



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

October 15, 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 Councilmembers Brown, Young and Felchuk were able to attend. Town Superintendent Horstmann, Town Marshal Fisher and Clerk-Treasurer Rowe were able to attend.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Brown moved to approve the agenda. Vice-President Rowe seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Council President Hoppe asked for approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting on 10/1/2018. Councilmember Young moved to approve those minutes. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion, and all council members present concurred.

Public Presentation:

Old Business:

Norwayne Field Splash Pad – Continuing Discussion w/ Bill Smith from Vortex Aquatic Systems

Bill Smith not present, discussion postponed until the November 5th Regular Council Meeting.

Town of North Judson Ordinance No. 2018-12: Introduce Ordinance & Schedule Public Hearing

An introduction of Ordinance No. 2018-12 took place. Eric Walsh & Jeffery Weaver from H.J. Umbaugh were in attendance to present details and an explanation of the proposed ordinance adjusting the current water rates of the Town in order to fulfill certain obligations required by the State Revolving Fund (SRF). Due to the Town's current water utility balance, and the required need to build up a reserve of cash in that fund, in light of the upcoming major water infrastructure projects, the Town will need to raise water rates in order to meet certain revenue obligations related to obtaining Water Utility Revenue Bonds the meeting State SRF Pool Funding requirements. Also because the Town was forced to pursue SRF Pool Funding, the original interest rate associated with SRF funding was going to be 2%; due to the Town being denied their originally intended funding source through SRF, the "Pool" funding interest rate was 3.25% with the possibility that the final interest rate could be higher. This is the main catalyst behind the need for the Town to raise water rates. Walsh spoke about the major sewer utility infrastructure project as well in saying that between restructuring the Town's outstanding debt going forward and the figures and projections of the revenue from the Town's sewer rates, the current dynamics of sewer rates are adequate in terms of the state and federal requirements for funding through Rural Development. Relevant matters were discussed by the

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Council and Walsh related to both projects and the timeline for ordinance hearings and adoptions, as well as publications and necessary public notices.

New Business:

2019 Town Employee Health Insurance Coverage – John Howard

Howard presented the Town Council with details of the Town employee health insurance renewal packets recently received. The Town's current provider, United Healthcare, has made several changes to the policy currently available to employees. Increased prices of In-Network deductibles and a complete discontinuance of Out-of-Network health coverage were some of the negatively impactful changes that UHC has undertaken for 2019. Howard also presented details of coverage available through Anthem which included the first zero-deductible that he's seen for In-Network single/family coverage and, alternatively, Anthem will cover Out-of-Network healthcare providers. Councilmember Felchuk asked whether or not the Council might be eligible for coverage, to which Howard commented that they would not as "part-time" employees. Howard noted that he would not be at the first meeting of November but will be available to answer any questions.

Town of North Judson Ordinance 2018-13 – An Ordinance Repealing Town Ordinance No. 2002.02

Ordinance 2018-13, a repeal of Ordinance 2002.02 which prohibits the establishment of tattoo, piercing, or body modification businesses within the Town of North Judson, was first read and presented by Council President Hoppe.

Councilmember Felchuk made a motion to accept and adopt Town of North Judson Ordinance 2018-13 – An Ordinance Repealing Town Ordinance No. 2002.02. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Town Employee Christmas Party

Introduced by Clerk-Treasurer Rowe, a discussion was held regarding the idea of hosting a Town employee and guest Christmas Party. Support for the idea was expressed and a date of Friday, December 7th at 6:00pm was set for the event.

Recognition of Guests

Teena Hittle, Marsha Horstmann, Peggy Bohac, Marv Peters – nothing to present before the Town Council.

Donna Henry inquired about the timing of this year's Trick-or-Treat festivities on Halloween. Henry was informed that the Trick-or-Treat hours have been set for 5:30pm-7:30pm on Wednesday, October 31st.

Jacque Ryan asked whether or not anything further action would need to be taken in regards to the repeal of Ordinance 2002.02 and allowing tattoo businesses in Town. The Council informed Ryan that no further action would be required.

Department Reports:

School Board – Town Representative Akers:

Septembers Board Meeting included a public hearing for the 2019 Capital Projects Fund and Bus Replacement Fund. Following that, 2019 budget figures were adopted at the regular meeting. First readings of the E-Learning and metal detectors policies were held. Training will be given on metal detectors which will likely include help from the Police Department. Oral presentations of School

Improvement Plans were presented. Akers noted that ISTEP scores have improved. Dr. Zupin notified the board that a county-wide safety meeting was held which included school, police, fire & EMT personnel. Two E-Learning days are built into the school calendar. An outside audit of the current K-8 curriculum has been undertaken in order to make improvements with results forthcoming. ADM numbers still needed to be verified but Akers noted the school has retained, relatively, the same number of students year-over-year.

Building Inspector – Building Inspector Jeff Abrams: Not Present

Code Enforcement Officer - Joe Leszek:

Leszek informed the Council of a recent chicken permit in process. He's still be trying to deal with the complaints along Leslie St., on which he's been working closely with the police department to resolve.

Unsafe Building Hearing Authority – Not Present

Board of Zoning Appeals – Nothing to Present

Planning Commission – Not Present

Railroad Advisory Committee – Council President Hoppe:

Council President Hoppe present P.O. 1521 to GNB Industrial Power for \$3033.52 for new railroad signal batteries.

Councilmember Felchuk made a motion to pay P.O. 1521 to GNB Industrial Power for \$3033.52 for new railroad signal batteries. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Park Board – Nick Radtke: Not Present

Police Dept- Town Marshal Fisher:

Fisher notified the Council that they've stepped up patrol in the area of Leslie St. in response to the complaints of dogs at-large. Recently, members of the department has taken part in metal detector and active shooter trainings; there will be a women's self-defense training event on November 10th from 8am-noon for women ages 10 years and up. One of the department's squad cars has been experiencing issues related to the fuel tank; it's been at Braun Chrysler several times and is still an ongoing issue. The Town's utility employees will be assisted in putting new CV joints, rotors and brakes on a departmental vehicle. Council Vice-President Rowe notified Fisher that he had received a complaint from a resident regarding speeding on Franklin St. Fisher would be following up on the issue.

Fire Dept – Chief Leszek:

Fire Prevention Week recently took place and Leszek informed the Council that the department has been active in each local school. Leszek thanked his firemen for taking the time to provide the learning opportunities to local school children. The department's end-of-year maintenance schedule is being undertaken. Leszek also updated the Council on the status of repairing the county-wide radio issues they've been experiencing recently. Coverage issues are, for the moment, ongoing but coverage for NJWTVFD hasn't been too negatively affected beyond static and garbled communications.

Utilities – Town Superintendent Horstmann: October 2018 Utility Dept. Report

1. I reported to the police that our TS 700 Stihl saw for cutting asphalt and concrete got stolen out of the back of the pickup. I went over to Knox and looked at the Pawn Shop to see if it had been pawned, didn't see it in there. Not being able to recover it, I have gotten three quotes for a new saw. I would like to present **P.O. number 1515** for \$1,039.95 to Smith Farms
2. We had to change out the air tanks on the dump truck due to they had holes rusted in them. We have installed mud flaps to prevent mud, salt and rocks from hitting the tanks in the future.
3. Spliced some wires back together at Norwayne Field that got hit when the soil boring team was here this summer.
4. Sprayed the downtown, Hwy 10 and 39 and the rock hill at Pioneer Cemetery to kill weeds in the sidewalks and parking lots.
5. Pulled the leaf machine in the shop to inspect prior to starting leaf pickup. Had to replace the electrical buttons to raise and lower the boom, replaced two of the tires, and changed the oil, oil filter and air filter. Opened the impeller housing to inspect the condition of the impeller and the lining. We will be able to get another year out of the lining but will have to replace it before next year.
6. Have been working most of last week with the rep from B. L. Anderson installing the new controls for the WWTP. There are probably a couple more days to finish.
7. Have gone over the preliminary drawings with the Engineer from Fleis & Vandenbrink for the next ADA sidewalk ramp project.
8. Conducted the water tap for the new Kids Closet on Hwy 10
9. I would like to present **P.O. number 1513** for \$2,489.30 to Republic Services for picking up, dumping and returning sludge dumpsters.
10. I would like to present **P.O. number 1514** for \$923.50 to Hall Signs for a bundle of 50 sign post. They are on sale now, their normal price is \$1,440.00 a bundle, so we would be saving \$516.50 or \$10.33 per post. We have only 4 poles left.
11. Replaced the flags at Highland Cemetery and the one at the corner of Main St. and Keller Ave.
12. Installed the three Handicap signs on Arlington and Mulberry.
13. Had a meeting with Commonwealth electrical engineers this morning. They contacted me last week requesting our last year's water pumping information along the last year's electrical usage for the water dept. I had emailed the water pumping logs to them last week and gave them the electrical info today. They needed this to properly size the generator for the water dept.

