

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 by President Jenny Granat.

Present were Sandy Snyder, Paul Childress, Sandy Boothe, William Sexton, Jennifer Granat, Clerk /Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Attorney Paul Rupcich, Sgt. Todd Allen, Superintendent of Public Works Scott Guy and Building Commissioner Dave Babcock.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Granat asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written of the March 9, 2004 meeting. Childress made the motion and Sexton seconded. The motion carried 4-0 with Snyder voting present.

**CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS**

Sewer claims were presented through March 17, 2004 totaling \$53,544.59. Sexton made a motion to accept and Boothe made the second. Motion carried 5-0.

Payroll claims ending March 15, 2004 were presented totaling \$42,899.87. Childress motioned, Snyder seconded and motion carried 5-0.

Claim docket for March 1-19, 2004 were presented. Sexton made a motion and Boothe seconded. Childress questioned the bill from Spangler, Jennings & Dougherty. Sexton said that Granat had gone through the billing and noticed a difference in the charge per hour. She noted that although charges prior to November were \$130.00 an hour, when she checked the town was billed for \$140.00 per hour during the last two months of 2003. Sexton then rescinded his motion and motioned that the claim docket be approved with the exception of the Spangler, Jennings and Dougherty bill. Boothe seconded. Granat then presented two other charges from that she wanted the attorney to check on. Motion carried 5-0. The secretary of the BZA and Plan Commission for February, March and addition work presented one additional claim from Lisa Liebert. Childress made a motion to accept and Sexton seconded who asked if she had been made aware of the cut off date. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council welcomed two council members from Chesterton: Mike Bannon and Bob Crone

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Bill Cantrell of 337 Waverly Road spoke on the mutual aid between firemen and policemen in neighboring towns and suggested that maybe the same could be worked out with health insurance. The more involved, the cheaper the rates. Sexton thanked him for his suggestion and will ask our insurance agent. He said that in his business he had approached companies to unite and was told that some type of association needed to be formed that employees need to be belong to. Childress said he would also look into the matter.

Bob Crone of the Chesterton Town Council spoke proposing a combine Tri Town Rally, something along the lines of Take Back Our Kids. He suggested it be held a central point, perhaps at Hawthorne Park with the Porter Gazebo. He suggested getting a couple of speakers including the two young men that spoke in Chesterton the night before on March 22, 2004.

**Mike Bannon of the Chesterton Town Council offered both an apology and an explanation of remarks he made the previous night at their Council meeting. When first mentioned in Chesterton, everyone said that someone else should take care of the problem and he felt that Chesterton should take care of Chesterton. He did not want the problem to get lost in bureaucracy. When he spoke, he did not mean anything against Porter or Burns Harbor.**

**Sexton suggested that perhaps Bannon did not hear what they were saying. Porter wants to help and the council will go hand in hand, door-to-door with Chesterton and Burns Harbor. Sexton said they did it to get elected and they could certainly do it for this.**

**Rita Newman, 315 Franklin rose to compliment Carl Copollo on the fine job he has been doing at the Town Hall. The Council agreed. Guy said he would pass the remarks to Copollo.**

**Jennifer Klug, 302 Lincoln asked exactly what amount was owed to the previous lawyers whose claim they are checking. Granat said \$9,472.00 for November and December. Klug then asked for the amount for the rest of the year. Without figures in front of her, Granat said somewhere in the area of \$67,000.00 for the rest of 2003 just out of the General Fund and that does not include the TIF. Klug thanked the Council for challenging the fee.**

#### **REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS & DEPARTMENTS**

**Clerk-Treasurer Pomeroy questioned what line item they would like the Riverboat Revenue to be deposited. He said it was General Misc. Services. It is to go to 100100365 and Childress made such motion. Snyder seconded. Motion passed 5-0.**

**Connie Goysich could not be present and she wanted everyone to remember the Easter Egg Hunt at Porter Hawthorne Park on April 3, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.**

**ATTORNEY Hollenbeck was unable to attend. He was attending CEDIT meeting at the County level. In his place, Paul Rucpich was representing his firm. Rucpich remarked how nice it was to be back under quieter circumstances. Childress ask Rucpich to relay to Hollenbeck to research the issue of the Arrow contract.**

