

WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2015

THE MEETING BEGAN AT 7:10PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: ROBERT ZEHR, S. ED TICHENOR, ROGER FORD, CHRIS HADLEY, AND KENT BEESON

OTHERS PRESENT: ALEXANDRA KRUTZ-UTILITY CLERK (ACTING SECRETARY), NORM GABEHART-TOWN MANAGER/MS4 SUPT., NATHAN BILGER-PLANNING AND ZONING DIRECTOR, RICK SHIPP-TOWN MARSHAL, JASON CLAYMAN-WATER SUPT., RUSTY SNYDER-PLANT SUPT., AND STEPHEN WATSON-TOWN ATTORNEY

OTHERS ABSENT: MICHELLE R. RICHARDS, CLERK-TREASURER

MINUTES. KENT BEESON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2015 COUNCIL MEETING. S. ED TICHENOR SECONDED, PASSED 5-0.

VOUCHER PACKET. THE COUNCIL REVIEWED VOUCHER PACKET 15-2. NORM GABEHART EXPLAINED A TRANSFER OF \$120,000 FROM THE CELL TOWER FUND AND \$22,000 FROM THE RIVERBOAT FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND. THIS WOULD BE DONE AS A LOAN TO COVER DAILY OPERATING EXPENSES INSTEAD OF A TRANSFER FROM THE CCD FUND AS WAS DONE IN 2014. THIS WOULD BE REPAID BACK TO THE FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR. A FORMAL RESOLUTION FOR THE TRANSFERS WAS PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL.

ROGER FORD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2015-01, A TEMPORARY LOAN TO THE GENERAL FUND. CHRIS HADLEY SECONDED THE MOTION, PASSED 5-0.

CHRIS HADLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE VOUCHER PACKET 15-2, EXCLUDING WHITELAND AUTO ITEMS. ROBERT ZEHR SECONDED THE MOTION AND PASSED 4-1-1, TICHENOR ABSTAINING.

FINANCIAL REPORTS. NORM GABEHART SPOKE ON THE FINANCIAL REPORTS SINCE MICHELLE RICHARDS WAS ABSENT. THE GENERAL FUND RECEIVED THE TRANSFER FROM THE CELL TOWER AND RIVERBOAT FUNDS. THE SEWER OPERATING FUND WAS IN THE POSITIVE AND EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

ALEXANDRA KRUTZ SPOKE ABOUT THE STATUS OF DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR EMPLOYEES AND STATED THAT MICHELLE RICHARDS HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE BANK TO HELP GET IT SET UP. ALEXANDRA ALSO STATED THAT CREDIT CARDS BEGAN TO BE ACCEPTED ON FEBRUARY 2, 2015. IN THE WEEK OF BEING USED, THERE HAD BEEN ABOUT 24 PEOPLE USE CREDIT CARDS, TOTALING ABOUT \$3873. SEVERAL PAST DUE ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTS IN COLLECTIONS WERE PAID IN FULL USING CREDIT CARDS.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS. THE STATUS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS WAS DISCUSSED.

BOARD POSITIONS. NORM GABEHART PRESENTED A RESIGNATION LETTER FROM SCOT FORD, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS MEMBER. HE STATED THAT HE HAD TO RESIGN DUE TO A CONFLICT WITH

ANOTHER APPOINTED POSITION. ALSO, KIM WININGER WAS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT A RESIGNATION FROM HIS POSITION ON THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD DUE TO RELOCATION FROM TOWN. NORM SAID THAT THE BZA POSITION WAS A LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENT, WHILE THE STORMWATER WAS AN EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT. THE POSITIONS WOULD BE ADVERTISED AND LETTERS OF INTEREST ACCEPTED.

ORDINANCE 2014-12, REGULATION OF FIREWORKS. RICK SHIPP ASKED IF THE COUNCIL HAD ANY REMAINING QUESTIONS. KENT BEESON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2014-12 IN THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS. ROGER FORD SECONDED THE MOTION, PASSED 5-0.

PROPERTY LIABILITY INSURANCE. NORM GABEHART RECEIVED QUOTES FOR NEW LIABILITY INSURANCE PROVIDERS, AND SWITCHED PROVIDERS. THE NEW PLAN INCLUDES COVERAGE FOR RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS AND INCREASED COVERAGE AT THE SAME RATE AS THE PREVIOUS PLAN.

RONDAABOUT UPDATE. NORM GABEHART STATED THAT THE MPO CONFIRMED THAT THE WORST CASE SCENARIO ON RONDAABOUT WOULD GO TO BID IN JULY 2016, AND WE WOULD NOT LOSE FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT. NORM ASKED FOR APPROVAL FOR RELOCATION OF SEWER FORCE MAIN AS PART OF THE PROJECT. THIS WAS NOT PART OF THE ORIGINAL RONDAABOUT PLANS, BUT WOULD BE DONE SEPARATELY. STEPHEN WATSON STATED HE HAD A COUPLE ISSUES WITH THE PROPOSED CONTRACT.

ACCESS JOHNSON COUNTY FUNDING REQUEST. NORM GABEHART PRESENTED A REQUEST FROM ACCESS JOHNSON COUNTY FOR A CONTRIBUTION OF \$2,791. THIS FIGURE WAS PROPORTIONAL TO THE TOWN SIZE. ROGER FORD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE \$2,791 CONTRIBUTION TO ACCESS JOHNSON COUNTY. KENT BEESON SECONDED, PASSED 5-0.

WWTP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PAY REQUEST #6. NORM GABEHART PRESENTED PAY REQUEST #6 FROM GRAVES BROTHERS PLUMBING FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT. THE CURRENT AMOUNT DUE IS \$126,620.34, MAKING THE PROJECT ABOUT 75% COMPLETE. HE ALSO STATED THERE WAS A CHANGE ORDER #3 REQUESTED FOR THE PROJECT. NORM GABEHART IS SEEKING TO GET A REFUND OF \$14,000.00 ON THE 18 INCH PIPE WE HAVE BOUGHT FOR THE PROJECT BEFORE KNOWING THE PIPE WOULD NOT FIT PRIOR TO THE DESIGNS FROM HAZEN AND SAWYER.

KENT BEESON MADE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT CHANGE ORDER #3 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,000.00, CHRIS HADLEY SECONDED THE MOTION AND PASSED 5-0.

KENT BEESON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER INVOICE 27284 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,168.91 TO WESSLER ENGINEERING FOR INSPECTION AND TESTING. ROGER FORD SECONDED THE MOTION AND PASSED 5-0.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS. RUSTY SNYDER, WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT, GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE SUMP PUMP PROJECT. APPROXIMATELY 80 HOMES LEFT TO INSPECT IN OAKVILLE. OF THOSE INSPECTED SO FAR, 5 WERE FOUND TO BE CONNECTED TO THE SEWER SYSTEM. 4 OF THOSE HAD SINCE BEEN CORRECTED. PARK FOREST IS PLANNED TO BE THE NEXT AREA TO BE INSPECTED.

RICK SHIPP, TOWN MARSHAL, SAID THERE WERE 251 POLICE RUNS IN JANUARY, 22 OF WHICH WERE TO THE ANNEXED AREAS. REGULAR PATROLS IN THE AREA HAVE KEPT CALLS DOWN. RICK STATED THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENTS HAD A CHIEFS MEETING AND TALKED ABOUT HEROIN USE BECOMING HIGH IN INDIANA. THEY ARE NOW WORKING WITH THE HOSPITALS AND AN ASSOCIATION ON A NEW DRUG THAT COUNTERACTS HEROIN OVERDOSES, HELPING THOSE THAT HAVE OVERDOSED TO COME OUT OF THEIR COMA. THESE WILL, AT ONE POINT, BE SOMETHING ALL OFFICERS WILL HAVE ON HAND IN THEIR CARS.

JASON CLAYMAN, WATER SUPERINTENDENT, SAID THE WATER DEPARTMENT HAS HAD A FAIRLY QUIET MONTH. THE WATER DEPARTMENT HAD TO FIX A 2 INCH PIPE LEAK. JASON ALSO SPOKE OF THE ISSUE WITH ST. CHARLES TOWER LEVEL METER AND HOW IT HAS NOW BEEN RESOLVED. HE SAID THAT A MAJOR ISSUE WITHIN THE LAST COUPLE WEEKS IS RESIDENTS COMPLAINING ABOUT HIGH USAGE ON THE BILLS. THE WATER DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY TO INSURE ALL RESIDENTS ARE ATTENDED TO AND HELP FIND ANY ISSUES AND THEN DIRECT THEM IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION FROM THERE. THE MAIN CAUSE OF HIGH WATER USAGE HAS BEEN DUE TO FLUSHING MECHANISMS GOING BAD IN TOILETS AND WATER SOFTENERS BEING STUCK IN REJUVENATION.

NATHAN BILGER, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ZONING, STATED THAT 4 PERMITS WERE ISSUED IN JANUARY, 2 INSPECTIONS, AND 0 VIOLATIONS. THE HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM RENOVATIONS WERE APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY PLAN COMMISSION. TWO DEVELOPMENT PLANS WERE FILED FOR MARCH PLAN COMMISSION: EXPANSION OF DALE WILLIAMS AUTO AND EXPANSION OF BAILEY AND WOOD. NATHAN STATED IT WAS EXCITING TO HAVE SO MUCH INVESTMENT IN LOCAL BUSINESSES. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE US 31 PLANNING SURVEY HAS HAD A TREMENDOUS PARTICIPATION FROM RESIDENTS PROVIDING OPINIONS AND VIEWS ON THE CORRIDOR. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE TOWN'S PHONE SYSTEM HAD BEEN RECENTLY REVISED TO PROVIDE BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT CUSTOMER SERVICE.

NORM GABEHART, TOWN MANAGER, THANKED THE STREET AND WATER DEPARTMENTS FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK THEY HAVE PUT INTO THE TOWN. HE ALSO STATED THAT WE RECEIVED THE NEW TRUCK FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENTS THAT THE COUNCIL HAD APPROVED TO REPLACE THE ONE TOTALED FROM A WRECK LAST YEAR. IT WILL BE OUTFITTED AND READY FOR SERVICE LATER IN THE MONTH. NORM SPOKE ABOUT AN ISSUE THE STREET DEPARTMENT HAD WITH THE SALT TRUCK. SHAUN YOUNG, STREET SUPERINTENDENT, FOUND THAT THE SALT SPREADER HAD BEEN STUCK OPEN. THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN FIXED AND RESIDENTS SHOULD NOT SEE AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF SALT NOW. STREET PATCHING IS ALSO ON-GOING AS WEATHER PERMITS. NORM GABEHART ALSO DISCUSSED THE INCREASE OF AMERICAN WATER. THE IRUC APPROVED INDIANA AMERICAN INCREASES FOR RETAIL AND WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS. THIS YEARS INCREASE COULD BE 6% TO THE TOWN. THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF OUR CURRENT REVENUE STREAMS AND LIABILITIES TO DO AN UPDATED ASSESSMENT IN LUE OF A BOND PAYMENT REDUCTION AND A POSSIBILITY OF THE OVERALL AFFECT BEING ROUGHLY \$18,000 PER YEAR TO THE TOWN AS A WHOLESALE CUSTOMER. IT'S UNKNOWN WHETHER THIS INCREASE WOULD NEED TO BE PASSED ALONG TO TOWN CUSTOMERS (RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES). THERES DISCUSSION FROM THE COUNCIL TO ASSESS THIS TRHOUGH THE WATER TRACKER

FUTHER DISCUSSION WILL EXISTS IN FUTURE MEETINGS WHETHER THE NEED OR NECESSITY TO PASS ALONG THESE RATES TO THE TOWN OF WHITELAND CUSTOMERS.

NORM ALSO GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED STORMWATER PROJECT ON FRONT STREET AND A PROPOSED PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO START DEVELOPMENT NEAR THE INTERSTATE. THE COUNCIL EXPRESSED EXCITEMENT BY THESE PROJECTS.

PUBLIC COMMENT

KIM LEE, 740 CYNTHIA LN, ASKED ABOUT THE POLICE RESERVE ACCIDENT POLICY PREMIUM IF OUR OFFICERS WERE NOT COVERED UNDER THE INSURANCE. NORM GABEHART ANSWERED THAT UNDER THE POLICY WE HAVE NOW, THE RESERVES ARE COVERED, UNLIKE THE PREVIOUS INSURANCE. KIM ASKED IF THAT WAS NORMAL FOR A POLICE DEPARTMENT. RICK SHIPP STATED THAT MANY DEPARTMENTS ARE MOVING TO COVER RESERVES, AND A BILL IS BEING CONSIDERED TO HAVE ALL DEPARTMENTS INCLUDE THE INSURANCE.

STEVE GUTERMUTH, 222 PARK FOREST N. DR., ASKED ABOUT THE WATER COMPANY AND IF THERE HAD BEEN AN INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLY GOING TO BARGERSVILLE FOR WATER BECAUSE OF INDIANA-AMERICAN WATER'S RATES. JASON CLAYMAN, WATER SUPERINTENDENT, STATED THAT THE POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND BEING INVESTIGATED AS A POSSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE.

ART REIFEIS, 320 PARKWAY STREET, THANKED THE COUNCIL AND STATED THAT HE APPRECIATED THEIR EFFORT IN THE FIREWORK ORDINANCE. HE ASKED ABOUT THE NEW POLICE OFFICER REQUESTED BY THE EXCESS LEVY REQUEST. THE LEVY REQUEST WAS EXPLAINED BY NORM GABEHART. ART ASKED IF THE FUNDING FOR THE ROUNDABOUT HAD BEEN APPROVED BY INDOT AND IF THE FUNDING COULD DISAPPEAR. COUNCIL STATED THAT IT HAD BEEN APPROVED AND A CONTRACT WITH INDOT SIGNED. NATHAN BILGER WOULD PROVIDE HIM WITH A COPY OF THE CONTRACT. ART ALSO ASKED IF \$90/HOUR FOR AN ENGINEER WAS TYPICAL, AND THE COUNCIL STATED THAT YES IT WAS.

NO OTHER COMMENTS OR OTHER BUSINESS WAS PRESENTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:52PM.

PASSED BY THE TOWN OF WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2015.

AYE

NAY

ROBERT ZEHR

ROBERT ZEHR

KENT BEESON

KENT BEESON

ROGER FORD

ROGER FORD

S. ED TICHENOR

S. ED TICHENOR

CHRIS HADLEY

CHRIS HADLEY

ATTEST:

MICHELLE R. RICHARDS, IAMC, CMC