

Minutes and proceedings of the meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana.

Be it remembered that the Town Council of the Town of Hope, Indiana held a called meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 5:30 p.m. on January 17, 2017.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Clyde Compton (President), Ed Johnson (Vice-President), Jerry Bragg, Ohmer Miller and Nellie Meek. Clerk Treasurer, Diane Burton was also present.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Clyde Compton.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Minutes 12/19/16 & 1/5/17**

**Ohmer made a motion for the approval of the December 19 minutes. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 3/0. 2 Abstain.**

**Jerry made a motion for the approval of the January 5 minutes. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS**

**Jerry made a motion for the approval of the claims. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **UNITED HEALTHCARE (UHC) V. ANTHEM INSURANCE**

John Richardson, Logan Lavelle Hunt, stated my presence tonight is to answer any remaining questions from the prior meeting and to address any thoughts you may have. John summarized the key differences in the policies. John stated UHC gave us 14% increase with their renewal action versus last year. That amounts to \$11,628 on an annual basis. Anthem has the best alternative that was available at this point in time. Their program comes through bottom line will knock 6% off of the UHC increase. This is a savings of \$5,000 per year. More importantly there are a number of attractive coverage options that I thought would be beneficial for town employees. John reviewed the benefits. One of those benefits is it is HSA qualified. There was discussion on the advantages of the Health Savings Account (HSA) and on how the savings plan works. The contributions are tax deductible. Matt Tallent added that he currently has Anthem though his wife's insurance and has nothing but good to say about the insurance company. **Ed made a motion to switch to Anthem Insurance Company. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **PROJECT UPDATES**

##### **Water Project**

Eric Frey, ARA, stated we have wrapped up the grant. The project is basically completed with Strand. There is a remaining SRF portion which is the water tower painting project. We have been asked to prepare a contract to provide the labor standards, prevailing wage compliance reporting for you. I have copies of that for your consideration. It is now a requirement since it is funded by Federal dollars.

##### **Main Street**

Eric Frey stated the planning grant obviously was funded. The executed contract is in place with the consultant. There will be a Main Street kick-off meeting this Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Trena has on her radar screen grants that will help implement those things as they come up. We've looked at façade improvements has a variety of grants like Main Street Revitalization grant. There has been discussion about a Downtown Enhancement grant. Those applications are due in September. There is also a Historic Preservation Grant. There are some exciting things with your Main Street program and your downtown efforts.

#### **Hope Volunteer Fire Department**

Eric Frey stated Trena helped review and worked with the fire department in submitting a grant for protective equipment. I don't think at this point in time anything has been awarded or announced.

#### **Cops Grant**

Eric Frey stated I know Trena worked on a COPS grant. Matt Tallent stated we did not receive that grant. We came in eleventh place in the state.

#### **WATER PROJECT UPDATE**

Ryan Mackos, Strand, stated there is not much to report on the water project at this point in time. It's basically complete. We are just waiting on one or two pay apps. They will probably come in together. The second one will be to request the retainage to be released. We are helping David to finalize the connection at 600 north. Lykins does not have anything else going on. There may be warranty items like grass that will require them to come back out once the weather is better in April or May. Ryan stated the warranty time period is for a year. Substantial completion was October or November. The warranty items will last for a year from that point.

#### **SEWER LINING PROJECT**

Ryan Mackos stated there is a pay application that Insituform submitted for payment. The amount is for \$75,783.40. We are comfortable recommending payment. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the pay application. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Ryan stated that brings the total amount of work completed to \$88,837.50. The bid on the project was \$111,357.70. A fair amount of that difference is it turned out they needed less point repairs. Because of the project being lower the Council decided we could have them go ahead and investigate a little bit more of the sewers to line. Mainly because there is one other section in that area that goes under the highway and they wanted to, if possible, address that area as well while they are still in town. They investigated that right before Christmas. The results of the investigation is that there will be no point repairs required and they will be able to line it at the price that they have given. Right now it looks like if they were to proceed with lining that, the cost should still come in below what they bid it at. Just to be safe, I wanted to see if we could get approved so we won't have to wait until the next council meeting. Ryan requested approval for \$120,000 total. Ryan stated I don't think the project is going to exceed \$105,000. Just in the event if something does occur and they would have to dig down and it would require a little bit of additional fees. The law allows you to go 20% over bid with change orders. When the project first started, I believe the total budget that was approved was up to \$173,000. That included engineering which then resulted in having \$143,000 left over for construction. That was based on our initial estimates on the project. Insituform has it tentatively on their schedules to be out here on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Diane added it is going past the revenue that we will take



in this year but it is something that was discussed last year. Sewer does have a cushion built up and that is why last year they decided to go ahead and do that since there was funding available. David agreed. David stated at the price we should do more while they are doing it. **Ed made motion to approve the amount not to exceed \$120,000. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **WATER TOWER PROJECT**

Ryan Mackos stated contracts were signed. They are currently getting signed by Strand. We have started our work now. We have submitted our addendum to SRF. We have not heard back from them yet but that is the first step to be allowed to proceed forward. We don't anticipate any issues. It should go through smoothly. We have now started design. The water tower will mainly be specifications. It will have all the same language that SRF will require. The specs should be done in February. This will be advertised with multiple alternatives; one will include painting it in the spring and one also includes painting it in the fall. Ryan provided more detail on the painting project, the bidding process and the timeline. JT added we are coming upon that twenty year mark from where we have no alternative. The topic came up about the antennas on the tower. We do have a contract with Verizon. I just want to let the council know that I have had conversations with Verizon that we are at the juncture where we are going to be painting the water tower in 2017. They were already apprised of it during the contractual negotiations with Verizon. We are working out the plans and adjustments they will have to make during that time.

#### **TREES IN THE PARK**

JT Doane stated in 2016 I came before you that it was time for trees in the park to be trimmed. Davey Trees was in town last week and completed the project at the park. They did submit an invoice during the initial stage of this. I negotiated with them and was able to get it from \$8,100 to \$7,500. David added they took a lot of dead wood out. They trimmed around some of the street lights and flag poles. They said that the fertilization and pest control that we have been having done for ten years is working well. There was more discussion on the treatment of the trees.

#### **GARAGE AND YARD SALES SIGNAGE ORDINANCE 2016-18**

JT Doane stated before you is an Ordinance 2016-18 that is a second reading for garage and yard sale signage. This subject came for first reading at the December 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting. This is in regards to signage that gets placed on telephone poles, yards or near our roadways. We have not in the past had language that enforced those signs to be taken down and picked up. This ordinance will do that. The ordinance indicates that within a twenty-four hour period of the garage or yard sale ending, those signs have to be removed. If not, fines will be assessed. Nellie asked if this will be in the paper. JT confirmed. It will be on HSJ Online and The Republic. Ed asked if we have in our ordinances anything for these internet signs that are being tacked up all over town. JT answered to my knowledge we do not but I think that would be something along these same measures we should take for cleanup and not having those up for periods of time. I definitely would entertain getting something like that together potentially for your next council meeting. **Ohmer made a motion to pass Ordinance 2016-18. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **628 ELM STREET ORDINANCE 2016-19**



JT Doane stated before you, council, is Ordinance 2016-19. This is in regards to 628 Elm Street property. I have gotten indication from both of the adjoining land owners that they do not have a concern or issue with vacating the alley. The Rominger brothers were able to close on the property. I had prepared tonight to ask the council to proceed forward with this, however, there are still some details I think they need to work out in terms of a quick claim deed. It is my recommendation that we wait until next council meeting until the property owners are able to work out that detail.

#### **PAULA POLLITT MEMORIAL ANIMAL SHELTER**

JT Doane thanked council members Nellie Meek and Clyde Compton for attending the ribbon cutting on Thursday at 11:00. JT requested some items that were used at the old kennel that are not needed at the new shelter to be considered salvage. The items consist of a kennel set of three, another kennel set and a dog house. JT stated that will allow an additional concrete pad for the utility garage if they have a need for that. Ed voiced concern for the animals when the town has fireworks since that is right by the new animal shelter. Lisa answered she will either stay there with them or move them. Ed asked if the kennels should be kept to use during that time. Lisa stated she does not feel she will need the cages. **Ed made a motion to allow the items to be considered salvage. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** JT introduced Ms. Kim Wright Brockman, Paula's sister. Applause. JT stated Kim was in town on Thursday to attend the grand opening. JT played a video of the construction and ribbon cutting. Kim stated our family is very excited to have this in Hope and we're very honored that you think so much of Paula to do this in her name. You took into consideration her favorite color and you took into consideration her favorite song. One thing that I am going to do for the animal shelter is put up some acrylic plaques for a Paula wall. There will be a picture painted by Paula that says "Welcome Friends". Her animals were her best friends, especially Laddie. Laddie was a volunteer at the hospital for several years. There were several articles in The Republic of Paula and Laddie. At least three of those newspaper articles will be reproduced on acrylic frames and a couple of photos on the wall, a 6 X 6 area. So anyone who comes in, will know who she is and her legacy. JT stated this is a reminder we do have the Paula A. Pollitt Animal Shelter Fund also set up to receive any donations to go toward the animal shelter.

#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION**

JT Doane gave an update on the Emergency Response Commission. JT stated last week at the Bartholomew County Emergency Operations Center I picked up a flash drive with some information that I plan to disseminate out to those who indicated an involvement. I attended a fire chief's meeting. I spoke with a number of fire marshal's offices in the area. Again this group will have a plan generated in case of an emergency. I was very pleased to see on Friday, this is just part of what this commission will do, Bartholomew County announced a storm warning coming in our Town Marshal, Volunteer Fire Department both assembled here at the town hall at 6:00 p.m. on Friday to develop a plan in case the ice that was forecasted came through for Friday and Saturday. My plan for the commission is to get a meeting set for February for which I will be a part and to get the group set up and assembled. I will be involved to make sure we have a plan. We too as Hope want to help out other areas if needed and we want to see them do the same for us.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **WATER/SEWER 2017 BUDGET**



Diane Burton stated it is my understanding that this is the first time we have had a budget for water and sewer. This is something for us. It's not something we are required to do but I do think it is important to do and it is a really good planning tool. The reports given to the council were an Appropriation Report, a Revenue Report, a summary spreadsheet and David Clouse prepared an expense spreadsheet. The water operating budget was reviewed first. Diane stated the total estimated expenses for 2017 are \$636,625.00. The total estimated revenue is \$549,755.38. There are some extra items in this budget that is making it go over the revenue that we will pull in this year. Those items consisted of: The painting of the water tower, purchasing some meters, fire hydrant replacements and a truck. Diane discussed with David waiting until fall to purchase the truck to be sure the affordability is there. There is some money in water operating so although this budget is going into the negative, it will be able to support the budget if you decide to approve it as it is. Ed Johnson brought up the savings with not as much water pouring into the ground. Diane confirmed. Diane stated we are already seeing improvement which is changing how much water we are having to purchase. Hopefully we will continue to see improvement there. Ed asked how many thousands of gallons of improvement have you seen. David answered 38,200 a day. Ohmer asked if we are looking at any other projects in the future that need to be addressed. David answered not with water. Wastewater will be the next project. Lagoons need dredged. Slip Lining is included in the Sewer Operating budget. Ohmer asked for the process of dredging. David explained. Diane stated the total estimated expenses for sewer are \$429,025.00. Revenue is \$267,932.77. Our difference is pretty much the cost of our sewer lining project which is \$161,092.00. It sounds like that is even a little on the higher end even with increasing our coverage on the lining project. The council decided to look the budget over and make a decision at the next council meeting.

#### **EDIT REQUEST**

Clyde Compton stated we met Wednesday and had a request from the Hope Elementary School, Pete Law and Nancy Banta. They are requesting money to put on a play. They are doing it early to receive a lower price on the rights. They are going to use 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Hope Elementary plus some younger students to fill in other places. They are going to do approximately four plays starting in November. It will be free to the public. The children are getting the experience of being in the musical. It is unanimously recommended by the committee. The amount is \$1500 which includes props and directors. Nellie questioned the cost of the director when his training was paid for to do this. Nellie stated this is for the school. That does bother me. Clyde answered it was for the Little Hope Opry. This is for the school. Nellie questioned the language to be sure it will be geared toward the school. Clyde confirmed. **Motion carries 5/0.** Ohmer asked for the future, can we revise the request. Clyde confirmed.

#### **EDIT COMMITTEE**

Clyde Compton stated due to work and scheduling Jerry Bragg and Tim Shoaf will no longer be on the EDIT Committee. They have been replaced with Ohmer Miller and Michele Clark effective immediately.

#### **PLAN COMMISSION**

Nellie Meek expressed that she felt more time should be spent on these committees to find new people and include younger people instead of having the same people serving on the committees. Ed Johnson agreed and stated he has had a lot of people corner him on that. Nellie added these are things we both heard when we were running for office. Clyde agreed. Clyde stated using the same ones, they get burned out and we need new ideas. Have people come in and give their name to Diane. JT Doane stated



the Plan Commission is under ordinance set up as a commission to consist of seven members. The Town Council shall appoint three persons in town government. The President shall appoint four citizen members of whom not more than two can be of the same political party. Keep in mind one change from previous years is in the past the Building and Zoning Administrator was included in that three members of the town government. The classification of the Building and Zoning Administrator is not a government member. Nellie stated she has been doing some checking on that and she thinks he is still in our town government. JT stated my recommendation for government members are: Ed Johnson, Diane Burton and Ohmer Miller. In terms of those we are classifying as citizen members are: Greg Potts (R), Ryan McDaniel(R), Randy Sims (D), Mary Bragg (I) and Russ Burton (R). Nellie stated it appears to the public to be a conflict of interest when we have the family members on these committees. Ohmer stated my commit to that is it would be great if we were in a community where we had a lot of people to choose from. We are limited trying to get people to serve. If we've got people that are willing to serve, that's fine but if we don't. JT added we also have Earl Mayes (R). The selection of the committee was tabled.

#### **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

JT Doane stated the Board of Zoning Appeals is a five member group. It does not have quite the same stipulations as the Plan Commission. This will be continued at the next council meeting to come up with some additional names. My current recommendation is: Randy Sims, Greg Potts, Clyde Compton and Nellie Meek. The selection of the board was tabled.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

JT Doane stated this commission is something new that I asking the council that we form. It is something that was noted in our Comprehensive Plan. This group will consist of a five member group. They would report to me in a sense because obviously that is a huge part of my responsibility, economic development, growth and fiscal sustainability of our community. They would develop their thoughts, an additional set of eyes and an additional set of ears. My plan was to target some business owners around the community that are very active and very visionary that would be able to offer some thoughts on ways they feel would enhance business. I would like to request the council motion to proceed forward with this commission titled as Economic Development Commission. I will work to assemble prior to the next council meeting a group of names that I feel have the ability and can serve on it and serve well. I will present that to you at the February meeting. Clyde requested to have some regular citizens and for them to not be all business people. Ed asked how will you develop rules or parameters for this committee. JT answered we will have our meetings and this group will basically develop thoughts, foresight, vision based on economic development. Discussion. JT stated I think eventually we will want to develop some bylaws. David stated there was an Economic Development Commission in the mid-80s when the industrial park was built. There should be minutes that contains all of that and may state bylaws. Ohmer recommended contacting other communities and look at what they are doing. Then see if we can develop some guidelines based on some models from other communities. JT is going to do some research and recommended that it be tabled until the next meeting.

#### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

JT Doane stated the Hope Pharmacy and Wellness Center that I announced publically at the State of the Town Address, originally planned on a February 1<sup>st</sup> open date. He has indicated now with the process with the State it may be a little bit after that. We are still anticipating middle of February. I want to



applaud Mr. Ken Patton, the owner of that building. The building does look pharmacy ready. On the Community Crossing Matching Grant, once weather breaks O'mara will do the paving for the two grants received. I did last week received copies of curb ramps from Strand Associates and making them ADA compliant. On the Community Development Block Grant as stated earlier this evening, we did receive that. Storrow and Kinsella will be here Thursday for our Main Street Meeting which will be here (town hall) at 6:00 to develop that plan. The plan is due August 31<sup>st</sup>. I haven't heard anything further on the Aiken Street property. There is a sale pending. It is a husband and wife from Pennsylvania that is purchasing that. I have also spoken in length with Greg Potts about that community about accomplishing some ordinances and stipulations on the property. The 154 Elm Street property is still in discussions. We have two potential interest. I am waiting for them to make a formal offer. I attended a meeting this week with the Columbus Chamber. I am now serving on the Board of Directors ex-officio. I am pleased to announce the Hope fire house passed its final inspection. There is a representative here tonight, Mr. Stone. I want to definitely congratulate the Fire Department on that. The Hope Student Enrichment Committee met on January 5<sup>th</sup> I am still in discussions with a Visitor's Center. I will have more details in the near future. This Thursday at the Main Street Meeting we will have discussion as a Main Street group on the Executive Director. We received two applications so we have two candidates to discuss: Janice Whittington and Susan Thayer Fye. Hope Chamber has reassembled. We are seeking one additional board member. We have a Meet and Greet on February 28<sup>th</sup> at Willow Leaves. The next radio show is Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. with John Foster. I had Lunch with the Executive Direct and President of the Community Center Board to discuss some plans that they have for the future, specifically in regards to the gym. I will keep you informed on that. It came up at the December Council Meeting in regard to the fire department potential discrepancy in funding. I did speak with the Indiana State Trooper this week. I don't have any information to report on it. It is under investigation. As I receive more information on that, obviously I will share what information I receive from the state police on that topic. There was discussion with some of the groups that were meeting at the Visitor's Center. Some of them will be meeting here at the Town Hall or the Library Annex so they have a location to meet. I have had some phone calls about Ground Hog Day Event. It is my understanding it's an event that this community has had in the past. We are having discussions about tempting to have that this year.

#### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS

\*A Police, Animal Control, Utilities and Town Manager's report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

Nellie Meek asked if we have conflict changing from Monday night to a Tuesday night meeting since some did not make it to the meeting. Everyone confirmed there was not a conflict.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Attest



DeDe Camp

Jim Brazier

Robin Mack

Chris Smith