



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

July 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, Young and Felchuk were able to attend. Town Superintendent Horstmann, 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 6/18/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve those minutes. Council Member Young seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Public Presentation:

Larry Wickert – Starke County Economic Development Foundation Monthly Update

Wickert fielded questions regarding the organizations Monthly Update distributed to Council Members, of which there were none. He also highlighted and distributed paper weights commemorating the recent open house held by O.T.E.S. to celebrate their 1-year anniversary since opening up here in Town. In committing to the regional Stellar Communities effort, Wickert let the Council know they're planning an engagement for the second half of July to take the next steps in the process.

Linda Lewandowski – United Methodist Church Kid's Closet

Lewandowski thanked the Council for allowing her time to speak at the Meeting and highlighted who, what, why, where and how in regards to Kid's Closet. Through back-pack events and other initiatives, and by working directly with every school in Starke County, Kid's Closet is able to help provide children with school supplies, clothing, coats, and other supplies such as bedding. The organization also connects with Starke County Child Services to identify children in need. The number one way they connect with children and families is directly through home delivery. Kid's Closet is looking for community partners and volunteers to help with the laundering, sorting, and delivering of items to families and children. There is a donation building on the property of the Methodist Church, and the organization also holds fundraisers with their fish fry coming up on August 11, 2018. Contact Linda Lewandowski at 574-806-0696, or the church at 574-896-5927 (ext. 4) to get involved.

Old Business:

Town of North Judson Ordinance 2018-06 – Ordinance to Establish/Update the Schedule of Fees

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe directed Council Members to changes to only the Sewer, Water, & Equipment/Labor Fees contained in Ordinance 2018-06, as discussed in previous meetings.

The First Reading of Ordinance 2018-06 was presented. Council Member Felchuck moved to accept the First Reading of Ordinance 2018-06, Council Member Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Council Member Felchuck moved to suspend the Second & Third Readings and adopt Ordinance 2018-06. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Fourway Computer Products, INC (formerly N.I.T.Line) – Water Tower Usage/Expansion/Upgrades

Roland Houin from Fourway was in attendance in order to address any and all concerns which Council Members or Town Attorney Schramm might have in regards to the Lease Agreement pertaining to the company's desire to upgrade their equipment currently residing on the Town's Main Street Water Tower, and their wish to expand usage to the Town's West Water Tower as well. Town Attorney Schramm asked that verbiage be added to the Agreement concerning the Town's upcoming Water Project, which will involve work and a bonding process related to the work directly in the area in which Fourway will be looking to implement or upgrade their equipment on said towers. Houin noted that it would no problem at all to add words to the Agreement releasing the Town from responsibility in that regard, and he will get that sent over right away for Schramm to view and advise the Council. The concern, on Schramm and the Town's behalf, would be any damage caused relevant work and maintenance.

New Business:

Town of North Judson Ordinance 2018-07: Creation of Fund 457 – Local Road & Bridge Matching Grant

The first reading in its entirety of Ordinance 2018-07 was held. Council Member Felchuck moved to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2018-07. Council Member Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Council Member Felchuk moved to suspend the Second and Third Reading, and adopt Ordinance 2018-07. Council Member Young seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Town of North Judson Ordinance 2018-08: An Ordinance Authorizing an Interdepartmental Loan from the Cumulative Railroad Revenue Fund to the North Judson Water District

Town Attorney Schramm and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe detailed the need to use funds available in the Town's Railroad Fund as a short-term loan for work being completed relating to the Town's Water Project by Commonwealth Engineers, which the issuance of bonds in late 2018 or early 2019 will allow for the reimbursement of whatever monies are spent from that fund. This process is necessary in the place of Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs).

The First Reading of Ordinance 2018-08 was held in its entirety. Council Member Felchuk moved to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2018-08; Council Member Young seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Council Member Young moved to suspend the Second & Third Reading of Ordinance 2018-08 and adopt the ordinance as written. Council Member Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Town of North Judson Ordinance 2018-09: An Ordinance Establishing a Water Construction Fund and Sewer Construction Fund for the Incorporated Town of North Judson, Indiana

The First Reading of Ordinance 2018-09 was held in its entirety. Council Member Felchuk moved to accept the First Reading of Ordinance. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Council Member Brown moved to suspend the Second & Third Reading of Ordinance 2018-09 and adopt the ordinance as written. Council Member Young seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Recognition of Guests

Marsha Horstmann, Jacque Ryan, Peggy Bohac, Larry Wickert – nothing to present before the Town Council.

Teena Hittle asked the Council if there was any way that work being done on the railroad near American Oak could be suspended during lunch time hours as it is causing problems and delays for employees leaving the plant for lunch. Council President Hoppe inquired as to what time they take their lunch, between 11:00am-12:30pm, and that she would speak with the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum to have them vacate the road crossing at that time.

Craig Harlament attended the Meeting to keep up with what's going on in Town, and voiced his pleasure to hear that something will be done to rehab the Town's water tower.

Department Reports:

School Board – Town Representative Akers: Not Present

Building Inspector – Building Inspector Abrams:

Reported that he's written ten permits, most of which were for pools or deck permits.

Code Enforcement Officer - Joe Leszek:

Leszek let the Council know that with the decreased amount of rain the mowing tickets have slowed recently. Since beginning the efforts to enforce codes and ordinances a year ago, around 105 tickets have been written with around 80% of those being paid. Leszek mentioned his support for amending the fee structure for some infractions in order to have a greater impact, and to have those fines go towards something like continuing education for police or the K-9 program as a way to incentivize payment.

Peggy Bohac inquired as to whether or not there were any volunteers who could help an elderly person keep up their grass. Leszek did not know of anyone.

Council Vice-President Rowe noted the improved look and cleanliness of the auto repair shop at Talmer Ave. and Schricker (Hwy. 10 & Hwy. 39).

Town Attorney Schramm recommended updating the Town's code and ordinance book as a way to get out in front of some of these issues where questions arise.

Unsafe Building Hearing Authority – Not Present

Board of Zoning Appeals – Marv Peters

A meeting scheduled for July 10th has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.

Planning Commission – Not Present

Railroad Advisory Committee – Council President Hoppe:

There will be new railroad ties going in around Malden over the next two weeks and the HVRM will be looking into having the bridge over the Kankakee River inspected to keep up to code and legal.

Park Board – Nick Radtke: Not Present

Police Dept- Town Marshal Fisher:

Fisher noted that she'll be putting a social media reminder out there during this firework season to have pets indoors, and that the department will be enforcing all laws related to fireworks in order to help keep things safe. Recently, there have been some complaints of juveniles climbing on railroad cars and some complaints in the area of Hubeny Subdivision where Fisher will be placing increased presence in both areas. Fisher noted that if you're leaving Town on vacation for any extended period of time to let the department know so that they can patrol the area and keep an eye on things. The department is looking to host another event in late July, possibly with the Fire Department, as a way to connect with citizens and help keep kids out of trouble. Council President Hoppe commented and reiterated how well K9 Deputy Jimmy interacts with kids. Fisher noted that Vohne Liche Kennels found the ideal fit for the Town and the Officer Simpson has done an amazing job at training Jimmy and getting him out into the community.

As of Monday, June 25th James Dulin has resigned as a member of the North Judson Police Department.

Fire Dept – Chief Leszek –

Leszek noted the recent activities including the Mint Festival, which included all 10 trucks, and the success of the fish fry for which Leszek was thankful. The department will be having their annual Thursday meeting coming up and they will be discussing the potential sign and what funds the fire department will be looking to contribute to that effort.

Leszek presented P.O. 1481 to Bartronics for \$650.70 for a new base radio for the department.

Council Member Brown moved to pay P.O. 1481 to Bartronics for \$650.70. Council Member Young seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Leszek was also contacted by Railroad Township Trustee republican candidate Deb Wappel. There's a mutual aid agreement in place now and she mentioned that she would prefer to compensate the Town's department for any assistance. The Town's capabilities for covering that area aren't broad given the distance but assistance is always something the Fire Department could provide.

Council Member Brown asked how often the Town's Fire Department is the first on scene when they get the call from Railroad Township. Leszek let the Council know that around 80% of the time we're the first on the scene for only structure fire or accident calls, not medical calls. Leszek mentioned that distance is the issue being that there is, in some cases, and 15-20 minute response time. There was also the mention of splitting up Railroad Township's coverage area as a last resort between surrounding communities as well.

Council Vice-President Rowe read a letter received from Wayne Township Trustee Clara Schacht concerning the potential new sign which the Council and Fire Department have been speaking about implementing. The Wayne Township Trustee and Wayne Township Advisory Board voted unanimously to not pledge any monetary support for a new sign for the North Judson-Wayne Township Fire Department.

Utilities – Town Superintendent Horstmann: 2 July 2018 Utility dept. Report

1. Have been working on replacing old water meters with radio read meters. I would like to present **P.O. number 1472** for \$8,442.90 to Utility Supply for 30 more water meters so that we can continue the project of changing to radio read meters.
2. Replaced missing street signs, also replaced the bent stop sign at the corner of Lane Street and Sycamore that got hit by a semi-truck driver. Thanks to Justin Davis who told me who did it and we got the information from the driver and got paid for the signs.
3. Have been working on mowing the edges of roads throughout town with the side mower on the tractor. Was informed by a resident that the front left wheel on the tractor was off the ground while using the side mower.
4. Mowed the water dept., garage, WWTP, three corner piece by the railroad tracks and west water tower.
5. Pressure washed both clarifiers, contact and final tanks.
6. Had to vac out the lift station on Third Street due to issues on the electric pole which caused the power to be out. There was a thick film of grease on the components in the lift station. I would like to present **P.O. number 1473** for \$2,362.95 To USA Blue Book for Degreaser agent for Lift station.
7. The 6-inch electric valve that opens 2 hours after the CSO pumps shut off and allows water to come back from the pond has quit working. It has a burnt component in it. I have contacted the company and the valve is obsolete. I found one in USA Blue Book that will fit in the same space. I would like to Present **P.O. number 1474** for \$2,912.95 to USA Blue Book.
8. Met with the engineers and their CAD team last week to go over the Wastewater and Water projects. They are expecting to have a set of preliminary drawings to look at the first of August.
9. I have repeatedly contacted GE Marshall about the sewer line by the Railroad Museum with no results. I would like to present **P.O. number 1475** for \$14,500 to JD Excavating to replace 150 feet of 10- inch sewer line.
10. Loaded up the scrap metal from the WWTP and took it to the scrap yard and we got \$782.40. We also continued to clean up at the WWTP.
11. I would like to present **P.O. number 1476** for \$2,903.52 to Republic Services for picking up, dumping and returning our sludge dumpsters
12. Worked on a water leak in the alley behind 607 Vine Street.
13. Made our monthly pass through town picking up brush.

14. Had to take the 1 ton to the Chevy dealer due to exhaust emission and various other messages that came up. They had to replace both NOX sensors, #4 glow plug, the DEF tank and the EGR. The glow plug, DEF tank and both NOX sensors were covered under warranty. The EGR was not. I would like to present **P.O. number 1477** for \$954.33 to Wiers Chevy in DeMotte.

Council Vice-President Rowe inquired as to whether or not there's anyone else capable of performing the work brought forth in P.O. 1475 besides JD Excavating as our experiences with them have not been great. Along with the time they've taken on jobs and the damages caused by the company, it's worth looking elsewhere to find someone to do the work. Town Attorney Schramm mentioned Zehner Excavating who does work for communities south of the area.

Council Member Felchuk moved to pay in full – P.O. number 1472 for \$8,442.90 to Utility Supply for 30 more water meters; P.O. number 1473 for \$2,362.95 To USA Blue Book for Degreaser agent for Lift station; P.O. number 1474 for \$2,912.95 to USA Blue Book; P.O. number 1476 for \$2,903.52 to Republic Services for picking up, dumping and returning our sludge dumpsters. 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. 1478 to Treasurer of the State – State Board Of Accounts – for \$3398.00 for Water & Wastewater Audit Services; PO 1479 to 1st Source Insurance for \$3090.00 for 2018-2019 Fire Department Accident & Sickness Policy.

Council Vice-President Rowe made a motion to pay P.O. 1478 to Treasurer of the State – State Board Of Accounts – for \$3398.00 for Water & Wastewater Audit Services; PO 1479 to 1st Source Insurance for \$3090.00 for 2018-2019 Fire Department Accident & Sickness Policy. Council Member Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Clerk Treasurer Rowe informed the Council about upcoming 2019 budget meetings and timeline. July 11th will be our initial meeting between Umbaugh, Rowe and department heads to complete the Form 1's which is the first step in getting the 2019 budget set. Rowe let the Council know that we're well ahead of schedule, thanks to timely responses from department heads. Rowe has been advising dept. heads to be thinking of things they would like to budget for in 2019.

On July 3rd Clerk-Treasurer Rowe will be meeting with high school FFA students and instructor Emily Duvall, who will be gathering up to 30 students and then breaking out into groups to work on painting as many of the Town's 96 fire hydrants as possible.

Legal Updates– Town Attorney Schramm:

Additional Business Deemed Necessary by Council:

Council Member Brown asked whether or not the Unsafe Hearing Board would be convening? The Town does not have one at this time. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe recommended using social media to announce that we're looking for members and representatives. The Council voiced their approval at that recommendation.

Claims for Payment – Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the Claims for Payment packet for APV's totaling \$201,099.54. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve APV's date range 6/19/2018 – 7/2/2018. 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, July 16, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

Attest:



Wendy J. Hoppe, Council President



Andrew Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer