

INCORPORATED TOWN OF  
NORTH JUDSON  
INDIANA 46366

**Inc. Town of North Judson's Town Council**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

February 5, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

The North Judson Town Council met in Regular Session at the North Judson Town Hall, 310 Lane Street., North Judson, IN on the above date and time with the following present: Council President Hoppe, Vice-President Rowe and Council Members Felchuk and Young were able to attend. Town Superintendent Horstmann, Town Marshal Fisher, Clerk-Treasurer Rowe and Town Attorney Schramm were able to attend.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the agenda. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve the agenda. Council Member Young seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting on 1/15/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve the minutes. Council Member Young seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the minutes from the Special Meeting on 1/15/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve the minutes. Council Member Young seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the memorandum from the Executive Session held on 1/29/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve the minutes. Council Member Felchuk seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the minutes from the Special Meeting on 1/29/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve the minutes. Council Member Felchuk seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

**Public Presentation:**

Town Marshal Fisher presented, before the Council and those in attendance, a plaque to retiring Sargent Scott Beishuizen and his K-9 Gunner. Fisher thanked Beishuizen for all of the time and hard work that they have put into the North Judson Police Department over the last several years. Beishuizen thanked Fisher, the Town Council and those in attendance, and spoke of how he really enjoyed his time serving the Town of North Judson.

Larry Wickert – Starke County Economic Development Foundation

Wickert provided the Council with an Activity Report highlighting the Foundations activities over the last month. He spoke about the possibility of a retreat involving the Council and Clerk-Treasurer in the coming weeks or months. He noted that there was some interest in putting this together and he encouraged the Council to decide on a day and then decide whether it would be a full or half-day event. After a time and a date is settled upon, Wickert would be working to find some speakers and a moderator for the retreat.

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

#### KIRPC Public Hearing – Town of North Judson Water Project

Kankakee/Iroquois Regional Planning Commission Executive Director, Edwin Buswell, invited public comments or questions from community members regarding the Town's proposed application to the State's Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for a \$550,000 Wastewater/Drinking Water Program Grant. The local match will be \$1,268,000.00 which will come in the form of a State Revolving Fund loan. The application will be submitted Friday, February 9, 2018 and awards will be announced in late March to early April 2018. Vince Sommers from Commonwealth Engineers spoke about their part in the application, which included dividing the project up into two phases. The long-term financing has been set by the SRF, the preliminary approval has been obtained, and this is the last leg of pursuing the financing for the project. Public comments, questions and concerns were invited at this time. There were none.

Council Member Felchuk moved to adjourn the Public Hearing. Council Member Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of North Judson authorizing the submittal of the Wastewater/Drinking Water Application to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs and Addressing Related matters.

Council Vice-President Rowe moved to adopt the preceding Resolution. Council Member Felchuk seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

### **Recognition of Guests**

Donna Henry, Teena Hittle, Marsha Horstmann Peggy Bohac – nothing to present before the Town Council.

Margaret Koch presented the Council with her complaint that the owners of graves to the east of her parents' location are placing decorations to the west of their grave, against the rules laid out in the ordinance established concerning Highland Cemetery. Koch's original complaint was made October 1, 2017. Koch recommended giving purchasers the ordinance at the time of purchase and start enforcing the rules laid out in said ordinance.

Council President Hoppe let Koch know that this is something the Town will be working on and doing the best we can to clarify and enforce the rules. Peggy Bohac was on a committee regarding Highland Cemetery some years back and mentioned how sensitive the issue is when it comes to the burial space of loved ones. She highlighted how difficult it is for the Town to contract out the work surrounding the upkeep of the cemetery. Hoppe reinforced that the Town will do the best we can to resolve the misunderstandings and disputes going forward.

## **Department Reports:**

### **School Board**– Town Representative Akers –

Akers informed the Council about the approval of board policies which are updated regularly and kept in compliance. Approved were balance transfers for the end of the year and there are now three entities with lease agreements within the middle school building. There was also a memorandum of understanding with the Jobs of America's Graduates which is a work program to help build skills to make them job ready. This will help especially with the new graduation requirements. Superintendent Dr. Zupin updated the bids coming in for projects which will be decided in February. Akers provided information on the school letter grades. The school did well in 2017 but will likely not repeat that in the future. The current K-8 look at proficiency on test scores, growth, and chronic absent. The state looks at those and formulate a grade. The new criteria includes the same stipulations with an added category of 'well rounded.' 9-12 is a problematic area for the schools. Test scores and growth remain but the graduation rates, with the changing diploma types, will be something that hurts the schools grade. Akers wanted the Council and the Town to be aware of how these changes to diplomas will negatively affect the scores in the future. What the school thinks is important, that there might not be extensive high achievers but that year-over-year students are showing improvement matters little in the overall grade the school receives. The school will comply as best as possible with rules and regulations, and will be doing the same things that lead to a great score this year, but will ultimately receive a bad score next year.

Council Vice-President Rowe asked how K-8 changed. Akers let the Council know that the elementary will likely fare better than middle and high school. Vice-President Rowe also asked how teachers and administrators are approaching the situation. Akers highlighted how the school has no control over what kind of diplomas the State grants, and what class's students take which leads to the type of diploma they will receive.

Council Member Felchuk asked if we could change the name of the diploma. Akers let the Council know that we have no control over the types of diplomas they're awarding.

### **Building Inspector** – Building Inspector Abrams – Not Present

Council President Hoppe informed the Council that Abrams has written three permits so far in 2018.

### **Code Enforcement Officer- Joe Leszek**–

Leszek highlighted that the cemetery issue is ongoing. There was also a trash complaint on Arlington which was taken care of within 24 hours. Also written was a 48 hour warning for three un-plated vehicles on Cherry St.

Council Member Felchuk asked about the status of Buris Whitt's garbage. Leszek mentioned how he and Marshal Fisher have been talking about ways they could handle situations like that where the fine has been paid but the trash is still there. There is the possibility of a daily fine if necessary.

### **Unsafe Building Hearing Authority**– Steven Moravskij – Not Present

### **Board of Zoning Appeals**– Not Present

### **Planning Commission**– Not Present

**Railroad Advisory Committee** – Not Present

**Park Board** – Not Present

The amphitheater has been delivered and will be stored until Spring when it is erected.

**Police Dept-** Town Marshal Fisher

Council President Hoppe noted a job well done by Marshal Fisher. Deputies look and present themselves in a professional manner, and it's been great to see.

Marshal Fisher updated the Council on the progress of dressing up the station, and wanted to thank Town Superintendent Horstmann for their help.

The K-9 program is moving along. The SUV has been picked up and new tires were placed on the vehicle. It went into Simon's Speed Shop today for the cage and will then go to Matt Noonan who will be installing the lights to be ready to go on the 20<sup>th</sup> (February). The fundraising has been phenomenal and the support of the Town has been encouraging. The Department is planning a couple fundraisers this summer including a Mud Run that encourages participants to bring their dog along with them. Jim Menis will be providing the space and the Fire Department will be supplying the water.

The Department will also be getting with the Park Board to discuss a monthly get together to play softball or, for smaller kids, a box-car race with police officers. Fisher would like to get to the point where kids are asking 'What are we doing next month?' Fisher wants to create a good relationship with kids here in Town.

Fisher also noted that there have been some break-ins of which they have a couple suspects. Chief Deputy Thomas has been spearheading the effort to work with the prosecutor and catch those responsible.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe, on behalf of Marshal Fisher, presented P.O. 1411 for Asia Motors for \$15,000.00 and P.O. 1412 to Radiotronics, INC. for \$1605.56.

Council Member Felchuk made a motion to pay P.O.'s 1411 in the amount of \$15,000.00 and 1412 for \$1605.56. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

**Fire Dept** – Chief Leszek

Leszek informed the Council that the Fire Department will be hosting a breakfast fundraiser for Paul Newcomer who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

Leszek also noted that they've been experiencing some issues with some of the trucks including some sensor issues related to gauges and lights on Truck #1. Tanker #3 is getting ready to go into the shop for a seal or injector issue.

So far this year the department has responded to 57 calls.

Leszek presented P.O. 1410 to 5 Alarm for \$617.17 and P.O. 1415 for \$23,230 to 5 Alarm as well.

Council Member Felchuk moved to pay P.O.'s 1410 and 1415. Council Member Young seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Utilities – Town Superintendent Horstmann –  
5 February 2018 Utility Dept. Report

1. I would like to present **Purchase order number 1407** for \$2,055.60 to Morton Salt for 40 tons of road salt. We are paying \$51.39 per ton this year through the One Indiana program. We are mixing our salt and sand 1 loader bucket of salt to 1 loader bucket of sand.
2. Completed the Chlorine booster pumps relocation and pipe reconfiguring job. We also got the intake flapper so that it is opening and closing properly. We have also put a thermometer in the room by the pumps and will be recording the temperature every day.
3. Serviced the two of the 2014 Police cars.
4. We have completed the internet tower enclosure.
5. I would like to present **Purchase order number 1408** for \$717.13 to Mc Master Carr for Serrated and open Metal Bar grating and associated fasteners to cover opening around the well pipes inside the well houses. This will take care of one of the discrepancies from the IDEM Inspection.
6. All of the froze up meters are thawed out. We had been checking on them every couple of days till they got thawed out. The guys went back to check Fingerhut's and the leak indicator wasn't turning. They went inside to make sure they were letting it run and found out they had turned it off thinking that the temp is up high enough that it didn't need to keep running. They were told to keep the water running to avoid freezing up again.
7. Mug-A-Bug is having their usual forward pricing discounts. Normal price for a barrel of spray material is \$2,188.14. If we order now we can get it for \$1,980.00 and this includes free shipping. We would be saving \$208.14 a barrel plus the shipping. I would like to present **P.O. number 1409** for \$3,960.00 to Mug-A-Bug for two barrels of Mosquito spray material. We normally go through one and a half to two barrels a year depending on how bad the season is.
8. We had to dig up a sewer line along Weninger St to repair a broken line. We tried to jet it and run a root cutter in it and we were bringing out a lot of sand. We ran the push camera in it and only got in 21 feet and was hitting roots and was not able to get past them. Once we got it dug up we found that there should have been an elbow for a house inlet. The elbow was only partially there. We cut both lines back and reconnected everything back together.
9. We had to install a new meter pit for 205 Leslie St. due to a leaking supply valve before the meter in the resident's basement. There wasn't a shutoff valve outside. We decided to put the meter pit outside and get away from the meter inside the house.
10. We worked with the police Dept. to cutout and remove the old cast iron radiators and took them to the scrap yard.
11. Worked with members of the Park board using both the fork lift and the back hoe to unload the various pieces for the new stage pavilion.
12. While helping with the Park board Monday unloading the parts for the stage the fork lift kept dying. The next day we checked the alternator and found it was not charging the battery. When we removed the alternator, we noticed the engine mount was connected to the engine by one bolt. Upon further investigation we found the other bolts were broke off. We ended up pulling the engine and removed the broke off bolts and cleaned everything up and reinstalled the engine. It is runs and sounds so much better.
13. Started to work on converting the grading box from a class 1 three point hook up to a class 2 so we can use it with the quick hitch that we will be putting on the utility tractor. We will then need to get the correct pins and bushings in order to have everything ready.

Council Member Felchuk made a motion to pay P.O. 1407 for \$2,055.60 to Morton Salt, P.O. 1408 for \$717.13 to Mc Master Carr, P.O. 1409 for \$3,960.00 to Mug-A-Bug. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Marshal Fisher also wanted to thank Superintendent Horstmann for he and his crews work clearing the roads and sidewalks of snow.

**Clerk/Water Department**—Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the following:

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the Town's insurance premium for the year 2018-2019 for 1<sup>st</sup> Source Insurance in the form of P.O. 1413 for \$63,244.00. Also presented was P.O. 1414 to H.J. Umbaugh & Associates for Professional Services between 11/28/2017 – 01/29/2018 in the amount of \$4135.98.

Council Member Felchuk moved to pay in full P.O. 1414 and P.O. 1415. Council Member Young seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

**Legal Updates**—Town Attorney Schramm—

Town of North Judson – Ordinance No. 3 of 2018

Town Attorney Schramm presented Town of North Judson Ordinance No. 3 of 2018. Council Vice-President Rowe made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 3 of 2018. Council Member Felchuk seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

**Additional Business Deemed Necessary by Council**—

Council Vice-President Rowe let the Council know that Council Member Brown is currently in Costa Rica and having a great time.

**Claims for Payment**— Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the Claims for Payment packet for APV's totaling \$417,971.90. Council Vice-President Rowe made a motion to approve APV's date range 2/6/2018 – 2/19/2018. Council Member James Young seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Council Member Jane Ellen Felchuk moved for adjournment, Council Vice-President John Rowe seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

Next regular scheduled meeting – Monday, February 19, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

Attest:



Wendy J. Hoppe, Council President



Andrew Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer