

Steve Kneitzle of the Franklin Mart rose and asked if the Hydrant Fee had been removed from the Budget before the State Board of Accounts approved it. Sexton said it had not. Kneitzle asked if the current board had a plan for the \$50,000.00 plus that would be incurred from the Hydrant Fee. Sexton said the Council is well aware of this issue and would be addressing it later. He said they needed to make sure that, when the money becomes available, it covers the hydrant fees. He said there needs to be further investigation. Kneitzle asked that the question of removal be checked in minutes of the previous council. Sexton said there was nothing in the minutes stating that fact.

Pam Solise – read a letter to the Citizens of Porter concerning an accident she had with her two dogs at the corn of Rt. 20 and Mineral Springs. She commended the Animal Warden Jay Craig and Policeman Eric Moore for their compassion and going that extra for her and her family.

REPORTS FROM TOWN OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Pomeroy received a calendar for the budget. She suggested that the council begin preparations for the form in May. After preliminary work, the form needs to be completed by August 1, 2004. The department heads need to submit their budgets to their liaisons and then workshops needs to be set up for the council to go over their suggestions. At Childress' suggestions, a memo will be sent to all department heads indicating the time frame to accomplish the August deadline. Forms are available at the Clerk-Treasurer's office to begin the process.

POLICE

Chief Lane expressed his desire to begin scheduling more part time officers as a result of the upcoming summer season. Speaking on the not yet passed proposal of the reorganization of the department he would like to use that money to add five part-time shifts per week now through August. The funds are under the dispatcher/radio operator and are available. By consensus the Council agreed.

He would like to use the donation money (\$2986.00) from the FOP and private citizens to purchase digital recorders at \$99.99 each that will record up to five hours. He would like to purchase ten of these items. By consensus, the Council agreed. In addition, he would like to purchase three digital cameras at \$440.00 each. By consensus, he was also given permission to do this.

FIRE

Firefighter Jay Craig asked for the final approval of the four fire hydrants that are within the parameters at Munson Place. He was given permission to send out the letter.

On May 28th, the Porter Fire Department would like to have a multiple agency Dive training. This would take up the Porter Beach area as well as the parking area from 8-4 p.m. that day. By consensus, the Council agreed.

As Animal Warden, Craig said that the calls have slowed down a bit.

PUBLIC WORKS

Supt. Guy said the spring-cleaning had been completed. If anyone has been missed, they may call the street department. Brush will continue the third week of each month.

An estimate for the sidewalk from Lincoln to Franklin will be presented at the next Redevelopment

Commission meeting.

Due to the recent publicity of the removal of sand from the streets at Porter Beach, Guy said his intent was to clean up for the people of the area has been met with mixed reaction. With a list of residents still wanting sand, Guy will bring it to the Public Works department and they will be called to pick it up there. Sexton said he had been contacted by someone at Porter Beach on the west side of the boat house who has a piece of equipment with tracks and they will push the sand off the road and back up in the Dunes. Sexton suggested to go with this alternative. Guy said the Park Service had been involved in moving a lot of the high hills causing the sand to cascade down. Due to the publicity, they now have become very helpful in this matter. Guy wanted to make sure that everyone knows he is not in the delivery business and is not selling the sand and there is no conflict of interest.

The Street list is still pending until funds are available. Margo Ulrich of Porter Cove thanked the Street Department for the excellent job the town did in her subdivision.

BUILDING Babcock presented twelve contractors for approval bringing the total to 215. Childress motioned and Boothe seconded to accept contractors. Motion carried 4-0.

Sexton announced that contrary to public belief that there is not a new home being built on the site of the old hotel at Porter Beach that has been torn down. National Lakeshore tore down the old hotel and are building a small picnic area with public restrooms.

There have been a number of complaints about clean up. Sexton urged citizens to take a look at what has been accumulated and if it looks bad, please clean it up. Once the town receives a complaint, the Building Commission has to act on it. His procedure has been to write a letter stating what ordinance has been violated. If there is no response, he follows with another letter. Then the process would have it turned over to the attorney.

He would like to be able to work with Chief Lane and perhaps take an officer to homeowner and present the problem. Then if the clean up is not done, a citation can be issued. The system is not working and the only way something can be done is if there is a written violation of town ordinances.

ATTORNEY

No comment

OLD BUSINESS

INSURANCE UPDATE

Snyder reported that her and Sexton have reviewed several proposals. Two have stood out. It is the intent of the Council to save the town thousands of dollars with minimal changes in coverage. Two innovative plans are called "health savings accounts". The is an insurance plan which has a separate savings account from which all dental, visual, and prescriptions can be paid out of. Snyder and Sexton recommend a public meeting May 18, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall to hear each of the proposals from Anton Insurance and the Heritage Group. All town employees are encouraged to attend to listen and ask questions. The meeting was set with Sexton instructing Pomeroy to advertise the meeting well in advance. They hope to reduce the cost to the town as much as \$10,000 – 12,000.

