

**The PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 13,2005  
PORTER TOWN HALL**

President William Sexton called the meeting to order a 7:30pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Council members Jennifer Granat, Sandy Boothe and Paul Childress, Attorney Hollenbeck, Public Works Director Karl Bauer, Park Superintendent James Miller and Police Officer Joseph Torok.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Childress made the motion to approve November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 minutes, Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS:**

Childress made the motion to approve Payroll claims in the amount of \$64,250.21, Town Hall Claims in the amount of \$96,449.05 and Sewer Claims in the amount of \$64,685.75, Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

Rita Newman representing the Friends of Porter gave the Council a Waverly Schoolhouse ornament for the Christmas tree.

**CLERK TREASURER**

Pomeroy recommended to the Council that instead of CEDIT paying for a dump truck (see minutes of October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005) for MVH that MVH should pay for it since it has the appropriations and the funding. Boothe made the motion to buy the truck and accessories out of MVH instead of CEDIT, Granat made the second. Vote 4-0.

Pomeroy also stated the Keystone would be coming on December 27, 2005 and installing the new software.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

- Bauer reported that snow removal went well last week but requested that residents move cars so that the Street Dept could clean the streets better. He also stated that they will be picking up leaves and branches when the snow clears.
- Bauer said that Regional Industries will use the Public Works Building for storage of recycling bins.
- Boothe congratulated the Street Dept. for a nice job of snow removal.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Spanier was absent because he was attending a seminar. Officer Joseph Torok was sitting in and had no comment. Granat asked if the police have met with officials about the signal light at Waverly Road and Highway US 20? Torok advised that the meeting was cancelled but will be rescheduled before Christmas.

## **PARK DEPARTMENT**

- Miller said the remodeling at Hawthorne Community Building has been completed.
- Miller said the Park Board has approved to have floors renovated at the Community Bldg. But the work will be done in March. He wants to encumber \$430.00 to pay for this.
- Indian Springs Park will close December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Army Corp of Engineers of the Detroit office was contacted to look at the water issues at Dunes Meadows Park.
- The Park Board approved Miller to hire Paul Casco.
- Miller also received approval from the Park Board to attend a one day workshop in Valparaiso for Urban Tree Care.
- Sexton thanked William “Bud” Tilden and Nancy Whisler for the many years of service on the Park Board, they both resigned at the last Park Board meeting.

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

- Lewis said there was 1 new contractor. Granat made the motion to accept and Childress made the second. Vote 4-0.
- Lewis stated that construction at the new Visitor’s Center has shut down because of weather and will resume in early spring.

## **ATTORNEY**

- Hollenbeck advised Pomeroy to publish for a Towing contract with the town.
- Waste Disposal contract with Regional Industries. Regional Industries will post a \$90,000 cash bond in lieu of a performance bond. Pending signing the contract with the Town & Regional Industries, they will start operations January 1, 2006. Hollenbeck will have everything ready by next meeting.
- The new contract will have recycling done every other week which prompted Bauer, Public Works Director, to contact the Porter County Solid Waste District to request a recycling bin to be placed at the Public Works building. The Council gave him permission to proceed with obtaining a bin.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Salary Ordinance 2005-08.** Childress made the motion to have 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> readings and approval with the following amendments: to change the Arts & Craft Park Assistant to hourly instead of yearly and to change the wording from direction to discretion to the department heads. Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0.
- **Washington Street Ordinance 2005-11.** Childress made the motion to have 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by title only and to approve the above ordinance. Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0.
- **Employee Handbook.** Sexton said that there is a change for gap coverage. He will get copies to the Council and will postpone this until January.
- **Police Commission.** Consensus of Council to leave at 5 members. An executive session may be called to discuss the repeated absence of a commissioner.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS;**

- Granat requested a joint meeting of the Council, Police Commission and Plan Commission. Tentative dates are January 11, 2006 @ 6:00pm or January 13, 2006 @ 6:00pm. Granat will let Pomeroy know so that it can be advertised.
- **Christmas Decorating Contest.** Linda Hodges, 470 West Oak Hill Road, suggested that there be 2 categories the Traditional and the “Griswold’s”. The Council agreed and will award a \$75.00 prize for each category. Rita and Sherroll Newman will judge on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Council will announce the winners at the December 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **Redevelopment Loan.** Childress asked Pomeroy when will the General Fund pay back the \$500,000. loan to the Redevelopment Commission? Pomeroy said it will be done at the December 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council asked her if the General Fund will need to borrow money for next year? Pomeroy estimated \$250,000 to \$300,000.
- **Christmas Gift Cards.** The Council gave Pomeroy permission to get gift cards for Town employees for Christmas in lieu of a Christmas party. The Council agreed that employees that did not earn \$2,000 by December 1<sup>st</sup> were not to receive them, and instructed her not to exceed \$2,000 total. Childress made the motion and Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0.
- **Town Appointments to Boards and Commissions.** Childress asked when they would the Council interview candidates? The consensus was they would set up a meeting later.

Boothe made the motion to adjourn at 8:40pm and Childress made the second. Vote 4-0.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2005.

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William F. Sexton, President

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Sandi Snyder, Vice President

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Jennifer Granat

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy Boothe

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Childress

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer