDashowicz Dr,* asked if the Redevelopment meeting can change its meeting time to 6:30pm so that the Town Council meetings can start on time. She was advised to talk to the Redevelopment Committee about this.
- *Becky Maranto, 1294 Porter Cove Dr.,* said that the sidewalks were complete and needed backfilled. Also thanked the Council for their guidance on this matter.
- *Brian Marks, 445 Franklin St,* had complaints about Able Disposal not putting the garbage cans back behind the garage when they are emptied. He is paying an extra \$6.00 a month for the 2 extra cans. He also said that Able has had to repair his yard numerous times.

CLERK TREASURER

- The correct amount to CREDIT monies that the Town is receiving is \$285,896. for the year 2006.
- Granat, Snyder and Pomeroy are meeting October 12th with reps from American Legal and Municipal Code about codification.
- Sexton, Childress and Pomeroy are meeting with reps from Keystone about new software on October 17th.
- Pomeroy also requested that the Salary Ordinance for 2006 be placed on the next agenda.

ATTORNEY

- Park Rental Forms he will send to Jim Miller.
- Granat asked about the Stormwater Ordinance. Lyp will have at next meeting.

POLICE

- The in-house software is up and running.
- Halloween is October 31st from 5:30 pm to 8:00pm

FIRE

- Craig asked permission to let Burns Harbor use their old skid unit since Westchester Township bought them a new one. Council approved by consensus.
- Cell Phone. Craig wants to upgrade his cell phone and he will pay the difference of \$125.00 but in order to get the phone for the price he has to sign a 2 year contract. The Council advised him to upgrade and also get a shockproof phone. The Town will pay for him to also get a shockproof phone. Consensus 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

- Reith & Riley have paved approximately 50 % of the paving contract Karl wants permission to pay \$88,624.16 of \$98,471.29 which is retaining 10% or \$9,847.13.
- Bauer also presented a proposal for the Oak Hill Pump Station Rehabilitation which was tabled until next meeting.
- Bauer also requested a work order change for Babcock Road in the amount of \$2,514.40 for stripping marks for the bike trail and the railroad crossing which was omitted from the original proposal. Granat made the motion to accept with Boothe seconding. Vote 4-1 with Childress voting no.
- Bauer also asked for money from CCI to install sidewalks, Council advised him to get specs and standards with costs.
- Leaf pick-up will start in a few weeks. He has requested that leaves be picked up at the curb.

- Larry McCoy and Bauer completed wastewater training classes and will be taking exams later in the week.
- Woodlawn project being done with Chesterton should be done at the end of the week. Everything has gone well.
- The valve pit at Six Box Lane was repaired.
- Bauer also would like to buy a Chevy 4X4 Dump Truck, 2 snowplows and 3 salt spreaders, now instead of waiting until next year, out of his draw of CEDIT money for 2006. His proposed draw is \$49,400 for 2006 and the cost for the above items are \$46,179.65, dump truck \$35,054.65, snow plows \$7288.00 and \$3,837.00 for salt spreaders. Sexton told him to get a proposal and tabled until next meeting.
- Grants for Transportation Enhancement Program, Rural Community Development, Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal and Urban Forest Conservation were forwarded to the Redevelopment Commission.

PARK DEPARTMENT

- Hawthorne Community preliminary work has begun for the remodeling project. The main demolition will begin October 17, 2005. The Community building will still be rented while this work is being done.
- Miller said that he has exhausted any means of cleaning up the Dune Meadows Park pond. He is going to contact the Army Corps of Engineers and ask for alternative methods to improve the pond quality, he stated that controlling the weeds is very limited and cost prohibitive.
- *The Park Board* has approved replacing the air conditioner for the front room at the Community Building. Also, approved interior painting, restoring the War Memorial, having the Community Centers backflow preventers inspected and mechanical work done on the 1987 Ford truck.
- *The Park Board* also approved removing the pay phone at the Community building. The attorney said that they have no obligation to maintain this phone at \$80.00 a month.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

- Pomeroy advised that there were 5 new building contractors with all paper work in order, raising the total to 369. Granat made the motion and Snyder seconded. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Animal Control Ordinance 2005-07.* Childress made the motion to accept with the approved amendments changed. Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0. Granat made the motion to have 2nd and final reading by title only. Vote 5-0. Snyder made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2005-07. Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0.
- *Waste Disposal Contract* was tabled until next meeting.
- *Summer Sewer Rate.* Sexton advised that it cost \$157.00 a day to extend the summer sewer rates. Granat stated that wasn't feasible to extend the rate. By consensus the Council wants to leave as is.
- *Sewer Collections.* Tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS. None

COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Childress raised concerns about having the Park Board stating that the Council has no control over spending, they (the employees) are exempt from following the Town's handbook, and that the Council should set the rules for all of Porter's employees. When it comes to approving claims he feels like a rubber stamp to the Park Board even though at last Park Board meeting (October 4th) the board gave permission to the Council to approve claims for the Park Department. Granat and Childress said that their campaign promise was to conserve town spending and they feel that the \$2,400 spent for Park Board salaries could be put to better use. They do not see a need for the Park Board. Boothe thinks that it should be dissolved. Snyder, Park Board liaison, said she has no authority over them, she also said that Jim Miller and Stephanie Miller are doing a great job. Sexton said that they could ask the Park Board again to adopt the Town's Employee Handbook even though they do not have to. He also suggested that the Town Council and Park Board have a workshop to discuss this matter. A workshop was scheduled for October 18th at 7:00pm. Childress asked Patrick Lyp if the Park Board could be dissolved, and Patrick said that if the Park Board was established by an ordinance and it could be dissolved the same way and any holdings of ownership would be transferred to the Town.

Granat made a motion to adjourn and Childress made the second at 9:05pm. Vote 5-0.

William F. Sexton, President

Sandi Snyder, Vice President

Jennifer Granat

Sandy Boothe

Paul Childress

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer

Dated this _____ day of October, 2005