

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 8, 2004

Porter Town Hall

With the absence of President Jennifer Granat, Vice President William Sexton called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Roll call showed those present: Sandi Snyder, Paul Childress, Sandy Boothe, William Sexton, Clerk-Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Police Chief John Lane, Public Works Superintendent Scott Guy, Fire Chief Lewis Craig, Building Commissioner Dave Babcock and Attorney Dave Hollenbeck.

Mr. Sexton noted that he had spoken with Mrs. Granat and she plans to be in attendance at the next council meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS:

Paul Childress made a motion to approve the claims for May 22-31, 2004. Sandy Boothe seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Childress made a motion to approve payroll ending May 31, 2004. Sandy Boothe seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

PETITIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Attorney Bob Welsh with Harris, Welsh & Lukmann, appeared on the behalf of Signature Graphics located in Porter. The abatement that Signature Graphics received from the Town Council in 2002 is governed by the Indiana Department of Labor Finance. Mr. Welsh needs a signed document from the Town Council to show Signature Graphics to be in compliance. Paul Childress made a motion to find Signature Graphics to be in compliance. Sandy Boothe seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Document was signed and given to Mr. Welsh. It is unknown at this time if the 2003 document was signed or if Signature Graphics has filed for 2004.

Bud Tilden addressed the concern of the Parks Board that they would not have control of functions held on park property under the proposed Parade Ordinance under consideration by the Town Council. He was concerned that park events such as family reunions, Easter Egg hunts, weddings, Memorial Day service and other events under the Park Board auspices would need permits. He was assured the new ordinance would not infringe on the Park Board duties and Attorney Hollenbeck will write a letter to the Park Board to this effect.

Jennifer Klug, 302 Lincoln, questioned if a group violated the Town Ordinance but was really on park jurisdiction, who has authority. The Park Board would be the determining group. Jennifer Klug also questioned town expenditures above the approved budget for 2003 and was told that was the reason for the \$500,000. loan from the Redevelopment Commission which must be paid by the end of 2004.

Rita Newman, 315 Franklin, requested some action be taken regarding the Guinea hens at the veterinarian on Hwy. 20 wandering out on the road creating potential accidents. Jay Craig, Animal Control Officer, will contact the vet and see what can be done.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS:

Carol Pomeroy said the department heads are working on the 2005 budget and there is a workshop scheduled for 6:00pm June 21, 2004.

POLICE:

Chief Lane reported that under Project Child Safe the department has received 400 more gun locks which are available to residents of Porter. The new squad cars are in. The Chevrolet Impalas were purchased equipped. In the past, work was done by the department and it would take 3 weeks to get the cars on the road. By contrast, the first car was received on the road in 8 hours. The Impalas will also get better gas mileage. Chief Lane has the new car behind the building and will give hands-on demonstration of its merits.

On a somber note, Chief Lane reported a woman approached the department with the request for a SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) postage stamp. Anyone interested in supporting this is asked to sign a petition .

Chief Lane noted that he is working on a reserve program and will submit this to the Police Commission tomorrow night the hope of bringing it back to the Council at its next meeting.

Next meeting of the newly formed Explorers Post #911 I scheduled for June 23rd. Five youths are enrolled with more ad they expected. Duneland Exchange Group, according to Dawn Ruge, is doing a picnic on June 26th and requested help w games, possibly an information booth with Stranger Danger or help with parking. Chief Lane stated that he was going t Explorers for that. The Explorers polo shirts will possibly be ready by June 23rd.

FIRE

Chief Craig apologized for not having an official report ready. In January he applied for a grant from Department of Na Resources (DNR) to buy some safety equipment and prevention equipment and asked for \$35,000. Due to a lot of departments (109) asking for money he was granted \$5,000. He would like permission from the Council to travel to Martinsville to sign a state mutual aid agreement which is a requirement to receive the grant. The department already mutual aid agreement in Porter County and with 5 surrounding counties. Eventually all counties in Indiana will have this mutual aid agreement. Consensus of Council was to permit the trip to Martinsville.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Jay Craig, Animal Control Officer, was unable to attend this meeting. Fire Chief Craig brought to the attention of the C the concern of how cash donations should be handled. There is a person who wants to give a cash donation for dog food. Clerk-Treasurer, Carol Pomeroy suggested that the Police Department had a line item for donations and it could be plac there.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Superintendent Scott Guy reported that the newly purchased left truck has already started paying for itself by saving the approximately \$2,000. by not using an outside agency to help after the recent storms. He requested approval to have so roads repaved: Porter Ave. between Indiana and Michigan at a cost of \$2,754. Mr. Sexton suggested for him to wait on project. Also 4 other areas at the beach, 3 of which have been affected by Indiana American Water Co. putting their line the cost which would be \$27,594.10. The total amount is \$20,348.10. This money could come from Local Roads & Street Paul Childress made a motion to take the money from LRS for these improvements. Sandy Boothe seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Mr Guy stated this is Phase 1 with more improvements to come.

Clerk Treasurer, Carol Pomeroy mentioned a caller wondered what happened to the no parking signs removed by the w company on Bote Drive. Guy will investigate. Brush clean up will continue next week.

BUILDING:

Commissioner Dave Babcock stated 15 new contractors have supplied all necessary credentials bringing the total to 241. Sandy Boothe made a motion to accept the list. Sandi Snyder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Dave reported on how the new compliant procedure is working. People come to the Town Hall and sign a complaint. He or visits the people regarding the ordinance violation or building permit violations. A letter used to be written but it seem calls or visits has better results.

OLD BUSINESS:

INSURANCE UPDATE:

Sandi Snyder reported meeting with the Heritage Group. Applications have been given to town employees to fill out and return by June 14th. These will be submitted to the 2 companies who will then submit their proposals. The Council will then make a decision and notify town employees.

SEWER STUDY UPDATE:

Paul Childress reported Porter is awaiting Chesterton's sewer update which should be done June 23rd. Porter's update will be done a week or so later. There is a high probability that Chesterton will be raising their rates to Porter.

PARADE ORDINANCE:

Sandy Boothe made a motion to approve Ordinance #2004-05 with the changes made. Sandi Snyder seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Sandy Boothe made a motion to have a second reading of Ordinance 2004-05 by title only. Sandi Snyder seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Bill Sexton then did a second reading by title only of Ordinance 2004-05. Sandy Boothe made a motion to approve the ordinance. Paul Childress seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL:

Sandi Snyder had a Resolution of the Porter Town Council regarding the passing of President Ronald Reagan which is attached. This resolution was adopted by Council.

William Sexton had given Council members a draft of an ordinance regarding open alcohol containers. This is a first draft. He requested each member to study it and make corrections or changes. A copy was also given to Chief Lane. Mr. Sexton requested input at the next meeting and possibly have a first reading then.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business, Paul Childress made a motion to adjourn with Boothe making a second. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Vice President, William Sexton

Sandy Boothe

Paul Childress

Sandi Snyder

ATTESTED: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk-Treasurer