



INCORPORATED TOWN OF  
NORTH JUDSON  
INDIANA 46366

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

June 4, 2018 7:30 A.M.

The North Judson Town Council met in a Special Meeting at the North Judson Town Hall at 310 Lane St. North Judson, IN on the above date and time with the following present: Council Members Felchuk, Brown, Council Vice-President Rowe and Council President Hoppe were in attendance. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe, Town Superintendent Horstmann and Town Attorney Schramm were also able to attend.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Vice-President Rowe made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Brown seconded the motion. All members present concurred.

**Business:**

**Customer Water Line Issues in the Vicinity of Sheridan Avenue**

Some time back a hydrant in the vicinity of Sheridan Avenue was struck by a motorist. The Town's crews attempted to shut the valve which caused a pressure spike in the lines throughout the neighborhood, ultimately resulting in cracks and leaks at a numbers of residences. As meters were read that month it was revealed that the water usage in that area was extremely high. The problem was then identified and traced back to the source, the pressure spike caused by the closing of the hydrant.

That Superintendent Horstmann knows of, three residents' issues have been fixed and others have had materials supplied.

Billing Clerk Jennifer Vanek let the Council know that residents started showing unusually high usage on the water side of their bills, in some cases even in abandoned homes where the usual bill is the minimum each month. Vanek noted that she would need the Council to make a motion to allow her to take the water billing for these particular customers last month (meters read May 21) and this month's (to be read in late June) down to the minimum because she's only allowed to adjust sewer billing amounts.

Local contractors have been utilized to fix the leaks in some cases and in the meantime other customers have been made aware that the Town would be working with impacted residents to help with the costs of repair. Council Vice-President Rowe inquired about the possibility, and suggested, that we reach out to these impacted customers to supply them with the materials and cover the cost of the labor to fix the issue. Residents would all get the same materials needed to make the repairs. Council President Hoppe commented that the Town would adjust relevant customers' bills to their normal monthly average and supply them with the necessary materials for repairs to be made by a private contractor. Council Members Brown and Rowe

added their opinion that the Town should also cover the labor costs associated with making the repairs to damaged water lines caused by the pressure spike.

Council President Hoppe recommended putting a ceiling on the amount the Town would compensate impacted residents. Town Attorney Schramm advised that instead of putting a set dollar amount on what the Town would cover with a not to exceed, quotes and invoices should be brought to Town Superintendent Horstmann and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe to approve reasonable bids and charges related to water line repairs of the impacted residents for which the Town will reimburse and provide materials.

Council Vice-President Rowe made a motion to allow for the adjusting of water bills to the monthly averages for those impacted customers in the vicinity of Sheridan Avenue for the months of May and June 2018. Council Member Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Council Vice-President Rowe made a motion to allow and grant Town Superintendent Horstmann and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe the authority to evaluate and approve quotes and bids for work related to repairing water lines in the vicinity of Sheridan Avenue stemming from the corresponding pressure spike. Council Member Felchuk seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Billing Clerk Vanek & Town Attorney Schramm also presented details around the difference between the Town's ability to collect outstanding utility bills on a property from a tax sale and sheriff's sale from the new owner of the property. Buyers of properties from a tax sale are only responsible for the months after the deed to the property is issued. Sheriff's and foreclosure sale property owners are responsible for any delinquent and outstanding charges due to the Town.

Council Member Brown made a motion to write-off outstanding sewer and water charges on 310 W. Vine St. in the amount of \$317.75 and 518 Lane St. in the amount of \$677.76 due to both properties being purchased through a tax sale. Council Vice President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

**Recognition of Guests**

No Guests Present

**Additional Business**


**Adjournment**

Council Member Felchuk made a motion to adjourn. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion.

Adjourn: 7:59 A.M.

Attest:

  
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Wendy Hoppe, Council President

  
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Andrew Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer