

**PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 23, 2004
PORTER TOWN HALL**

The Porter Town Council meeting was called to order by President Jenny Granat at 6:30 p.m. She led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Those present were: Vice – President Bill Sexton, Sandi Snyder, Sandy Boothe, Clerk-Treasurer, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Acting Police Chief Jim Menn, Public Works Director Scott Guy, and Fire Chief Lewie Craig.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 9, 2004 - Sexton made a motion to approve as presented. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS

Claims: November 1 through 19, 2004 totaled \$68,458.22. Sexton made a motion to approve said claims. Snyder seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Payroll: ending November 15, 2004 totaled \$82,960.93 (includes commissions, etc). Boothe motioned to approve payroll claims, and Snyder seconded the motion. Passed 4-0.

Sewer Claims: October 28 through November 19 totaling \$76,624.84. Sexton made motion to accept with Snyder making the second. Carried 4-0

PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Tom Goldbin of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore returned on the matter of the letter granting the vacation of certain roads. He was given a copy of the signed and approved minutes of the previous meeting of November 9, 2004 stating that the town and the National Lakeshore had agreed on the land swap. The Lakeshore will restore said land and in exchange will get National Lakeshore approval for the additional right-of-way on S. Bailey Dr.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

CLERK-TREASURER Nothing to report

ATTORNEY Nothing except matters on the agenda

POLICE DEPT. Nothing to report

FIRE Nothing to report except the trucks were pump tested and passed.

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING DEPT.

Supt. Guy said he the department was aggressively working on leaf pick up and preparing for snow.

BUILDING In Dave Babcock's absence, Pomeroy announced there were eight new contractors bringing the total to 327. Boothe made a motion to approve contractors as listed. Snyder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

WEBSITE DISCUSSION - Granat said that instead of having the companies who have shown an interest to come before the Council to make a presentation, she would like to have Childress and Sexton preview the applicants and make a recommendation. Passed by consensus.

SEWER RATE STUDY – Financial consultant Karl Cender said the due to the rate increase in Chesterton passed on November 22, 2004 there would also be a projected increase for Porter ranging from 34% to 58%. Cender suggested a workshop including the Council, Supt. Scott Guy, Haas and Associates and Cender Associates. He distributed a utility rate study that he had prepared showing two options. In some detail, Cender went through and explained the report (See attached).

Sexton said there was some discrepancy as to whether the bond for the additional capacity was included in the rate or not. He would like that investigated and agreed to a workshop. With Council approval, Granat set the workshop for December 3, 2004 at 5:30 in the Town Hall.

From the floor, resident Jennifer Klug asked if some of the CEDIT money could be used for sewer improvements. Sexton said that in the TIF district, it could be used. Granat said that using it for Capital Improvement would be permissible and that is why Childress has been asking department heads for a list of needs.

NEW BUSINESS

MERIT COMMISSION – Jason Casbon of the Porter Police rose and presented a letter signed by eight of the active policemen asking that the Police Commission be changed to a Merit Board. This would permit the police themselves to appoint two of the five members. He stressed that the department was not unhappy with the current commission but would like to offer an alternative since the Council was considering changing the current Commission to a five-member board in January.

Sexton said the Town Clerk swears in the Merit Board whereas the Circuit Clerk swears the Police Commission.

Sexton said the current Police Commission has been working well as is and the Council know it. He proposed that the Council go with the five-member Police Commission as opposed to the Merit Board. Granat said that her personal opinion is that Police Commission is a citizen's committee that advocates the interest of the community and the citizens. The Handbook and General Orders advocates the Police. She said that she felt the current commission should be expanded and there is always the availability of revisiting the Merit Board issue in the future.

Sexton said that his understanding is that the Council needs to accept or reject the Merit Board proposal so he made the motion to reject the Merit Board and stay with the proposed Commission. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

AMMEND METROPOLITAN POLICE ORDINANCE 95-02-Granat asked for a motion to number and read Ordinance 2004-18. Sexton made the motion, Boothe seconded. Carried 4-0. Hollenbeck read the ordinance.

Sexton made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Boothe then motion to suspend the rules have second and third reading by title only 2004-18. Sexton made the second. Motion carried 4-0. Granat read.

Sexton made the motion to adopt 2004-18. Boothe seconded. It was approved 4-0.

ANIMAL CONTROL – Granat said it should have read Animal Control Discussion. She said that Boothe and the Police Department have been responding on calls. There have been no new pick-ups recently. Ordinances need to be written if the town intends to stay with this program. She asked if the Council wanted figures and a plan needs to be examined. Sexton said that he would like Boothe and Granat should

work on this issue and return to the Council with their input. Granat said that there should be no personal contact by the Police Department. This means no pick up by the Police. They can continue to eliminate injured and sick wild life at the officer's discretion. She would also like the two men caring for the animals to receive shots that will cost approximately \$400.00 each. By consensus, the Council agreed. There will be a report at the next meeting.

AMMEND ZONING ORDINANCE MINIMUM FLOOR AREA ORDINANCE 2004-21. The Plan Commission forwarded their recommendation on the minimum from their meeting on October 20, 2004. (See attached). Sexton made a motion to name and number and to approve on first reading and Booth seconded approving said changes. Carried 4-0. Boothe then made the motion to suspend the rules and have second and third reading by title only. sexton made the second. motion carried 4-0. Hollenbeck read. Sexton made the motion to adopt changing minimum floor space area. Boothe made the second. Carried 4-0. Hollenbeck said it should now be sent back to the Plan Commission now that the Council had accepted the changes.

PARK SALARY ORDINANCE 2004-17- Granat presented the Park Salary ordinance from the last Park Board meeting. Sexton made a motion to number and read ordinance 2004-17. Snyder made the second. Carried 4-0. Hollenbeck read the ordinance. Sexton made the motion to suspend the rules and have the 2nd and 3rd reading by title only. Snyder seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Granat read. Snyder made a motion to accept Ordinance 2004-17. Boothe seconded. Carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION – 2004-05. Granat asked for a motion to number and read. Sexton made said motion. Boothe seconded. Vote carried 4-0. Hollenbeck read the resolution commending John Lane for his service as Police Chief from July 15, 2003 through November 16, 2004. Granat asked that a copy be put in Lane's file.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Hollenbeck said that along those lines he had been in touch with the Police Commission president Chad Brooks regarding the process of deliberation in the selection of a new Porter Police Chief. That process will commence from the meeting Brooks has called on November 30, 2004 at 5:30 at the Town Hall. That meeting will be utilized as an initial gathering of the Metropolitan Police Commission for purposes of discussing the strategy and the implementation of that strategy for the selection of a new police chief.

Sexton had a report on the new health insurance policy for the August – October time frame. There was a savings of \$22,225.14. The Council's estimate of \$80,000 – 100,000. is right on track. Most employees are paying about \$40.00 less a month.

Granat said that Childress wanted to remind the Town Department Heads to prioritize Capital Improvements. The Councils also needs to list infrastructure improvements. Advertisements need to be made for a Building Commission and Inspector due to the resignation of Dave Babcock. He resigned for personal reasons.

She would also like the Council to think about the change in liaisons for the departments. An organizational meeting for January will be set at the next meeting. Granat reminded everyone there would be only one meeting on December 14, 2004.

A Handbook workshop was set for December 1, 2004 at 6:30. She reminded all that the changes do not go into effect until the Handbook is adopted. Sexton will have revisions by the workshop.

Motion to adjourn was made by Boothe and seconded by Sexton. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

President Jennifer Granat

Vice President William Sexton

Sandy Boothe

Sandi Snyder

ATTESTED: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer

This ____ day of _____ 2004.