

INCORPORATED TOWN OF  
NORTH JUDSON  
INDIANA 46366

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

February 19, 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 Brown 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 Brown seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting on 2/5/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve the minutes. Council Member Young seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

**Public Presentation:**

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Cemetery Mowing Advertisement**

Council Members discussed the advertisement in local papers for the Town's cemetery mowing service contract for the year 2018 and some of the issues that arose in 2017, and how those can be remedied this year. Council Vice-President Rowe introduced the need to include verbiage related to the winning bidder's responsibility as far as cleaning off old decorations on graves throughout Highland and Pioneer Cemeteries during the last week of April 2018. Also to be included in the advertisement will be an earlier start date from the May 1<sup>st</sup> date previously stipulated in contracts with winning bidders. Council President Hoppe recommended including the word debris in the section related to what needs to be routinely cleaned. Council Vice-President Rowe recommended that the Council be proactive in terms of addressing concerns or problems that may arise throughout the year in terms of getting the winning bidder out there to handle the issue within days as opposed to weeks. Council President Hoppe asked that the advertisement be published in the The Leader and The Market, and be mailed to all companies that have provided bids over the past several years. Town Attorney recommended including the words organic and inorganic refuse when describing what needs cleaned up, and he also highlighted that since this is in regards to a service contract

for the Town it's a good idea to publish in the local paper but it does not need to be published in the Legals section.

**Town of North Judson: Ordinance No. 4 of 2018 – First Reading**

Council President Hoppe presented the first reading of Ordinance No. 2018-04 – An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Establishing Salaries and Wages of Employees for the Incorporated Town of North Judson, Indiana, for the Calendar Year 2018.

Council Member Brown made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 4 of 2018. Council Member Young seconded the motion. Council Vice-President Rowe abstained. The Ordinance 2018-04 was not adopted on the First Reading and a Second Reading will need to take place at the next Town Council Meeting on March 5, 2018.

**Recognition of Guests**

Marsha Horstmann, Teena Hittle – nothing to present before the Town Council.

Donna Henry, President of the Mint Festival Committee, first thanked the Town Council for their consideration in allowing the Town to host the Mint Festival over the last 41 years. This year's Mint Festival will take place on June 15, 16, & 17. Henry spoke of the positive impact the Festival has on the Town, the North Judson community and surrounding areas every year. Henry outlined the details, requests and Special Event Permit Application distributed at the meeting.

Council President Hoppe spoke about her concerns about vehicles and trailers parked on the streets during the afternoon of Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Henry mentioned that as long as the vehicles and trailers are legally plated they're able to park anywhere. Consideration was asked to be given by Council President Hoppe for those businesses still open later in the afternoon on the 15<sup>th</sup> when it comes to parking in front of their business.

Council Member Brown made a motion to approve the 2018 Mint Festival Permit Application. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Jerry Lynch brought to the Council his issue related to water and sewer billing he was charged while his water was frozen during the previous month. It was recommended by Billing Clerk Jennifer Vanek and Council President Hoppe that Lynch contact his neighbor to see if he would allow him to run a hose to their home. Lynch and neighbor Joseph Gardener hooked up a hose and water was provided. Lynch's point of contention came after he received his next water and sewer bill. Because of the extenuating circumstances, Vanek adjusted the sewer charges on both Lynch and Gardener's bills to the minimum. Lynch requested that the Town owes him \$40.00 for the additional costs he incurred in relation to the billing during this time. Council Members, who were presented with the details of the month's billing, let Lynch know they would be gathering some more information related to average monthly usage at both addresses but that the bills for the month in question had been adjusted as much as they legally could.

Peggy Bohac presented Marshal Kelly Fisher with pictures related to the Department's former K9 Gunner and Scott Beishuizen.

Josh Schreiner spoke about a recent Starke County Tourism meeting including Marshal Fisher and some of the community-oriented things she's looking to do this summer. Also, the summers 'Movies in the Park' have been fully sponsored and will be taking place the first Saturday of the month except for July, which will be happening on the second Saturday.

**Department Reports:**

**School Board**– Town Representative Akers – not present

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

Council Member Brown asked if Building Inspector Abrams would, as requested, be attending the next meeting.

**Code Enforcement Officer- Joe Leszek**–

Leszek spoke about efforts to take care of the abandoned car problem on Cherry St. and the vehicles were moved within a 24 hour period. Officer Thomas contacted Leszek recently about an issue which he will be looking into directly as well.

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

**Board of Zoning Appeals**– Not Present

**Planning Commission**– Not Present

**Railroad Advisory Committee** – Council President Hoppe

Hoppe discussed some of the details around the first meeting held on February 12, 2018 of the Railroad Committee. Bylaws were passed, officer positions were assigned and CKIN was awarded a matching grant which will allow for work to be performed on various bridges and rail from Thomaston to Union Mills. HVRM has two passenger schedules ready to present to CKIN but because of insurance they will only be going as far as English Lake.

**Park Board** – Not Present

**Police Dept-** Town Marshal Fisher

The department has started polishing off the work they've been doing at the station. The repairs and changes have been moving along smoothly. In regards to the K9 program: the kennel has been constructed and delivered to Deputy Simpsons home. The dog food has been picked up from the Feed Barn. The K9 will be picked up from Vohne Liche on February 20, 2018 and the following Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> is when Simpson will begin his classes.

Fisher presented P.O. 1420 to Collision Auto in the amount of \$8790.72, and P.O. 1421 to Matt Noonan in the amount of \$1337.03 for his work on the K-9 vehicle.

Council Vice President Rowe made a motion to pay P.O. 1420 to Collision Auto in the amount of \$8790.72, and P.O. 1421 to Matt Noonan in the amount of \$1337.03. Council Member Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

### Fire Dept – Chief Leszek

Leszek thanked everyone who came out to a recent benefit breakfast for Paul Newcomer. It was a resounding success and humbling to see such a great response from the community.

Lieutenants have been working on issues on Tanker #3 which included a bad injector pump. No damage but needs replaced. Prices for remanufactured and new range from \$2900 to \$4200. Leszek spoke with Wayne Township Trustee, Clara Schacht, who will be helping with the cost of that repair. Tanker #10 is experiencing a code issue and Terry Howard has diagnosed a bad connection that has since been fixed. Leszek noted that staying on top of the maintenance has been a bit stressful but the guys are staying diligent. A new CO monitor for \$1500 and portable radios for permanent members will be purchased out of the department's fundraiser money.

### Utilities – Town Superintendent Horstmann – 19 February 2018 Utility Dept. Report

1. I would like to present **P.O. number 1416** for \$575.00 to Tim Wallace Landscape Supply Co. for new wear shoes for the snow box.
2. We finished the modifications on the grading box, converting it from a class 1 hitch to a class 2 three-point hitch. This way we will be able to use the quick hitch on the grading box.
3. We have the grating for both well houses cut to size. Tried to cut the sheet aluminum with the plasma cutter and found out that the air solenoid valve is broken. Tried to find a new valve but just found out that it is not available anymore. Actually, from talking to the Company it was bought from, they don't handle this unit anymore. I got quotes from three companies for a unit that will do what it needs to do for us. I would like to present **P.O. number 1417** for \$2,015.90 for a new Plasma cutter from American Welding and Gas in Plymouth, IN. This is for the unit and the items we need to have on hand. They have handled this brand for years and if needed there is a center in Michigan City that repairs them. They have had real good reports back on these units. We have used the plasma cutter on various fabricating jobs from making a new end chute for the brush chipper, rebuilding the impeller housing on the leaf machine, cutting the lids out of empty oil barrels, cutting various pieces of either aluminum or stainless steel to replace parts on the clarifiers, final and contact tanks. It can be used for cutting any type of metal that conducts electricity from aluminum, stainless steel, and ferrous steel.
4. I have sent out to the board members a list of the various jobs that we use the utility tractor for. I also sent out a map of the town with areas highlighted that we use the side mower on. As presented in past board meetings the one that we have now has numerous issues. The major ones are, the clutch is going out of it, which in order to fix it you have to break the tractor in too, which we do not have the facility or equipment to do. The other issue is that the hydraulic pumps leaks excessively. In order to fix it you have to pull the front end out from under it. The cost of fixing these items is well over \$5,000.00. I have gotten three quotes for a new tractor that would have the capabilities to handle the various tasks that it would need to do. The board has a copy of each of the quotes for the tractor.
5. We spent numerous hours snowplowing from the 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 11<sup>th</sup> of February.
6. We had to change out the conveyer chain on the big salt box.
7. There were two lights on Lane street that weren't working. Went to change the bulbs and found out that the bulbs had vibrated lose. One of the plastic globes was leaning over also. Retightened the bulbs and replaced the globe.

8. Took advantage of two of the salt shed bays being empty and used the forklift and man basket to check the ratchet straps for tightness. There were a few that were loose, they were retightened.
9. Started to cut the vines and brush out at the west water tower. When the weather clears up and the snow is gone we will take the tractor out with the back mower and mulch up what we have cut. As soon as the weather starts staying warmer we will go out and spray the area to keep the vines and brush from growing back.
10. Have been working on scraping and wire brushing the water piping in the filter room at the water dept. to get it ready to be repainted. It can only be done during the winter to early spring due to the rest of the year the piping is to wet from condensation. Due to the excessive pitting in the piping we are going to have to look into replacing the piping in the near future.

Council Member Brown spoke about his conversation with Bill Gehrke from John Deere in Knox about taking a look at what it would take to fix the Town's tractor. For around \$375.00 they would come pick up the tractor, perform an inspection and produce an estimate for repairs. This was the route Brown recommended going before spending a large sum of money on a new tractor all together. Council Member Young agreed this was the best route to go currently. Council Vice-President Rowe voiced his opinion that he doesn't believe the Town can justify spending \$50,000.00 for a new tractor for just mowing.

Council Vice-President Rowe made a motion to pay P.O. 1416 for \$575.00 to Tim Wallace Landscape Supply Co. and P.O. 1417 for \$2,015.90 from American Welding and Gas. Council Member Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented P.O. 1418 to AFCO for the Town's monthly railroad insurance premium for \$3351.83. Also presented was P.O. 1419 to Peterson Consulting Services for Professional Services related to the Town's Capital Asset Update for financial reporting for 2017 in the amount of \$2813.85, and P.O. 1422 to reimburse Marshal Fisher for her expenses related to K9 preparation expenditures and for materials needed for repairs at the Police Station in the amount of \$874.21.

Council Member Brown moved to pay in full P.O. 1418, P.O. 1419 and P.O. 1422. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

**Legal Updates**—Town Attorney Schramm—

Schramm mentioned that Crossroads Bank partners with a lot of municipalities to provide low interest rates for the purposes of purchasing heavier, more expensive equipment and how that might be a good avenue to go down if the Town needs to make a larger purchase.

Schramm also requested that the Council schedule an Executive Session sometime over the next 30 days. Council Members convened and scheduled an Executive Session on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 5:30pm.

**Additional Business Deemed Necessary by Council**—

Council Member Young inquired as to Council Members' schedules in regards to the proposed Starke County Economic Development Foundations Work Day. For Council Member Young, this Work Day would be a valuable thing to participate in to see what the organization brings to the table as far as working to attract development to the Town of North Judson.

The Council decided on proposing a half-day on March 20<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30am.

Council Member Young also inquired about the road problems at the intersection of Hwy. 10 and Luken Street. Superintendent Horstmann and Council President Hoppe mentioned that the State just performed some temporary measures and are planning a bigger repair for that area.

Council President Hoppe requested that a flower be sent to the new Pulaski Memorial Hospital doctor's office in Town as a way to welcome them to the community.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe asked for the Councils permission to provide First Farmers Bank & Trust with bank statements for the general and utility accounts for them to provide information on the benefits of possibly moving our accounts to their bank. Council Members expressed their opinion that they would not have a problem with providing them with statements.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe also mentioned that Mike Pazin had asked about Dennis Dalphond's work along the north side of Pioneer Cemetery. Dalphond had approached Pazin about a donation to support the work and Pazin had made contact with Rowe to see what the Town's role was in the efforts taking place. Rowe will make contact with Dalphond to look into the situation.

**Claims for Payment** – Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the Claims for Payment packet for APV's totaling \$164,131.88. Council Member Josh Brown made a motion to approve APV's date range 2/6/2018 – 2/19/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Next regular scheduled meeting – Monday, March 5, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

Attest:



Wendy J. Hoppe, Council President



Andrew Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer