



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

August 20, 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 8/6/2018. Council Member Brown moved to approve those 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 Council Meeting on 8/14/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe moved to approve those minutes. Council Member Brown seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Public Presentation:

Zach Howisen & Megan Johnston – Hope Restored

Howisen & Johnston spoke before the Council regarding their planned addiction recovery 90-180 day sober living house, to be called Hope Restored, at the corner of Sycamore & Lanes Sts. (504-508 Lane St.). As recovering addicts, Howisen & Johnston expressed their intimate knowledge of the recovery process to go along with their strong desire to help the community, in general, and previously incarcerated males who are struggling with the same issues, in particular. Questions and discussion was held with Councilmembers who inquired about details such as funding, community resources & relevant relationship potential, oversight, house dynamics, career & skills training for post-recovery and other related topics. Also posed was an opinion and insights on the need for and benefits of the opening of such an entity in our area from one meeting attendee in support of the project.

Councilmembers expressed their support for the project and also their interest in coming to see the house once the preliminary work is completed, and Hope Restored is ready to begin operating.

Connie Miller – Issue Concerning Recent Water Billing

Miller addressed Councilmembers regarding some past water leaks, seemingly high water billing she's incurred over the last 10-11 months, and her current utility bill totaling around \$730.00 (billing for the months of June and July 2018 – no payment received for June billing). A discussion of these issues which Miller and her family have encountered was held with Miller asking the Council to allow them to pay their water bill on August 31, 2018 in order to avoid shut-off (August 25th), and that the Council consider adjustments for the sewer portion of the bill as some of the water went in the ground because of it leaking in more than one area on the property. Council Vice-President Rowe inquired as to whether or not Miller knows if there are any leaks now. Miller noted that as far as they know everything has been repaired. Council President Hoppe noted that the Council would take the matter under advisement before making a decision regarding adjustment, and requested coordination with the utility department to check for leaks over the next week.

Old Business:

Norwayne Field Splash Pad – Bill Smith from Vortex Aquatic Structures

Smith fielded questions and addressed concerns previously presented in the discussion on the topic of a splash pad at Norwayne Field. Smith detailed the various systems and configurations which communities have implemented and highlighted the various options out there for the Town in order to identify the system that would fit best in relation to financial and budgetary considerations, as well as the utility infrastructure and sustainability of the Town where project requirements are concerned. The options and renderings previously supplied by Vortex were discussed which Smith noted could be adjusted to get whatever features make the most sense for the Town's needs. Smith noted that some communities, including Bluffton, IN, have waived the water and sewer fees as it is a benefit and a draw to the community similar to incentives offered as a draw to businesses or companies in many communities. Councilmembers and residents presented some questions, including on the topics of water and sewer costs in general and related to the resident billing, water lines infrastructure to and drainage from the pad, winterization and maintenance. Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned that forming the pad to the size of the community and what fits within the budget will be a major aspect of planning the project. Council President Hoppe asked Smith to get together a list of communities where they've put in splash pads, and the details and specifics of those pads, to Clerk-Treasurer Rowe then the Council will continue to discuss over the coming meetings.

New Business:

Recognition of Guests

Wendy Medbourn, Jesse Johnston, Megan Johnston, Connie Miller, Jerry Jernas, Nathan Bradley, Jacque Ryan, Marsha Horstmann, Donna Henry, Marv Peters, Art Good – nothing to present before the Town Council.

Betty Chesak – Inquired as to the plans for the area of Sycamore St. & Railroad St. where there has been the removal of existing trees over the previous weeks. Council Members and Superintendent Horstmann noted that the upcoming wastewater project was the reason for the trees' removal, and there are not plans for the space at this time.

Scott Kryzanowski – Asked the Council about the start date for the Franklin St. storm sewer project and whether or not the Town could shoot the drains in the area of his home as the water is backing up from debris. Superintendent Horstmann replied that the work would commence early in 2019 and, yes, they would come take a look.

Annette Warkentien – Thanked the Council for their support and for allowing representatives from Hope Restored to present their plan and overall mission, and also voiced her support for Howisen & Johnston who provided the details to the Council.

Carol Silhavy – Thanked those involved in Hope Restored for presenting before the Council and bringing the project to the Town. Also thanked Superintendent Horstmann for replacing the signs on 2nd St.

Teena Hittle – Thanked the Police Department for another, second successful “Slip N’ Slide” event. Commented that the brush removal along Railroad St. looks great as well.