Councilmember Felchuk made a motion to pay P.O. 1513 for \$2,489.30 to Republic Services for picking up, dumping and returning sludge dumpsters, P.O. 1514 for \$923.50 to Hall Signs for a bundle of 50 sign post, P.O. 1515 for \$1,039.95 to Smith Farms Store for a new concrete saw. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Councilmember Felchuk thanked Horstmann for he and his crews work to quickly get the new tap in place for Kid's Closet opening a location in Town.

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

Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented PO 1512 for \$606.00 to Collins Septic Service for continued resident repairs related to the Sheridan Ave. hydrant issue; PO 1516 for \$4500.00 to T.J.'s Lawn Care for mowing #8, #9, #10 between 8/27/2018 and 10/1/2018.

Councilmember Felchuk made a motion to pay P.O. 1512 for \$606.00 to Collins Septic Service for continued resident repairs related to the Sheridan Ave. hydrant issue and P.O. 1516 for \$4500.00 to T.J.'s Lawn Care for mowing #8, #9, #10 between 8/27/2018 and 10/1/2018. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion and all members present concurred.

Included in his presentation was Rowe's update that he will be taking vacation days between October 17th and October 25th, while attending a ILMCT District Meeting on October 18th in Middlebury, Indiana. He updated the Council on a recent Asset Mapping Workshop which brought together civic, community and business leaders with representatives from OCRA to talk about our regions assets and weaknesses in light of the Stellar Communities pursuit by the Town, the City of Knox, the Town of Hamlet and Starke County. Rowe noted that Phyliss Rees' donation of \$500.00 for tree planting at Pioneer Cemetery will be carried out on October 19th when WRF Nursery will be planting two Red Sunset Maple.

Rowe noted that there may be upcoming meetings beyond the regular schedule regarding the pursuit of a comprehensive plan for the Town. The Town will be working with KIRPC to carry out the necessary steps in working to obtain an OCRA grant for the carrying out of the plan over the next several months.

Presented as well was Rowe's desire to transmit outstanding unpaid code and ordinance violations to Town Attorney Schramm in order to pursue via legal means. He will be looking to meet with Schramm in the coming weeks to discuss.

Rowe also read aloud a letter received from Angella Manns regarding her request to view and manage their utility account online via a Town website. With the recent, and ongoing, work to build a Town website, Rowe noted that this has been something he the Council has discussed and will most likely pursue over the coming year.

Legal Updates– Town Attorney Schramm:

Schramm inquired from Walsh (Umbaugh) as to whether or not there would need to be a first reading of the water ordinance (2018-12) at the meeting. Walsh informed Schramm and the Council that, no, it just needed to be introduced by title this evening, and that a first full reading could commence at the second meeting in November.

Additional Business Deemed Necessary by Council:

Council Vice-President Rowe proposed that the Town consider putting together a Christmas lights and decorations contest in which residents could register and then decorate their homes to be ultimately judged by fellow citizens. Rowe noted that it would be ideal to include prizes for the winners which could also be further discussed at the next Council meeting.

Claims for Payment – Clerk-Treasurer Rowe presented the Claims for Payment packet for APV's totaling \$115,170.40. Councilmember Brown made a motion to approve APV's date range 10/1/2018 – 10/15/2018. 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 8:49 P.M.

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

Attest:



Wendy J. Hoppe, Council President



Andrew Rowe, Clerk-Treasurer