SEWER STUDY UPDATE

Childress reported that Karl Cender has not completed the study. Childress and Sexton spoke on the problems of the small diameter sewers in Baillytown, Dunes Meadows, 6 Box Lane and Wagner Hills covered in the Redevelopment Commission held earlier in the evening. After lengthy discussion, Sexton noted nothing was indicated verbally or written in town's records. He noted that the responsibility of the homeowner from the house to the tank. Childress made a motion that the Director of Public Works should set up a schedule to pump those sewers and do it on a regular basis. Boothe seconded. Motion carried 4-0. In regard to this subject, Supt. Guy said one area of the town is sectioned off each month for sewer clean up.

PARADE ORDINANCE

Hollenbeck had received a few different versions of what the Council would want concerning the parade. His conclusion is that the Council is not yet in agreement with each other. He asked for more directions before he could address the legal aspect of the parade. Snyder read a proposed motion that she had written:

They would like the Council to disengage itself from the Midnight Parade in its present form. No endorsement, no permit, no town involvement can lead to two specific actions. 1. A responsible bonded organization come forward offering to organize, pay for and to control the entire event, including security, property protection and clean up. 2. A town ordinance in effect that would protect the interests of the town as a whole.

She said they had an ordinance to offer and that they would like to make a few amendments too but it was basically prepared. Snyder made a motion to accept her prior statement. Boothe seconded.

From the floor: Steve Kneitzel asked that if this ordinance was put in place, does it mean that you are disallow the parade. United, the Council said no. He cautioned the Council to be careful in the rules they want to set forth. The parade has been going on for thirteen years with no guidelines. He questioned what price future councils might put on the cost of parade. He said insurance is not a huge factor and that he had collected over 200 signatures of people wanting the parade to continue (refining and changing it for the betterment of the town).

Sexton said an ordinance could be drafted and passed within two meeting. Each Council member has a copy of an ordinance to read and make comments. After the Council makes their recommendations, the ordinance will be available to the public. He said that the public will find it is not restrictive and their main intent is to put some organization into the event to help with the safety of all the parade goers.

Roger Abraham said that three people have been working on the problems of the parade since last July 4th. They are 100% in agreement that there has to be some fine-tuning. Since there is no ordinance in the town about carrying an open container in town, people need to be talked to about this and about the problems facing the parade.

Sexton assured the public that the ordinance being considered is an ordinance from surrounding towns and was not overly restrictive.

Jennifer Klug asked what would happen if the procedures were not followed as outlined in the ordinance. Sexton said there would not be a parade if everything were not followed.

Bill Cantrell said that an ordinance is necessary to do a better job with the parade, but the ordinance should set rules for all parades.

Gary Cutter suggested a charge for parking to help defray cost of clean up and security. Reaction from the audience was that NO Boy or Girl Scouts be used for clean up

and that the biggest problem is the carry in coolers. He suggested people think of ways to make money for parade use.

Voting on the motion that was made by Snyder and seconded by Boothe registered 4-0 to approve the motion. Sexton asked for input from the council on the ordinance and revisions.

PORTER TOWN SIGN PERMIT

The Landowners Attorney, Chuck Lukmann asked that the issue of the Town Sign on I-94 be postponed until the next meeting.

AMBURGEY ZONING CORRECTION

Due to an error in the Plan Commission Comprehensive Plan, the property owned by Glenna Amburgey on Mineral Springs and US 20 had been zoned as residential. The Plan Commission caught the err and issued a statement that the property be rezoned as commercial. Childress made a motion and Boothe seconded. Motion

carried 4-0.

UTILITIES BILLING POLICY

Childress has the policy written up and has not yet had a chance to present it to the Attorney. He would like it put on the next meeting's agenda.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Childress distributed literature from NIRPC he had received from concerning the lack of action on the Lake County Fishing and Game situation. Sexton is Porter's NIRPC representative and will look into the matter.

The Council had received a letter from the FOP they will be holding a Drug Awareness program on May 15th from 12-4 p.m. with police and fire people from the surrounding area.

Sexton also reported that he and Bernie Poparod from Burns Harbor and Mike Bannon of Chesterton will be meeting as town representatives to try to set up some way of dealing with the drug problem.

Linda Hodges thanked Sexton for his openness in the recent article that appeared in the Times. Rita Newman said she had privately thanked the author, Brian Williams and would like to congratulate him publicly on the article.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Boothe made a motion to adjourn with Childress making a second. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Vice President William Sexton

Sandy Boothe

Sandi Snyder

Paul Childress

ATTESTED:

Carol Pomeroy, Clerk-Treasurer

This _____ day of _____ 2004