

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2004
PORTER TOWNHALL

Vice President William Sexton called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Sandy Boothe, Sandi Snyder, Police Chief John Lane, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Public Works Scott Guy, Building Commissioner Dave Babcock, Animal Warden Jay Craig, Attorney Dave Hollenbeck Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Sexton asked for approval of July 27, 2004 minutes. Boothe made the motion and Snyder seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Sexton also asked for approval of the minutes for the Executive Session on August 4, 2004. Boothe made the motion and Snyder seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS:

Claims: July 24 through July 30, 2004 totaled \$31,404.52. Boothe made a motion to approve said claims. Snyder seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Payroll: ending July 30, 2004 totaled \$48,495.60. Boothe made a motion to approve said payroll. Snyder seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

PETITIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Bernie Poparad of Burns Harbor asked if the town would consider putting a 3 way stop sign at the intersection of Verplank Dr. & Babcock Rd. Burns Harbor will put up 2 signs and Porter the third sign. Sexton recommends that the Police Commission and John Lane look into this.

John Beckman of the Lake County Fish & Game Protective Assoc. would like the Council to write a letter endorsing a resolution that the truck traffic use I-90 & I 80-94 instead of US Hwy 12 & us Hwy 20. Sexton tabled this until next council meeting.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS:

CLERK-TREASURER

Pomeroy asked that residents do not send sewer bills to the Town Hall. They are to be sent to the First State Bank of Porter. The residents may start incurring late fees.

Pomeroy also asked the Council to approve a new line item for the grant money that the Fire Department received in the amount of \$5,000. from the DNR. The accounts are as follows: Fund 244, Revenue 244 1116, Appropriations 244 100 111.50. Attorney Hollenbeck stated the Town could not just set up accounts without approval of State Board of Accounts. Dale Brewer from Porter County stated that you do not need prior approval to do this, that you can create a fund called grants and label it DNR-Fire and deposit the money to that line item and then the money can be spent without additional appropriations. Dave Hollenbeck stated that he would look into this matter. Boothe made a motion to approve the clerk-treasurers request to establish new accounts and approve expenditure subject to town Attorney Dave Hollenbeck checking on grant rules to determine the need to do an additional appropriations for spending grant money. Snyder seconded. Motion carried 3-0

ATTORNEY

Dave Hollenbeck has talked with the Auditor and stated that the Riverboat money was there and should be dispersed next week. The amount should be close as to what we received last year.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

John Lane asked permission to have officers take 8 hours of training in biological and chemical emergency response with a tentatively scheduled \$3,082 grant. By consensus the council agreed.

FIRE

Lewie stated that he received the insurance check from the recent break-in at the fire department. The check of \$3,452.80 covered everything but the \$250 deductible plus \$20.72 for a total of \$272.72 which Lewie stated that the department will pay.

PUBLIC WORKS

Scott Guy requested signs for Hunter's Glen & Babcock Rd. He attended an organizational meeting aimed at preventing damage to underground utilities that was very informative. He also reminded residents of brush pick-up. He told the council that the software for the low meter was 98 Windows and that he needed a laptop for this. Sexton told him he would give him one.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Dave had 3 new contractors apply for license which brings the total to 282. Council approved by consensus 3-0. Babcock stated that residents are placing signs in town's right-of-way illegally.. He will call them to remove and if they do not he will fine them.

ANIMAL WARDEN

Jay Craig has 7 kittens for adoption. He also has installed 1 vent in kennel which has improved ventilation for the animals. He will install the other vent later.

OLD BUSINESS

The Council had 2nd & 3rd reading by Title only and suspending the rules on the 3rd reading for Ordinance 2004-10 amending the Salary Ordinance of 2003-07. Boothe made the motion. Snyder seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council amended Ordinance 2000-04 with new Ordinance 2004-11 paying of claims without Council approval for sign deposit refund, park deposit refund and park cancellation refund. Attorney Hollenbeck noticed the wrong Ordinance number on the bottom of page. Snyder made a motion for the first reading with corrections to approve. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Boothe made a motion to suspend rules on the 2nd & 3rd reading. Snyder seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Snyder made a motion to read by title only ordinance 2004-11 for 2nd & 3rd reading. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Sexton entertained a motion from Boothe to approve and adopt Ordinance 2004-11. Snyder seconded and motion carried 3-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Sexton suggested that Chief John Lane and the Police Commission look into the new curfew law that Ralph Ayres enacted.

Sexton also stated that the rate study for the sewer is not complete yet and that Carl Cender is waiting for feedback from Chesterton when Umbaugh is done with the Chesterton rates.

Sexton also mentioned NIRPC is reactivating the organization. This is a group of elected officials from cities and towns with under 40,000 population. The main objective of the council is to provide a forum for the discussion of issues and concerns and to form a closer working relationship with IACT.

Sexton also stated that the Council has received various requests from several groups to possibly make a shift in liaison responsibilities, at this time, I'm going to ask the two other Council members here, but understand we have come to a consensus in discussions at various times with each other that we will be doing that, and there will be a new liaison appointed to

the Storm Water Board and to the Public Works Department, effective immediately. So we will be discussing that with you Scott and also with the Public Works and the Storm Water Board.

The Taste of Porter wanted the Council to check into providing insurance the the event. Sexton said he would have to check with the insurance company since they are a not-for-profit organization. He did not think it would be a problem for the street dept. to help hang signs with the lift truck. He will get back with them on both issues. With no objections Boothe made the motion to adjourned at 7:17 pm. Snyder seconded.

William Sexton, Vice President

Sandy Boothe

Sandi Snyder

ATTESTED: _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk-Treasurer