Department Reports:

School Board – Town Representative Akers:

Building Inspector – Building Inspector Abrams: Nothing to Present

Code Enforcement Officer - Joe Leszek:

Five Warnings written recently; will be looking to schedule a time to meet with Town Attorney Schramm to continue updating the Town’s ordinances and codes. Council Member Felchuk mentioned being advised of a property containing a high number of K-9’s with, likely, not pet tags purchased for any of them.

Unsafe Building Hearing Authority – Not Present

Board of Zoning Appeals – Marv Peters

Peters asked the Council to speak with Town Attorney Schramm briefly after the meeting. No opinion against the request was expressed. Council Vice-President Rowe asked about the proposed storage facilities south of Hwy. 10 and east of State St. Peters advised that was what he would be looking to speak with Schramm about and the meeting concerning the topic will be held on August 28, 2018.

Planning Commission – Not Present

Railroad Advisory Committee – Council President Hoppe: Nothing to Report

Park Board – Nick Radtke:

Radtke expressed the Park Boards enthusiasm at the talk of a potential splash pad project at Norwayne Field.

Police Dept- Town Marshal Fisher:

Fisher introduced and provided a quick background on new full-time Deputy Marshal Jaime Conklin who thanked the Council and introduced his family in attendance with him at the meeting. There will be free training for three deputies regarding drug trafficking coming. Fisher requested from the Council that the Police Department bring on two Reserve Officers, Byron Gentry and Kerry Rust, who have training, a medical background, and law enforcement experience between the two potential reserve deputies. The reserves will accompany the Town’s full-time officers, help at events or when and wherever additional assistance is needed.

Council Member Felchuk made a motion to allow the Police Department to acquire two Reserve Deputies, Byron Gentry and Kerry Rust. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Fisher and Deputy Simpson participated in a lock down and safety drill at the school and Fisher voiced her enthusiasm and confidence in what they observed during the drill. Fisher also thanked Peggy Bohac for all her work to photograph, document and promote events happening in Town.

Fire Dept – Chief Leszek:

Leszek informed the Council that Mitch Bailey will be joining the Fire Department on a probationary basis for the next year. After recent testing, the department's hoses were certified and in compliance for the next year. Leszek noted some radio issues recently originating in the county. J & K Communication is in to investigate the issues, a meeting of commissioners is being convened to address straighten out said issues.

Utilities – Town Superintendent Horstmann: 20 August 2018 Utility Dept. Report

1. I have the Service Agreement completed for JD Excavating and signed by him. The board can look it over and sign it. I would like to present **P.O. number 1493** To JD Excavating for \$14,500.00 to replace the sewer line by the Railroad Museum.
2. The signs for the trail club have been installed on the route through town.
3. The stop signs have been installed at the corner of Cherry and Garfield.
4. We have to do a water and sewer tap for the new house on Leslie St./625 S. For the sewer line we need to install a new manhole. The maximum distance between manholes is 350 feet but these are more than 500 feet apart. I would like to present **P.O. number 1492** to Rochester Concrete for \$660.00 for the manhole.
5. The speed limit sign has been replaced on Second Street.
6. The fire hydrant on Third Street has been repaired and is back in service.
7. I have calculated the expense for the water usage for the splash pad. Figuring if the unit used the maximum amount. **For Version A** which could use as much as 74.5 GPM. If the water was on for 10 hours a day, the daily water use would be 44,700 GPD, or a monthly total of 1,341,000 gallons per month with a bill of \$8,574.47. If **Version A** used half of that amount, or 37.25 GPM then the daily water use would be 22,350 GPD, or a monthly amount of 670,500 gallons per month with a bill of \$4,383.85. **For Version B** which could use as much as 69 GPM. If the water was on for 10 hours a day, the daily water use would be 41,400 GPD, or a monthly total of 1,242,000 gallons per month with a bill of \$7,955.72. If **Version B** used half of that amount, or 34.5 GPM then the daily water use would be 20,700, or a monthly amount of 621,000 gallons per month with a bill of \$4,074.47. These figures are based on the rates for a 2-inch water meter. I do have news good on the sewer line. There is a manhole in the bank parking lot that we would be able to tap into. I stepped it off and the distance is roughly 105 feet.
8. Had an issue with the lift station on James Street. We spent all morning working on pulling both pumps and replacing the start kits for both pumps. We also had to vac out 4 loads with the Jet-Vac to get it to a level so the pumps could continue and keep up with lowering the level.
9. Installed a sewer stopper on a resident that is a sewer only account due to they were behind on their bill.
10. We had a water leak on Hwy 10 by the Baptist Church and another one on service line on a house on Hancock St.

11. Have been cutting the root balls off of the trees that Jimmy has pushed down and hauling them off to the dump. We also helped him with a few trees that were too big, and leaning toward the road. We hooked a cable on them and he pulled some tension on the cable then we cut the trees and he pulled them over.
12. As an update on the water meter change out. We are at 59% radio read water meters. We have 318 meters remaining to change out. That would be around \$77,000.00 to finish the town.
13. I contacted the owner of the property at the corner of Sycamore and Railroad St about getting permission to run the storm line down the side of his property. He didn't have a problem with it. I told Rob from Commonwealth and he would like to have the gentleman sign a Permanent Storm Drainage Easement which I forwarded to Justin for his review.
14. I have a Funding Commitment Letter that we have to include with the Community Crossing Application to INDOT. The board members each have a copy of the letter for their review and Wendy has the original. I will need the board to sign it and then I can include it when I send off the application. This is the same form that the board signed last year.
15. I would like to present **P.O. number 1494** to Republic Services for \$2,488.93 for hauling and dumping the two sludge dumpsters at the WWTP.
16. I have been working on making the list of our equipment to include mileage, hours, age, etc. that the board has requested.
17. I got a price of \$1,100 for all four stumps by Pioneer Cemetery from Practical Tree Service, and \$200.00 apiece for the three from C & J Tree Service. He said he could not do the one in the corner by Central and the parking lot.

Brief discussion was held regarding the potential water gallon usage costs figured in Horstmann's report related to the proposed splash pad project. As a preliminary look at water costs of the two proposed designs provided, Council Members expressed their appreciation to Horstmann for the information and the figures will be valuable as the discussion continues.

Discussion was held regarding the stump removal in the vicinity of Pioneer Cemetery. Council Member Brown noted that Methodist Church will be removing the second stump south of Central St. Council Member Felchuk asked if one of the stumps could serve as a table, to which Council Members voiced their opinion that if it were a better, more community-centered area that might work. Council Vice-President Rowe and members voiced their desire to have a second quote for the largest of the stumps which the Town will be paying to remove.

Council Member Felchuk made a motion to pay **P.O. number 1492** to Rochester Concrete for \$660.00 and **P.O. number 1494** to Republic Services for \$2,488.93. Council Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Council Member Brown made a motion to sign the Service Agreement with JD Excavating for the replacement of 150' of sewer line near the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. Council Member Felchuk seconded the motion, Council President Hoppe & Council Member Young concurred; Council Vice-President Rowe voted nay to the signing of the Service Agreement.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe informed the Council that the transfer outlined in Resolution No. 2018-05 of \$650,000.00 has been made from First National Bank of Monterey to the Town's new Combined General Account at First Farmers Bank & Trust. Rowe noted that the goal is to transfer all but the outstanding checks total by the first meeting in September.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe mentioned recent discussions with John Howard about getting the downtown clock operating and lit up in the evening hours. He'll be inquiring as to who may fix it, whether it's an electrician or contractor who would be able to complete the job. Rowe also mentioned an issue on Howard's property where sewage is coming up through an access point and running into the storm water drain on Adair St. Superintendent Horstmann wasn't sure where the line runs but it would need to be routed out to Luken St. Council President Hoppe noted that it would be Howard's who would need to get it straightened out since it clearly runs through his property. The line runs from the carpet store at the corner of Lane & Adair St.'s and then through Howard's property. While Howards have no sewage running from any property they own to that line, because the area of the exposed sewage is on his portion of property it would still be up to them to address. Rowe will be contacting Howards to let them know as much.

Rowe updated that Council that he had reached out and left a message with Monty Timm, owner of 214 Lane St., about the state of disrepair in which his property has deteriorated. Council Members advised Rowe to send the pictures taken of the property's unfinished roof to the Unsafe Hearing Board and Building Inspector Jeff Abrams.

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe updated the Council on the Stellar Communities initiative and recent meeting, which included an individual from the State and the committee which selects the winning communities each year. Edwin Buswell, from KIRPC, has reached out to Rowe with the companies who are capable of conducting a Comprehensive Plan which is required. With that pursuit, a grant for 90% of the cost of the plan will be pursued from OCRA.

Rowe updated the Council on the 2019 budget which is moving along and we'll be ready to submit necessary documents at the end of August and September.

Legal Updates– Town Attorney Schramm: Nothing to Present

Additional Business Deemed Necessary by Council: No Additional Business

Claims for Payment – Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the Claims for Payment packet for APV's totaling \$745,150.10. Council Member Brown made a motion to approve APV's date range 8/7/2018 – 8/20/2018. Council Vice-President Rowe 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 8:04 P.M.

Next regular scheduled meeting – Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

Attest:


Wendy J. Hoppe, Council President


Andrew Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer