



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

April 2, 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, 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 3/19/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve the agenda. Council Member Young seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Public Presentation:

Irene Szakonyi – Starke County Youth Club

Szakonyi gave a yearly update of what the SCYC has happening currently, as well as details on the mission, good work, and positive impact they're having on the youth and families in Starke County. Szakonyi noted that hundreds of kids are in the Club this year and teachers have relayed positive feedback in regards to the performance of Club kids in their classrooms. Among many other areas, the Club's activities are helping to grow the kids' education in language and math, and is also a stabilizing force in acting as a place for children to go and be productive after school. On May 4th the SCYC will be hosting their annual Radio-thon at WKVI where they will be celebrating the kids and announcing pledges on-air.

Mike Pazin – First Farmer's Bank & Trust

Pazin was in attendance to answer any questions that the Council might have after being made aware of the increased interest rates and potential revenue which could stem from moving the Town's General Account from First National Bank of Monterey (FNBM) to First Farmer's Bank & Trust (FFBT). Pazin and FFBT are looking to play a bigger role in the community and part of that is looking to grow the relationship with the Town. Council Member Felchuk asked Pazin if they currently work with many other municipalities and Pazin let her know that, yes, they do work with "public" accounts. FFBT is and always will remain a bank geared towards smaller towns and rural areas, and, as such, they only have branches in those smaller communities like North Judson. Pazin spoke about the rate proposal and let the Council know the rate has

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2018 6:30PM

Page 1 of 5

grown greater still since the proposal presented. The current rate Pazin and FFBT is offering is 1.34%. The current interest rate on the Town's General Account is .45%. Council Vice-President Rowe and Council Member Brown expressed their opinion that the difference is cut and dry and it's a no-brainer that this move would be a positive one for the Town. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe informed the Council that FNBM had reached out on Wednesday, March 28th and that they would be taking a look at their rates to see what they might be able to offer the Town in order to match the increased interest revenue from FFBT. Council Vice-President Rowe recommended that we give FNBM until Friday, April 6th to propose an increased percentage and then make a decision at the following meeting on Monday, April 16th.

Larry Wickert – Starke County Economic Development Foundation

Wickert had met with the Council in Executive Session earlier in the evening and had nothing further to discuss. Council Vice-President Rowe did voice his positive reaction to the organization's recent retreat which was attended by Rowe, Council Members Young and Felchuk, and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe.

Old Business:

2018 Cemetery Mowing Service Contract – Opening of Sealed Bids

First bid received from T.J.'s Lawn Care from Walkerton, IN. Included was his bid proposal for eight mowing's, which also includes all of the tasks laid out in the Town's original service contract advertisement, at \$1,500.00 per mowing for a total of \$12,000.00, a list of references and a copy of his proof of insurance. On T.J.'s bid it is stated that he will obtain a contractor permit if awarded the contract. Second bid received from Mike Fornelli with a bid proposal of \$20,995.00, references and proof of insurance.

Council Vice-President Rowe made a motion that the Town accept the bid of \$12,000.00 submitted by T.J.'s Lawn Care for Cemetery Mowing, Clean-Up and Maintenance in 2018. Council Member Felchuk seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

New Business:

CommonWealth Engineers – Amended Owner-Engineer Agreement

CommonWealth Engineers' Vince Sommers was in attendance to updated the Council and answer any question they have in regards to the amendments to the original agreement between CommonWealth and the Town. The original agreement was in relation to the preliminary engineering report, paid for through grant funding, done at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and the project application submitted to relevant state agencies. The work served as the initial steps in pursuing the project the Town is undertaking regarding upgrades to the WWTP. After the approval of the projects currently being pursued and the awarding of grants and other means of funding, the amended agreement includes costs related to every relevant service which CommonWealth would be potentially responsible for through February 2020, date forecasted as the completion date of the WWTP and Drinking Water Improvement Project. Once the Town is made aware of the approval of the previously applied for OCRA grant, the Town's financing for both projects are in place. Sommers noted that running both projects concurrently offers various cost-saving measures, including any necessary work being done at the same time for both projects. Town Attorney Schramm gave his opinion and affirmed his comfort with the language included in the agreement.

Council Member Felchuk made a motion to approve of the amended agreement set forth between CommonWealth Engineers and the Town of North Judson and to allow Council President Hoppe & Clerk-Treasurer Rowe to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Recognition of Guests

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

Donna Henry asked for a picture of the Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer and a write-up for the Mint Festival's 'Green Paper.' Henry also inquired as to whether or not the ice cream truck around Town has obtained a Peddler's Permit. Town Marshal Fisher mentioned that they have not and Fisher and her deputies have been on the lookout for him to make sure he's properly registers and obtains a permit through the clerk's office.

Peggy Bohac expressed her positive opinion of the cosmetic upgrades to the Town's Town Hall, specifically regarding the new table covers adorning the folding Council tables.

Marv Peters commented his opinion that the Town should allow the ice cream truck to operate as long as they have the necessary permit. Council Members expressed that that was exactly what Members and ordinance officers are seeking, and that no one is against their ability to operate in the Town but that they must be properly permitted.

Department Reports:

School Board – Town Representative Akers:

At the most recent School Board meeting text books were adopted for mathematics, the notice of reduction in force were approved but does not mean teachers will automatically receive reduction notices, and the enrollment justifies that will be taken care of if the school loses a teacher. Dr. Zupin spoke about the projects being undertaken. Bathroom updates have already been taken care of and pre-work is being done so that as soon as school dismisses for the summer the other major projects will begin. This will cause the closure of the high school over summer. Snow make-up days include May 25th, 29th, and 30th. Graduation is Sunday, June 3rd at 2:00 p.m. School registration will be handled via mail with new students visiting the school to enroll in person. The School Board is having a work session on April 4th at 5:00 p.m. This is open to the public and discussion will take place with no decisions taking place regarding the management of the schools.

Building Inspector – Building Inspector Abrams:

Council Member Brown asked why the Inspector was not at the meeting as, near the beginning of the year, regular attendance and updates were something the Council requested. Brown asked whether or not he would be in attendance at the next meeting and Council President Hoppe answered in the affirmative, barring some unforeseen emergency. Brown again voiced and reinforced his opinion that, with it being a paid position, attending one meeting a month should be required.

Code Enforcement Officer - Joe Leszek: Not Present

Unsafe Building Hearing Authority – Not Present

Board of Zoning Appeals – Not Present

Planning Commission – Not Present

Railroad Advisory Committee – Council President Hoppe: Nothing to report

Park Board – Nick Radtke: Not Present

Police Dept- Town Marshal Fisher:

Fisher let the Council know that the Chief's school/conference which she completed in Indianapolis was very beneficial to her and the Town. The Easter Egg/K9 Milk Bone Sniff Out over the holiday weekend was a success. The station is coming along and they're now in the final phases of completing the work. On Monday, April 9th Starke Co. 4-H has invited Deputy Richard Simpson and K-9 Officer 'Jimmy' in for a demonstration. Simpson will be done with his K9 training at the end of the week and will be back on patrol on Sunday, April 7th. Simpson brought Jimmy to the meeting and spoke about getting Jimmy on the streets soon after completing the training. Council President Hoppe mentioned the good response she had heard from the kids involved in the recent kid and K-9 hunt. Jimmy was in attendance at the event and Fisher noted how well he did with a large number of kids and other dogs; she's excited about his calm demeanor around kids and citizens at public events and in open, public settings.

Fire Dept – Chief Leszek – Not Present

Utilities – Town Superintendent Horstmann: 2 April 2018 Utility Dept. Report

1. Cleaned both Clarifiers, contact and final tanks. Reconnected chlorine and sulfur feed piping that we disconnect before winter to prevent the piping from freezing and started to feed chlorine and sulfur for the season. Had to change out one of the electrical outlets in the chlorine room due to corrosion in the outlet.
2. Picked up a load of cold patch and have been filling potholes around town.
3. Have gone over the snow plows inspecting them for damage from the season. Found a few parts on the 1 ton's plow which is the oldest plow we have that needed to be replaced. They have been replaced and is preserved for the summer. All other plows have also been preserved for the summer.
4. We have gotten the mosquito sprayer down and starting to inspect it. It will be getting particle tested May 1st which is required to be completed by the EPA.
5. I would like to present **P.O. number 1438** for \$2,944.50 to Alexander Chemical for 18 bottles of chlorine and 6 bottles of sulfur.
6. Dug out dirt and brush so we could open both gates at the west water tower. Took the tractor with the back mower on it and mowed as much of the vines and brush that we could get to, also mulched up the vines and brush that we had cut down and pulled off of the fence and tower legs.
7. Hooked up to the grader box and started to grade some alleys the road at the wastewater plant and the lot in the wastewater plant.
8. **P.O. 1440** to Republic Services for \$2777.69 for hauling, dumping and delivering two sludge dumpsters.

Council Member Felchuk made a motion to pay **P.O. number 1438** for \$2,944.50 to Alexander Chemical for 18 bottles of chlorine and 6 bottles of sulfur, and **P.O. 1440** to Republic Services in the amount of \$2777.69 for hauling, dumping and delivering two sludge dumpsters. Council Member Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Council Member Brown asked Town Superintendent Horstmann about which alleys he's started working on grading and levelling. Council Members mentioned other areas in need of attention and, along with citizens in attendance, voiced their appreciation for the recent work filling pot holes.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe sought the Council's guidance in regards to when someone wants to sell graves they had previously purchased at Highland Cemetery. Council Member Felchuk noted that we take their information and connect them with someone looking to purchase graves at the cemetery, and that the Town does not buy back graves previously sold.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe informed the Council that he will be attending AIM's Clerk-Treasurer's School and Budget Workshop taking place in Noblesville on May 16th and 17th.

Rowe informed the Council that Schamber's Masonry is scheduled to stop by the Town Hall this week to take a look at the compromised areas of the building which, via insight from professionals at Tri-County Roofing in Valparaiso, Indiana, led to water coming in through the drop ceiling tiles during an especially rainy period of several days in late February or early March.

Legal Updates— Town Attorney Schramm:

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe asked Schramm about bonding in relations to financing and the dynamics of our corporate bond counsel associated with the Town's upcoming major sewer and water projects. Schramm noted that for now there isn't much to be done but when we get further along in the process there will be interaction and work to be completed between all parties involved.

Additional Business Deemed Necessary by Council:

Council Member Brown asked Donna Henry, an official from the Mint Festival Committee/Board, about how the preparations are coming along. Henry gave some insights into the grants, attractions, new features, changes, and theme of this year's Mint Festival. With the projects happening at the high school this summer, the various Mint Festival pageants will be held at Knox Community Schools this year.

Claims for Payment – Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the Claims for Payment packet for APV's totaling \$410,131.76. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve APV's date range 3/20/2018 – 4/2/2018. Council Member 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 7:38 P.M.

Next regular scheduled meeting – Monday, April 16, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

Attest:



Wendy J. Hoppe, Council President



Andrew Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer