

**PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2004
PORTER TOWN HALL**

President Jenny Granat called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Those present were: Vice – President Bill Sexton, Sandi Snyder, Paul Childress, Sandy Boothe, Clerk-Treasurer, Attorney Richard Rupcich, Asst. Police Chief Jim Menn, Public Works Director Scott Guy, Fire Chief Lewie Craig and Building Commissioner Dave Babcock.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 12, 2004 - Sexton made a motion to approve as presented. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

October 21, 2004 – Special Meeting. Boothe made a motion to approve. Childress seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

October 22, 2004 - Executive Meeting. Snyder made a motion to accept. Sexton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Sewer Claims: A motion was made by Boothe to accept the \$41,997.55 in sewer claims. Childress seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Claims: October 1 through 22, 2004 totaled \$158,387.37 (which included \$75,000.00 repayment). Childress made a motion to accept as presented. Boothe seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Payroll: ending October 15, 2004 totaled \$50,469.33. Childress motion to accept payroll claims as presented. Boothe seconded. Passed 5-0.

PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

John Beckman of 160 Roskin Rd. speaking as Vice-President of the Lake County Fish and Game presented resolutions pertaining to truck traffic throughout our area (specifically Diesel traffic). He would like to see Northwest Indiana working with Illinois to do long range planning on the increase in traffic in the coming years. He asked that the Council and specifically NIRPC board member Bill Sexton address the matter at future meetings. He is requesting that Sexton ask for discussion on the resolution be put on the NIRPC agenda which will be October 28, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. A letter has been drafted that Beckman would like the Porter Town Council to send this letter to Gary, East Chicago, and Hammond and get their input. Childress made the motion to send the letter. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Pomeroy is to take care of sending the drafted letter.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Pomeroy reported that she and Asst. Clerk-Treasurer Karen Spanier attended the classes in Middlebury during the previous week. They learned several helpful things on year-end closing. She has also paid back the \$75,000.00 to the Redevelopment Commission leaving a \$425,000.00 balance.

Sexton asked if the Town had heard anything about the Brochure that was in the works for Porter. Pomeroy said they are waiting for pictures to complete the guide.

ATTORNEY

Rupcich had nothing to report. Childress inquired about the letter to the National Lakeshore for land trade.

He said that as of Thursday October 21st they had not received it. Rupcich said that Atty. Patrick Lypp said it had been sent but said he would check again on it.

Childress also questioned whether the matter of the recommendations from the Plan Commission was to be addressed. Granat said the Commission had requested it be put on the November 22, 2004 agenda.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Asst. Chief Menn reminded everyone of the Trick or Treat – October 31, 2004 from 4-6 p.m. He said the police would be out in force.

Under questioning from Boothe, he said that two or three of the cars were being taken in for recall.

FIRE

Chief Craig presented his written report. He also reminded the residents that it is against state law in Porter County to burn in the open. If there is a campfire and someone complains – it will be considered a nuisance fire. If residents have a complaint, call 911. The first time there is a warning. The second time a stern warning and on the third occasion, the police will be involved. Nothing can be burned – even in a container.

Sexton said he had received e-mail from Lowell Black and inquired if all fire and police had a copy of the Emergency Response Guide. Craig said the town was provided these by Hazmat and everyone had a copy.

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING DEPT.

Supt. Guy said the department was back in full force. He had been on Wagner Road where some of the older holding tanks are lower in the ground and he is addressing them. He asked if Carmen Lorenz could send letters to those residents that he would be checking on these.

Sexton said that during Tuesday he was driving down Wagner noticing a strong smell of sewage. Guy said it was slag water running off of Wagner Hills. He also asked about the old power supply station just east of Wagner on Oak Hill Road and if there was any danger to surrounding residents. Craig spoke up and said that he had addressed that within the last five years with the Army Corp of Engineers and there is absolutely no hazard to anyone.

Signage on Wagner Hills will be taken care of as soon as Doug Bonin (developer) and Guy can get together. There will be two full crews working on the leaf pickup everyday from 6:30 to 2:30. They will continue until the first heavy snow.

Guy also gave the Council a road resurface list. He will have a complete report at the next meeting. He will prioritize the problems also.

Sexton made a motion to allow Guy to do the first three projects, which are Duneland Drive (\$6,480.00), Porter Ave. between Michigan and Indiana (\$2,754.00), and 25th Place off of Eugene St. (\$4,118.00) with funds from LR&S. Childress seconded. Carried 5-0.

Guy also asked that the Council consider paving alleys. He felt that this would be beneficial for cleanliness and to eliminate the need for maintenance. He asked that it be considered as money becomes available. By consensus, the council said that roads definitely need to come first.

BUILDING

Babcock said that nine new contractors have applied for licenses. Childress made a motion to accept them and Boothe seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

He said there would be a final walk through with the architects Gerometta and Kinel on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. He said all issues should be referred to him so he could address them. Problems such as the phone

system, doors, etc will be addressed at that time. The previous Council has paid all of the bills so Babcock hopes to get some response but does not have much hope. He asked for all of the manufacturer's handbooks for the project. Granat said the town still holds the bond on the project.

Babcock has received his I.D. badge from the Porter Police. He has not received his magnetic signs for his vehicle. Granat said the Council would see that the signs were ordered.

OLD BUSINESS

VIOLATION ORDINANCE 2004-16 Childress made a motion to adopt by title only. Sexton seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Childress read it.

LIABILITY INSURANCE REVIEW/DISCUSSION - Snyder said she had received two proposals one from Anton and General Insurance. She asked the Council's permission for Sexton and herself to meet with representatives of the companies.

The renewal date for the insurance is October 29, 2004. Granat stressed that it is important to compare apples to apples. Childress said that it is important to pay attention to the amount budgeted. The cost will range between \$82,000.00 and \$85,000.00. Last year's cost was \$78,451.00 and with the projected 5% increase would range in that area. Snyder hopes to negotiate with the insurance carriers for a lower rate on parts of the policy.

Childress made a motion to have Sexton and Snyder look over the matter and then talk to the carriers and make a decision. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

GAS ALLOWANCE BLDG DEPT & ANIMAL WARDEN - Granat said that \$1,000.00 was budgeted for the Building Dept. and there is money for such an allowance. Pomeroy suggested that Gas Cards with a maximum of \$50.00 per inspector and \$75.00 per month for the Building Commissioner. Childress said that the amount couldn't exceed \$1,000.00 for the year according to next year's budget.

By consensus, the Council agreed that they could not exceed the \$1250.00 set aside in the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Sexton said the Council is looking to appointing two more police commissioners to raise the number to five. They would also have a board member as an ex-officio non-voting member.

Childress said that with two applicants for the Storm Water Management Board, someone should be placed on it soon. Granat and Childress will interview the applicants and forward their recommendation to the entire Council.

Childress made a motion to adjourn and Boothe seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

President Jennifer Granat

Vice President William Sexton

Sandy Boothe

Sandi Snyder

Paul Childress

ATTESTED: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk-Treasurer

This _____ day of _____ 2004