

Town Council Council
Special Meeting with Whiteland Fire Protection Dist. Board
June 1, 2017

Council members present

Kent Beeson	
President	<u> x </u>
James Klenner	
Vice President	<u> </u>
Scot Ford	
Member	<u> x </u>
Andy Brock	
Member	<u> x </u>
David Hawkins	
Member	<u> x </u>

Other town officials present

Debra Hendrickson	
Clerk-Treasurer	<u> x </u>
Norm Gabehart	
Town Manager	<u> x </u>
Joe Csikos	
Planning & Zoning Director	<u> </u>
Rick Shipp	
Town Marshal	<u> x </u>
Steve Burden	
WWTP Superintendent	<u> </u>
Stephen Watson	
Town Attorney	<u> x </u>

Call to order

Beeson called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Roll call

Invocation – Norm Gabehart

Adoption of the order of business for the day

Others present:

New Business

- Interlocal Agreement regarding administration and financing of the Whiteland Volunteer Fire Department
 - Whiteland Fire Protection District is recommending the Town of Whiteland take over the administration and financial duties for the Whiteland Volunteer Fire Department through a contract
 - President of the Whiteland Fire Protection District, Steve Cavaleri, stated they had approached Gabehart about his opinion and taking over the responsibility for providing fire and ems protection in the district service and then the District will distribute the funds.
 - Because of the growth of the Town and with the firehouse sitting empty due to it being a volunteer service and with several schools in session during the day, the staffing needs to change.
 - Another reason is the insurance rates. A homeowners and businesses rates are hinged heavily around the ability to put out fires in the area (fire suppression schedule). The rating system is scaled 1 to 10 with a 1 being the highest and a 10 means no fire department and being the worst. Whiteland Fire Department has a rating of 5 which is excellent for a volunteer status but the status can never change due to it being a volunteer status.

- Gabehart stated there would be a referendum put on a ballot in the future. The department would be a paid standby instead of volunteer. We have to give the assurance our intent to the advisory board and the volunteers what plan to proceed with. Their contract expires June 30, 2017. If we are going to proceed to enter into an agreement with the district and immediately phasing in and ask for authority to proceed. We would like a consensus of intent that the Council agrees to proceed. We would like to create a Public Safety Committee of fire experts, the Chief of Police, and others. We will have an interim Fire Chief until a selection is made. Beeson stated that public safety should be the most important thing. Hawkins made a motion to give Counsel and Town Manager permission to proceed with the negotiations toward an agreement with the Fire District Board. Brock seconded the motion.

Passed 3-0
 Scot Ford left at 7:32

Public comment

- Felt there were positive attitudes over the situation
- It needs to be done and be ahead for the community

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Passed by the Whiteland Town Council on this day _____ of _____, 2016

Aye

Nay

 Kent Beeson

 Kent Beeson

 James Klenner

 James Klenner

 Scot Ford

 Scot Ford

 Shawn A. Brock

 Shawn A. Brock

 David Hawkins

 David Hawkins

Attest:

 Debra L. Hendrickson