

## TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 28, 2007

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

### PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2008 BUDGET.

Sexton asked 3 times if there were any opponents, there were none. Sexton asked 3 times if there were any proponents, there were none. Sexton closed the public hearing.

### MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2007

Wickberg made the motion to accept the minutes as written and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

### CLAIMS FOR \$191,794.52 AND \$102,955.78

Wickberg made a motion to accept the above claims as written and Snyder made the second. Granat asked the Council to look on page 5 a check issued to John Lane in the amount of \$526.50 for reimbursement for schooling. The Council when approving the employee handbook noted that there would be no monies for 2006 & 2007. Also, in the employee handbook it requires an employee to get prior approval for schooling before attending. She noted that the prior approval was not requested or granted. Also, Granat noted that a check for \$38.50 for books from Perdue University and a receipt for \$45.00 for a fan from Ace Hardware that these items are missing from the street department. Lyp stated that if an employee signed for these items the Town must pay for them. Wickberg made a motion to withdraw her former motion and Snyder withdrew her second. Granat made a motion to approve the claims as adjusted removing the \$526.50 claim and the new total would be \$191,268.02, and to approve the claims of \$102,955.78, Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Tim Wynn of Rankin Street, asked Council how long the water was going to be shut off at his mother's house. Brueckheimer said Indiana American Water Company was replacing fire hydrants and a water main broke and that was the reason the water being shut off. The water should be turned on within a few hours. Sexton has talked to IAWC and told them that if possible they would have to notify residents beforehand.

### CLERK TREASURER

Pomeroy said the Town has received the 1782 Notice from the Department of Local Government Finance, and the total budget was cut by \$265,265. The General Fund was cut \$259,393, LR&S was cut \$2.00, CCI was cut \$106, and CCD was cut \$5,764. Granat made a motion to comply with the 1782 report and reduce the budget by these amounts, Wickberg made the second. Vote 4-0. Pomeroy stated that in the minutes from January 23, 2007 the Police Department asked the Council to purchase 3 police cars for \$77,307 but did not have

enough money available at that time. Childress made a motion to take \$52,900 from CCD and the remainder out of CCI until the Town receives their money from tax draw from Porter County and then repay the money. According to the 1782 notice CCD has been cut \$5,764 and there will not be enough money to repay CCI. Pomeroy said that IC 36-9-16-3 says that CCI can purchase vehicles for police or fire departments. Granat made a motion for CCD to repay the loan to CCI minus \$5,764 and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

Pomeroy asked Council permission to reduce a sewer account for Dennis Genetski of 1367 Dixon Parkway Account # 162713.01 in the amount of \$356.32. The reason being that they were estimated for almost a year from Indiana American Water Company because they thought the fence was locked. In October they received a bill for \$736.77 after the meter was actually read. Our summer rates are for June, July, August and September which the Genetski did not receive the reduced rates for those months in 2005. Also late fees were attached to their bill while they were disputing it. We should give credit of \$216.74 for summer rate and \$139.58 for late fees, for a total of \$356.32. Wickberg made a motion to reduce their bill by \$356.32 and Granat made the second. Vote 4-0.

There are 7 new contractors for a total of 297. Snyder made a motion to accept the new contractors and Granat made the second. Vote 4-0

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Spanier noted that IDOT has finally made traffic signal changes at Waverly Road and U.S. Hwy #20 by a rephrased the traffic light. East and West bound traffic will proceed by themselves each way and North & South bound traffic will go at the same time. Spanier also invited the Council members to a retirement party for Assistant Chief Ed Surgener who is retiring. Officer Todd Allen has been named Assistant Chief and is going a great job.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Craig noted that over the weekend of storms the Fire Department was asked to help evacuate patients from a Dyer hospital because of flooding. As they were returning home on I94 the tie-downs on their boat trailer broke and the boat came off the trailer and the boat and motor were destroyed. They sent pictures to Sea Eagle and because of a faulty system they will replace the boat but not the motor.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Brueckheimer stated that Indiana American Water Company is replacing 2 broken fire hydrants. While replacing the hydrant on Franklin Street a "water hammer" occurred and caused the main water line to break, while they were digging to fix the water line they broke an 8" sewer main and fixed both at the same time. In the near future they will be replacing the fire hydrant at Lincoln and Wagner. Shem of Haas & Associates reported that they will be pulling a 4" main under Highway 20 to the manhole on August 29<sup>th</sup> and after that they will start the Oak Hill Lift Station rehab. Shem also reported that they did not realize there was a traffic loop at Highway 20 and Tremont Road when Rieth & Riley did the bidding for repaving. Shem stopped the repaving about 100' short of Hwy 20 because of the loop. Rieth & Riley did not mill, repave or stripe although this was included in the bid. Shem presented a change order bill for \$9,108.00 to do the above. Sexton he did not agree with this charge. He

agreed to the \$715 for the traffic loop but asked who is responsible for identifying this loop when bidding for the paving; he stated that the milling, repaving and stripping was included with the bid to go all the way to Hwy 20. and advised him to get a better breakdown. Sexton also asked Shem if he has the spreadsheet ready to send to IDEM. Shem said he is 95% done and needs to meet with Sexton and Brueckheimer before sending. The Council by consensus advised after the meeting if everything is right to submit to IDEM.

#### PARK DEPARTMENT

Miller said that vandalism (broken Picnic table) is continuing at Porter Cove Park. Since this is a secluded park with no lights because the neighbors did not want them it is an easy mark because of the Bike Trail the vandals can come and go without being seen. He also noted that the Park is busy with reservations at Hawthorne Park. Miller also thanked Tilden Enterprises for donating towel dispensers to the Park Building.

#### OLD BUSINESS

FIRE CONTRACT. Attorney Lyp gave Craig a new contract to review after he made changes to the one submitted. One thing Lyp changed was changing the wording to read “a minimum of 25” instead of up to 30 volunteer members. Lyp said it doesn’t matter if 25 or 30 as long as it does not cost the Town more money. The contract was placed on the next agenda to give the Fire Department time to review.

#### NEW BUSINESS

LETTERS OF CREDIT FOR MARQUETTE POINTE SUBDIVISION AND WAGNER HILLS SUBDIVISION. No action was taken on these expired bonds. Granat made a motion to table these letters until next meeting so that an inspection can be made on the infrastructure, Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

#### 2010 CENSUS PROGRAM

Sexton said the Town was asked to participate and feels it is to the Town’s best interest to have accurate boundaries so that everyone is included in the census. NIRPC is having training classes in Portage on 9/25 & 10/16. He feels that the new Building Commissioner should do this. By consensus the Council agreed to participate.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, Dan Whitten and James Burge could not attend this meeting because of budget meetings in Valparaiso and would like to be on the next agenda.

Shem reminded residents to attend the Storm water Board workshop on August 29<sup>th</sup> to help develop a master plan to identify drainage problems throughout the Town.

Granat made a motion to adjourn and Snyder made the second. Vote 4-0.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September, 2007.

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William F. Sexton, President

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Lorri Wickberg, Vice President

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Sandi Snyder

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Jennifer Granat

ATTEST:

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Carol Pomeroy, Clerk Treasurer