

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 27, 2005

President William F. Sexton called the meeting to order at 7:30pm by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Sandi Snyder, Vice President, Council members Jennifer Granat, Sandy Boothe and Paul Childress Attorney Dave Hollenbeck, Police Chief James Spanier, Public Works Director Karl Bauer, Fire Chief Lewis Craig, Park Superintendent James Miller and Building Commissioner Bill Lewis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Childress made the motion to approve the minutes as written and Boothe made the second. Vote 4-0 as Snyder was absent from last meeting.

CLAIMS

PAYROLL: Boothe made the motion to approve \$48,808.05 in payroll claims and Granat made the second. Vote 5-0

CLAIMS: Granat made the motion to approve claims as follows to amend the grand total to \$332,128.56 a claim of \$4,455.00 for Methodist Occupational was not approved because the amount was wrong. The correct total for that check is \$3,665.00 which will appear on the next claim docket. Vote 5-0

ADDITIONAL CLAIMS: Pomeroy asked the Council to approve the following claims that were presented after the claim docket was printed in the amount of \$545,760.83. for the General Fund and \$9,318.72 for Sewer Claims for a Grand Total of \$555,079.55 which is attached, also included in this list was a \$500,000.check to repay the loan from Redevelopment Commission.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Bill Cantrell, 371 Waverly Road is a member of TRIAD, a volunteering group providing information to senior citizens. He said the Porter County Sheriff Dept. is partnering to launch Project Lifesaver. This program is aimed at special needs persons who may wander away. They can be outfitted with a special wrist band that can be used to find them if they wander away. He urged residents that would benefit from this to contact the Sheriff's Dept. at 477-3112 for more information.

CLERK TREASURER:

Pomeroy asked the Council to approve Resolution 2005-00 to do transfers of appropriations from line item to line item. This is a housekeeping matter which balances line items in the budget and does not require any additional spending. Childress made the motion and Snyder made the second. Vote 5-0

Pomeroy also stated that Keystone was at the office today and installed the new software.

ATTORNEY:

Hollenbeck said the contract with Regional Industries for trash collections has 2 minor changes involving pick-up for Holiday weeks and reporting volume instead of weight. He will correct the contract and give to the President to sign. The area north of Hwy 20 including Porter Beach and also including Porter Cove will have their pick-up days on Mondays and the rest of the town will have their pick-up days on Fridays. Holiday weeks will delay the pick-up by one day, if pick-up is Friday it would be Monday and Monday pick-up would be Tuesday.

Regional Industries are getting price for new recycling bins. Granat asked about fees for new recycling bins. Boothe said she would look at the Ordinance and report back to the Council.

Childress made the motion for the President of the Council to sign the contract with the changes made. Snyder made the second. Vote 5-0

POLICE:

Chief Spanier stated that the Police Department has spent over 500 hours in training this year which is more than double the State's requirement.

FIRE:

Chief Craig said the Fire Department wants to discuss a new contract, primarily the way the members are paid. The current contract expires December 31, 2005.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Bauer said he has purchased 6 new pagers for emergency call out purposes.
- The schedule for trash pick-up in on our website.
- The Coastal Grant application for Orchard Pedestrian Bridge was sent.
- Bauer is still communicating with Porter County Solid Waste about a recycle center.
- Bauer will apply for the Transportation Enhancement Grant for Waverly Rd.

PARK DEPARTMENT:

James Miller had nothing to report.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

Bill Lewis had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:

Sexton said that he had an insert for Page 53 involving **Major Illness** to be added to the revised handbook of November 2005. Sexton also stated that page 21 line 3 thru 6 **normal work week** has changes.

Granat made a motion to table until the January 10th meeting to let Council members have a chance to read. Snyder made the second. Vote 5-0

Pomeroy was instructed to give Department Heads a copy to read.

NEW BUSINESS:

STORMWATER BUDGET FOR 2006.

Stormwater members Ed Pilarski and Steve Rohe presented a budget that is based on their 2 year history and the work that needs to be done under the MS4 program. They projected 5,062 properties and are going to collect a \$4.00 monthly fee. Childress stated that they will not receive 100% of the fees. Childress made the motion to accept the budget provided they do not spend money until they have received it. Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0

CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST:

The judges were Karen Pisowicz, Rita Newman and Sherrill Newman. They said it was coincidental that the winners were in the same neighborhood. They said all displays were viewed. The winners of \$75.00 each were Jean Daniels on Burwell and Brenda Snearly of Oak Hill Road. Honorable mention went to Shelly Beare also of Waverly Road.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Snyder asked to schedule an organizational meeting for January 3rd at 6:30 pm. Council agreed.

Childress asked Attorney Hollenbeck to check into how to set up a Rainy Day Fund so that future Councils will not have to borrow money again. Hollenbeck said that a maximum of 10% of the total budget was allowable to put into this Fund if not spent. He said he would get the information to them.

Childress made the motion to adjourn and Boothe made the second. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Dated this _____ day of January, 2006.

ATTEST: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer

