

PORTER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 14, 2007

President William F. Sexton opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Also present were Lorri Wickberg, Vice President, Council members Sandi Snyder and Paul Childress, Clerk Treasurer Carol Pomeroy, Attorney Patrick Lyp, Police Chief Jamie Spanier, Fire Chief Lewie Craig, Building Commissioner Brenda Brueckheimer, Park Superintendent James Miller and Public Works Foreman Stan Potter. Jennifer Granat was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes of 7/24/07, Executive Meeting Minutes 7/30/07 and Special Meeting Minutes 8/9/07 Wickberg made a motion to approve all minutes as written and Childress made the second. Vote 4-0.

CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS:

Childress made a motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$91,327.38, Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Nancy Hyatt, 1297 Essex, President of the Porter Cove Homeowners Association presented a compliant from Jeff & Kim Morton of 1582 Commodore Lane regarding their dissatisfaction with the Public Works Department. The formal compliant is attached.

CLERK TREASURER REPORT:

Pomeroy asked the Council how to submit the 2008 budget for publishing, with or without the 5% from MVH fund to the line item Repairs/Maintenance/Fuel/Police in the amount of \$32,800 or \$4,800. Wickberg made a motion to use the 5% amount (\$32,800) to the line item for Police, Snyder made the second. Vote 3-1 with Childress voting nay. Childress felt it was wrong to take from one department to another. This will affect infrastructure for the Town.

Pomeroy asked the Council to approve writing off \$207.16 in the sewer department, the reason being the small amounts owed, bankruptcies, and no longer able to find the customers. The list is attached. Childress made the motion to approve writing off \$207.16 owed to the sewer department and Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Comcast. Lyp said that the initial agreement with the Town in 1980 required Comcast to have an office in the area. A new State law passed in 2006 now voids the franchise agreement with any Towns and Comcast. Porter or any other municipality cannot negotiate any contract terms, but will still receive their cable fees.

State Farm Insurance Company. Lyp has settled a claim involving Karl Bauer's accident from \$1,800 to \$1,000 to avoid a trial. Wickberg made the motion to pay the claim in the amount of \$1,000 to State Farm Insurance Company, Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Spanier stated that he had received an assemblage permit from Gary Cutter for a 4K run and Cutter has withdrawn the application, but would like to have the run next year.

The Police department has received the new Detective car a hybrid Prius. He asked for direction on buying a 3 year bumper to bumper extended warranty for approximately \$1,100, by consensus the Council declined.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

No report. Sexton personally thanked Craig for his assistance with a family member.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- SIDEWALK REPAIR- Sidewalks on Essex and Franklin have been repaired and they are waiting for estimates on other locations.
- DRAINAGE ISSUES – They have repaired a section of broken drain tile on Quail Ridge Drive. There are ditch problems on Eugene Street. This street also serves Chesterton residents. Potter has spoken with Mark O'Dell, Chesterton's Engineer and will get back to him.
- TREE TRIMMING- The crews have cut down trees surrounding Oak Hill lift station, allowing the residents of Wagner Hills Subdivision a better view of traffic off of US 20. They have also cleared the trees at Six Box Lane.
- PAVING SCHEDULE- Tremont Road has been finished. Sexton noted that they did not pave all the way to Highway 20 and wondered why. Potter said that there is a buried traffic control box for the stop light and the road could not be milled. Sexton advised him to get in contact with State and get this matter fixed. He wants the road paved to the end.
- ALLEY'S- They are filling the holes with gravel and will grade them down when they receive the combination bucket.
- MISC.- The department is continuing to pick up brush and other debris. They are also cleaning the streets and cutting the grass along the roadsides.

PARK DEPARTMENT

Miller reported that the Art Fair that was held on August 4th & 5th went well. The Army Corps were handling the parking and did a nice job.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Brueckheimer announced that there are 12 new contractors for a total of 290. Snyder made a motion to accept and Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

VOLUNTEER FIRE CONTRACT- Lyp said he had a problem with the automatic renewal, fund raising and increasing the volunteers from 25 to 30. Lyp was asked to review contract and put on next agenda.

NEW BUSINESS- Sexton noted that Childress and he had interviewed Stan Potter and Brenda Bruckheimer for the position of Public Works Director last week. Childress said they were happy with either candidate and both would do a great job. The stand out asset was that

Brueckheimer has had more experience in supervision. Childress made a motion to appoint Brenda Brueckheimer as Director of Public Works effective August 26, 2007, Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

Sexton also noted that Dave Babcock agreed to help the Town until a new Building Commissioner can be hired. Babcock was the Building Commissioner in 2004. Babcock will not do the Code Enforcement Officer.

SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION- Brueckheimer volunteered to head the committee to organize the celebration next year and was having a brief meeting later in the night.

INDIANA AMERICAN WATER COMPANY- Sexton noted that he has received numerous complaints about the way residents are being treated when they call them. Wickberg and Snyder will call and set up a meeting with them.

Childress made a motion to adjourn and Wickberg made the second, vote 4-0.

Dated this _____ day of August, 2007.

William F. Sexton, President

Lorri Wickberg, Vice President

Sandi Snyder

Paul Childress

ATTEST _____
Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer