

## PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

**JANUARY 8, 2008**

William F. Sexton called the meeting to order by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Present were Council members Jon Granat, Michael Genger, David Babcock and Michele Bollinger. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Police Chief James Spanier and Park Superintendent James Miller. Public Works Director Brenda Brueckheimer was absent because of heavy rain and she was still working. Fire Chief Lewis Craig was also absent because of a fire call.

Sexton asked for a motion to nominate the President of the Council, Genger made a motion to nominate William Sexton as President, Babcock made the second. Vote 5-0.

Babcock made a motion to nominate Jon Granat as Vice President, Genger made the second. Vote 5-0.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Genger made a motion to approve the minutes of December 27, 2007 as presented with Granat making the second. Vote 5-0.

### APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Babcock made a motion to approve sewer claims in the amount of \$21,573.66. Genger made the second. Vote 5-0.

### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Nathan Hufstедler of 1510 Old Porter Road. Asked the Council to install a guard rail before the "S" curve on Old Porter Road if you are west bound. His yard has been damaged by cars missing the "S" curve plus his cars have been hit also. By consensus the Council agreed to have Brueckheimer install a guard rail as soon as possible.

Mark Zaranski of 60 E. Oak Hill Road. Asked the Council again to be able to connect to Porter's sanitary sewer system. He lives outside Porter's town limits. Zaranski stated that he has talked to Steve Yagelski of Chesterton and Yagelski told him that Porter needs a formal written request to the Chesterton Utility Board before they would consider giving permission. Sexton advised Attorney Lyp to submit a letter to Chesterton for their approval to have Zaranski connect as per our contract with Chesterton. Porter County Board of Health said that his septic system is in need of repair and recommends abandonment in favor of a sewer tap on.

### CLERK TREASURER REPORT:

Pomeroy asked the Council to approve 117 new contractors' licenses, Bollinger made the motion to approve and Babcock made the second. Vote 5-0.

Pomeroy also asked the Council to change the limits of Purchase Orders to \$500 instead of the current \$100 because the liaisons still approve any expenditures over \$100 and by raising the limit on purchase orders would save time and money. The Council agreed by consensus.

Pomeroy also said that Chief Spanier and she have talked to a representative of Comcast about phones for all municipal buildings and if the Council agreed to change from Verizon to Comcast the town would save about \$55 per line per month. Comcast also provides free long distance charges. Spanier said that Comcast provides an 8 hour battery back-up if service was interrupted plus the internet is 3 times faster with this plan. The Council by consensus agreed to them to also look into AT&T phone service.

#### ATTORNEY REPORT

Lyp stated that he will have an ordinance ready for the January 22 meeting amending the Employee Handbook regarding vacations language.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

None

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief Craig said that they have been very busy today. They had 7 calls including sending the dive team to Remington, IN and South Haven due to the heavy rains in the last 24 hours. Sexton said that we have a total of 5 inches of rain and commended the Fire Department and Street Department for doing a fantastic job of clearing storm drains and helping with flooded areas.

#### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Brueckheimer was absent due to heavy rains. She was still working on the lift stations to prevent them from overflowing.

#### PARK DEPARTMENT:

Miller thanked the Street Department and the Fire Department for helping to bail out the Gazebo walkway which is flooded. Craig stated that the Fire department pumped over 120,000 gallons of water and there is probably that much more to pump. Miller stated that he has seen this much water in the Park in over 20 years.

#### OLD BUSINESS

LGS PLUMBING- OAK HILL LIFT STATION. Warren Thiede of Haas & Associates said that they had just received a letter from LGS Plumbing that afternoon and needs time to review before making recommendations. He said that a representative could not attend tonight's meeting regarding the billing changes that they (LGS) are recommending. The Council has already agreed to pay the additional amount of \$1,970 for the 2" PVC pipes.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Ordinance 2008-01 amending 2007-16 Salary Ordinance.

Granat made a motion to number and read by title only with Bollinger making the second. Vote 5-0.

Granat made a motion to suspend the rules with Bollinger making the second. Vote 5-0. Granat made a motion to have 2<sup>nd</sup> reading by title only and adoption with Genger making the second. Vote 5-0

#### REGIONAL INDUSTRIES.

Jeff Jones of Regional Industries told the Council that they have been bought by Allied Waste. The contract with RI and the Town states that they cannot sell without the Town's approval. Chris Kentopp of Allied Waste was also present. Kentopp said that he personally has not read the contract but their

Attorney's have and they do not see any problem with fulfilling the contract with Porter at the same cost. The contract with RI states that they will pay Porter 25% of the net proceeds from recycling but have not done this because RI was giving the recyclables to Valparaiso and not selling them so there was no profit to report. Kentopp said that they will give the Town a report on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month showing volume and weight and would pay the 25% to Porter. Babcock stated that the Town needs a better recycling system to make things easier for the residents. Kentopp said it is cheaper to co-mingle trash and recycling. Granat and Babcock will meet with Kentopp to look over their facility on January 12<sup>th</sup> and report back at next meeting.

#### APPOINTMENT OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND CONSULTANTS:

Babcock made a motion to keep all Department Heads: Police Chief James Spanier, Fire Chief Lewis Craig, Public Works Director Brenda Brueckheimer, Building Commissioner Art Elwood and Genger made the second. Vote 5-0. Liaisons were appointed as follows: Granat to Police Department, Genger to Fire Department, Babcock to Public Works, Bollinger to Park Department and Sexton to Town Hall. Genger made the motion to appoint Attorney: Patrick Lyp of Blachly, Tabor, Bozik and Hartman and Bollinger made the second. Vote 5-0. Bollinger made the motion to appoint James Mandon as Town Planner with Babcock making the second. Vote 5-0. Bollinger made a motion to appoint Cender & Company as the Financial Advisor with Babcock making the second. Vote 5-0. Granat made a motion to re-appoint Greg Stinson and Robert Kremke to the BZA with Bollinger making the second. Vote 5-0. Babcock made a motion to re-appoint Ken Timm to the Plan Commission and Bollinger making the second. Vote 5-0. Genger made a motion to appoint Babcock and Bollinger also to the Plan Commission with Granat making the second. Vote 5-0. Sexton made a Presidential appointment of Genger, Babcock, Trevin Fowler, Al Raffin and himself to the Redevelopment Commission. Sexton also made a Presidential appointment of Rebecca Maranto to the Park Board. Bollinger made a motion to appoint Granat to the Stormwater Board with Babcock making the second. Vote 5-0. Babcock made a motion to reappoint Karen Pisowicz to the Police Commission and Genger made the second. Vote 5-0. Bollinger made a motion to reappoint Sexton to NIRPC with Genger making the second. Vote 5-0. Sexton received an application for the DEDC and appointed Bruce Snyder to that commission. Sexton also noted that Judy Chaplin is a Tri-Town appointment to the PCCRVC.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Sexton said he had received a letter from U.S. Representative Pete Visclosky stating that there are federal grants available to towns. He advised Warren Thiede of Haas & Associates to apply sewer grants for the town. Thiede responded that he would.

Sexton said that the Council and Clerk Treasurer would be attending IACT orientation in Indianapolis next week.

Bollinger made a motion to adjourn with Genger making the second.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2008.

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William F. Sexton, President

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Jon Granat, Vice President

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Michael Genger

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Babcock

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Michele Bollinger

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer