

WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
March 12, 2019

Council members present

Other Town Officials

Other Town Officials

Andy Brock		Norm Gabehart		John White	
President	<u> X </u>	Town Manager	<u> X </u>	Town Attorney	<u> X </u>
David Hawkins		Julia Meece		Josh Wade	
Vice President	<u> X </u>	Deputy Clerk	<u> X </u>	WWTP Superintendent	<u> X </u>
Scot Ford		Rick Shipp		Dave Gabbard	
Member	<u> X </u>	Town Marshal	<u> X </u>	Water Superintendent	<u> X </u>
Joe Sayler		Joe Csikos		Rusty Snyder	
Member	<u> X </u>	Planning & Zoning Dir.	<u> X </u>	MS4 Coordinator	<u> X </u>
Brad Goedecker		Eric Funkhouser			
Member	<u> X </u>	Fire Chief	<u> X </u>		

Call to order – A. Brock called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Roll Call – All present

Invocation

Adoption of the order of business for the day

- S. Ford asked to add two items to the agenda
 - Reading into Record the response letter from New Whiteland Town Council President regarding resolution on merger of the two towns
 - Board discussion to no longer observe Daylight Savings Time due to it being a hot topic in other areas of government recently

Minutes from February 12, 2019 –

- D. Hawkins made a motion to approve the minutes from 2-12-19. S. Ford seconded the motion.
Passed 5-0

Voucher Packet 3-12-19 –

- S. Ford inquired about the APV for Fields Outdoor. Chief Shipp & J. Meece answered his questions regarding the invoice items and billing process.
- S. Ford asked what frequency we pay the bill to Republic. N. Gabehart & J. Meece answered that this is paid monthly.
- D. Hawkins inquired about the APVs for ITI for random drug testing. J. Meece answered his questions regarding the amount of \$90 being paid out of general fund and \$30 being paid out of each of the water fund, sewer fund & storm fund. The bill was paid this way due to the employees pulled are paid out of 100% general for one employee and paid out of water, sewer & storm for the other employee. S. Ford

also asked if the K-9 dog was ever drug tested. Chief Shipp & J. Meece answered his questions that he is not currently drug tested or on the random pull list.

- S. Ford made a motion to approve V-P 3-12-19. D. Hawkins seconded the motion.

Passed 5-0

Financial Reports –

- N. Gabehart stated that he will be happy to answer any questions. All numbers reflect basic monthly expenditures.
 - The General Fund balance from Feb 2018 to Feb 2019, there is a small deficit due to adding 3 additional police officers over the last year, thanks in part to the Council for allowing this.
 - The Sewer fund balance only \$4,000 difference from Feb 2018 to Feb 2019.
 - The Water fund balance shows a slightly higher amount of funds disbursed for Feb 2019 due to two expenditures for Indiana American Water. Roughly \$20,000, this was just an overlapping of invoicing so the bill was paid once at the beginning of the month and again at the end of the month.
 - Water Purchased vs Billed, we are on the high end of a good loss percentage number at -10.29%. Last meeting it was shared about the success in the intervention for the rate increase with Indiana American Water. They were seeking 24+% increase over 2 or so years. It was settled for a total increase of 8.03% for 3 years.
 - S. Ford asked if this increase is going to be passed along to the residents. N. Gabehart stated that it would not be passed along at anytime of the 3 years. S. Ford got confirmation that makes an approximate total of 28% in increases that have not been passed along to the residents of Whiteland.
 - For the record, N. Gabehart also stated that there have been questions in the past about why we continue to still own our utilities. This is because our future exists on the revenues from owning our utilities. We are able to sustain our town's expenses from still owning our utilities and good management from the town employees and the Town Council board. Law enforcement is the only department that is funded from tax monies, MVH is from grants and such, while the other departments are funded by the utilities. If we sold and wanted to buy back at a later date, the cost to buy back would be determined by the Indiana Regulatory Commission and it could be as much as 5 times more that what it was sold for initially.

Old business –

- None

New Business –

- **Ordinance 2019-02: Additional Appropriation (Introduction)**
 - N. Gabehart stated that this appropriation is for an additional probationary police officer and the supplies/items needed to outfit the officer. The position was put into the 2019 budget, it was initially put in for a mid-year hire until the final numbers come in to show support of hiring prior to mid-year. The numbers supported this and the board approved this hire to be completed now. The hiring now was very beneficial due to having another officer off for medical leave. The total of \$45,000 being asked for includes the \$29,000 for salaries for the rest of 2019, \$7,500 for supplies (uniforms, guns, tasers, and other equipment), and \$8,500 for a

police vehicle. The new vehicle is for the K-9 officer and the town would like to thank Just Lift It for making 2 kennels for the K-9 officer. They are specially made to make access to the officer and dog easier for both. Once kennel is normally about \$2,400 and they are providing both for about \$1,700.

- Board Questions regarding the ordinance and answered by N. Gabehart & Chief Shipp –
 - Who installs equipment in the police vehicles?
 - Emergency Vehicle Services does
 - Do we have the funds available?
 - Yes, the funds are there the sustain this request
 - Do we need a public hearing or can vote tonight? Anything needed tonight to take it to next step of Public hearing?
 - A public hearing is needed, so it is just an introduction of the Ordinance tonight. If approved, then it will go to the Department of Finance for approval as well. Nothing needed from Council tonight, it will be advertised and put on the next meeting for public hearing.
 - Is this enough for the all the items needed?
 - It has been budgeted to allow for all expenses and some extra allowance
 - Total Number of officers now, including the Chief?
 - 10 total officers including Chief. S. Ford stated that he knows of other police departments that are a little jealous of the Whiteland PD. Thanks to the Council for getting all these positions funded and hired over the last year.
 - Do all of our officers have the newest in vests?
 - Yes
- N. Gabehart stated that Chief Shipp has acquired donations and there will soon be officers on 2 wheels that don't include motors. An official announcement will be coming soon, but Chief has done a great job in finding resources for the police department and not having to come to Council for additional funds.

A. Brock asked if the Johnson County Public library was still on the agenda tonight. C. Parker stated that this was to be on April's meeting. It was fixed after the hard copy packets went out to Council.

Town Manager Report –

- N. Gabehart stated that a response was received from the President of the New Whiteland Town Council regarding the resolution on the merger of Whiteland and New Whiteland. It was dated 2-15-19 and read into record by A. Brock. It stated that no action is being taken by New Whiteland Town Council at this time due to none of the board members having inquiries from residents of wanting this merger to be done.
- N. Gabehart stated that he has met with New Whiteland residents recently and they DO want the merger to happen. There are documents ready for if the public should pursue this to happen. If the question is evoked on the ballot, the stated will have actions to see forth. If it should get to that point, then a third party would be needed to give a neutral opinion to review financials as needed for both sides for the merger. The State would take over most of the steps of the merger, similar to the merger Whiteland is currently going thru with the Whiteland Fire District Board and Fire Department.

- S. Ford asked if the State could stop it from happening. N. Gabehart stated in a way, yes, they could, but they would most likely leave it to the voters instead to decide. But if it was extremely detrimental to the residents of the two towns or the levy would change to a crazy dollar amount, then the State could nix it before it comes to ballot.
- N. Gabehart informed the board that Pizza King Express will be having a ribbon cutting this Friday, 3/15/19 at 11 am. All are invited to come.
- Town employees and student interns have been working on a concept of having a Farmers Market in town. Still working on this concept on the location and requirements.
- Paving for the grant received last year will start as soon as the weather allows. The town will have around 91% of the town repaved in two years. All subdivision will be repaved except for Springhill and Millstone section 1. The estimated cost for Springhill is about 3 million, this includes the work needed for sidewalks, driveway approaches, and curb lines. J. Csikos has submitted a grant for a Round-a-bout for Sawmill Rd & Whiteland Rd., this is joint with the County. The Town has been lucky in having Joe here, he has done a great job in the grants for the town and have saved the Town the cost of hiring a consultant to do the grants instead.
- Fire Department is doing great also. Chief Funkhouser is now the Operations Chief since becoming the Fire Chief at Bargersville. Administration handles all contracts and financial decisions. Deputy Chief Yocum handles things on the EMS side. Been able to build a great partnership with Bargersville as well.

Clerk Treasurer Report –

- **Conflict of Interest form for Dave Gabbard of Emergency Vehicle Service**
 - J. White read into record that Dave Gabbard, Water Department Supervisor, and owner of Emergency Vehicle Services has provided a Conflict of Interest form to be filed for work performed by EVS for services and repairs on police/town vehicles. S. Ford made a motion to accept the conflict of interest. D. Hawkins seconded the motion.
Passed 5-0

Council Comment –

- S. Ford stated that there has been a lot of talk at different government levels of ending the observance of Daylight Savings Time. Looking to see what the board feels about making a resolution to support no longer observing Daylight Savings time, or no longer changing times in the Spring and Fall. J. Sayler said after review of the resolution drafted, he would probably provide his support. The rest of the board agreed that it could be looked into getting a resolution made up and taken to a vote at the next Town Council meeting. N. Gabehart stated that they will look for a model resolution to get done by the Town Attorney.


Public Comment –

- None

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Passed by the Whiteland Town Council on this day 9th of April, 2019

Aye


Shawn A. Brock, President


Scot Ford


Brad Goedeker


David Hawkins


Joe Sayler

Nay

Shawn A. Brock, President


Scot Ford

Brad Goedeker

David Hawkins

Joe Sayler

Attest:


Debra L. Hendrickson, Clerk-Treasurer