**POLICE With Chief John Lane attending a Police Chief's School in Plainfield, Sgt. Todd Allen represented the department. Detectives Veal and Spanier are presently in Texas working on the homicide. He then told that he had been contacted by Harbor Chevrolet in Michigan City that bids that had been quoted on two 2004 squad cars were due to expire on April 10. He explained that we now have four 2002 squad cars with mileage varying between 60,000 and 100,000 miles on them. Each year, the goal of the department is to purchase two new cars to keep a rotation of every four or five years, a policeman will get a new car. Next year, four cars will need to be purchased due to the fact in 2000 four cars were purchased. One of the cars, however belongs to a man looking at retirement in 16-18 months. He reported the Impalas have 29 mpg while the Crown Victoria is at 19-21. The cost of each of the Impalas is \$18,000 ready to roll and \$21,000 for the Crown Victoria's, which needs to adapted.**

**Sexton suggested that Allen check with Arnell Chevrolet for an additional bid. Allen said this is the Indiana State Police approved bid and was originally given in November 26, 2003. Sexton made sure there was money available for the purchase and was assured by Allen there was \$86,000 in the CCD fund.**

Boothe, liaison to the Police Department stated that the cars are definitely needed and have them be marked cars. Childress brought of the point that currently there are four unmarked cars in the department. Granat questioned the size of the inside of the Impala as opposed to the Crown Vic. Allen produced a report that in every instance the Impala was roomier. Linda Hodges from the audience asked why the sudden change from Crown Vics. Allen explained that the State Police run every test imaginable on vehicles and the Impalas came out on top. Jennifer Klug said that she had heard they had dangerous problems with Crown Vics but Allen said all of those problems had been corrected. Boothe then made a motion to approve the purchase of two cars based on the fact that all police cars will have markings and numbers with the exception of one vehicle. Sexton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**FIRE** Chief Craig was not present. Sexton reported Craig had made a complete inventory of the fire department. Granat asked that the other departments do the same and this information can be used for insurance and also for some grant. One grant is in the works at this time to upgrade some equipment.

**PUBLIC WORKS** Scott Guy presented one claim that came in late and was not put on the docket. He apologized that the claim came in UNDER the invoice approval. He had asked for and received permission to spend \$350.00 on cold patches and he spent \$273.00. Sexton made a motion to accept the claim, Childress seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Guy has prepared a spreadsheet showing roads needing improvement for future consideration. He brought up Dudley and Brockmeier, which are top on the list due to the installation of the water main. He submitted the claims for repair due to extensive damage. Sexton said the Water Co. caused much of the damage and Guy should call them and have them return and backfill the banks. Sexton also question one other item on the list – after discussion, the roads in question are Michigan between Wagner and Francis. Sexton also would like to hold off on Dudley until Dune Acres can be contacted. Childress would like to hold off on the list until the financial numbers are available. The Council concurred. Guy asked again that if the CREDIT money comes through if he could purchase a lift truck for \$24,600.00. Childress and Sexton the council needs to wait for the money before making that commitment. Spring clean up will be the last of April. Exact dates will be announced later.

**BUILDING** Dave Babcock reported eight contractors had applied for licenses bring the total of 177. Sexton made a motion to accept with Boothe seconding. Motion passed 5-0. Sexton said that he had looked into the workman's comp for someone who is self-employed (only one employee) as long as they have signed waiver per Hollenbeck.

Babcock said he had called downstate to inquire if a relative (nephew) was doing the plumbing did they need master plumber's license. No one knew the answer and they will be having a meeting on Wednesday to get an answer to that question. Babcock will follow up on the question.

Sexton asked that Babcock investigate who is responsible for an area with tires and railroad ties.

Babcock also said he had been having good luck with residents asking them to remove unwanted debris. If anyone has a complaint, they should report it to the Clerk/Treasurer and Babcock would move on the problem. Babcock mentioned the clean up taking place on Old Porter Road. Sexton thanked Babcock and said that the Council has noticed the effort in the short period

of time since January.

Granat said that she had neglected to put the Animal Warden on the agenda but said that J.J.Craig was not feeling well had submitted a written report. She reported he has two dogs ready for adoption (a white pit bull puppy and a small white mixed). He also has a brown pit bull found in the Porter Beach area. To date, seven have been returned to owners, two have been adopted, one ticket has been issued and one warning.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Health Insurance Update** – Sexton reported that they had asked for proposals from anyone interested. They have done a preliminary application from all the employees. By 10:00 Thursday March 25, 2004 they will be available for those interested in submitting proposal for health insurance. This will take from three to four weeks. Each agency will sign a HIPA release so that they will not release any personal information to outside firms. He would like to have this ready by the first of May. Snyder asked that Thursday April 22, 2004 be the deadline. Preliminary figures show savings between \$10,000.00 and \$16,000.00 per month. Figures will vary somewhat based on the health history.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Roger Abraham Storm water Mgmt Board** - Childress spoke for the Storm Mgmt Board in place of the president who was absent. They would like the Council to approve the Town Engineer for \$5300.00. The town is required to map of the storm water flows 25% of the town each year. They would like to turn in their MS4 due early May. Sexton said the money is from a grant already established in the Sewer Fund. Childress said that the Council must establish some type of funding source for the Storm Water Mgmt and it must be looked at during the upcoming Budget process. Childress moved to approve \$5300. from the left over grant money with \$18,400.00 left for engineering. Sexton seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

**Drug Awareness** - Granat opened the floor to discuss the Drug situation address the previous night at the Chesterton Town Council meeting.

**Linda Hodges 470 E Oak Hill Road** spoke on the fact that everyone needs to address the fact that drugs are being done by children younger and younger. She believes that alcohol and marijuana need to be addressed as a beginning step toward the harder drugs.

**Rita Newman, 310 Franklin** said that she believes it is imperative that we all hear from the two young men who spoke who were recovering addicts.

**Paul Ulrich of Porter Cove** a member of PCADC since 1998 spoke on the problem saying that they had formed the committee with fifteen people in attendance. He stressed a Treatment Center is definitely needed in this area. He volunteered to train the trainers and explain directly to the parents. He said that there WAS a way to put an end to drug problems would be for Duneland Schools to initiate a random drug test of all – students, teachers, custodians, and administrators immediately.

**Council member Sandy Snyder** proposed a Task Force and stressed the importance of more police involvement. See attached proposal.

Granat suggested a Tri Town Task Force including Chesterton, Burns Harbor, and Dune Acres asking if Chesterton through Mike Bannon would agree to such a meeting. Bannon said anything would be welcomed - anywhere – anytime. She would like more visibility of the officers, perhaps enlisting the reserve problem that is now on hold. She stressed that these things should be acted on quickly.

**Childress said that without Duneland School system involvement, no task force would work.**

**Trudi Gallagher of 201 Howe Road said that parents have a responsibility to send their children to school and the school has a responsibility to make sure that their building is drug free.**

**Bill Cantrell of 337 Waverly Rd speaking as a form school board member of Union Twp said that the problem with the children is a reflection on the community in general.**

**Margo Ulrich of Porter Cove from the audience addressed the fact that the Council will have to look at the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration if they want to connect with children.**

**Shirley Babcock of 702 S Babcock suggested that instead of neighborhood watch signs – there be signs indicated there is drug watch there.**

**Discussion continued with everyone agreeing something needed to be done. The next step will be to narrow the procedure.**

**Sexton encouraged that all communities attend the Chesterton meeting when it is set.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL**

**Snyder said that she had investigated the long distance service for the town with some paying as much as \$2.00 per minute and some paying just .09. She made arrangements that everyone will pay the \$.09 and there will be one Master Summary Bill issued with each department individualized.**

**With no further comment, Snyder made a motion to adjourn with Childress making a second. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.**

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**Jennifer Granat, President**

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**William Sexton, Vice President**

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**Sandy Snyder, Councilperson**

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**Paul Childress, Councilperson**

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**Sandy Boothe, Councilperson**

**ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer**