

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 called meeting at the Hope Town Hall in said town at 7:00 p.m. on January 20, 2014.

A quorum was declared present based on the presence of the following council members: Jonathan Titus (President), Paula Pollitt (Vice-President), Tim Shoaf and Greg Sims. Clerk Treasurer, Diane Burton was also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Jonathan Titus.

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

Minutes 12/16 (2)

**Tim made a motion for the approval of both sets of minutes. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

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

**Paula made a motion for the approval of the claims. Greg seconded.** Jonathan asked you did get that one correction made. Diane answered I will. I'll void it. Tim asked that got caught before it went out. Diane confirmed. They won't go out until tomorrow. **Motion carries 4/0.**

#### **PROJECT REPORTS:**

##### **OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB PROGRAM**

Trena Carter stated the application is due end of February. We have only received three applications. I did note that we did receive the new updated income guidelines. The 80% median income guidelines changed. I have some new brochures. If you want to post it or let people know. With just three, I don't know if that's enough to move forward on. If we get several more within the next few weeks, I would say it will be worth a shot.

##### **WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED PLANNING GRANT**

**Statements of Qualification** – Trena Carter stated today was when we were to receive Statements of Qualifications for the Water System Improvements Planning Grant study. It appears that we only have one. I guess there will need to be a cursory review of that Statement of Qualifications making sure that everything is what it needs to be. I don't know if you have a Selection Committee that has been selected now. Jonathan answered no. We would want to have a Selection Committee at least to review that one and then I can request from OCRA approval to move forward if everything is as it needs to be. I will find out if there needs to be an interview especially since you have worked with that firm in the past. Tim asked that is the one where you go down through the list and they tell you what to look for. Trena confirmed. I've got copies of that with me; the selection criteria and selection standards and everything. I can leave those here. If you want me here when the Selection Committee wants to meet, I would be more than happy to come out and meet with the Selection Committee to be there incase questions arises. The committee was selected as follows: Tim Shoaf, David Clouse and Randy Sims. Trena stated I will send out an email letting you know my availability. I will come up with a couple of dates and times. I will check with the state to see what process they want me to utilize. Once that happens we can discuss

proposed, draft contracts then schedule a public hearing and possibly be ready to move forward with an application by the end of February.

### **PLACE BASED INVESTMENT**

Trena stated the Place Based Investment information that I sent out to everyone, I didn't know if you had the opportunity to look at that. There was a little buzz in my ear that said I think we may have a project that would work for the town. Larry Simpson stated Randy could speak on this as well. I can show you the paperwork that she has sent me. I think the town square project would be idea for this. Because it is based on kind of a bricks and mortar turf type situation. Tim asked where is that grant from. Trena answered that grant is through State Tourism and OCRA. It's a joint effort. It has to be a joint – it has to be a prime applicant which can be a not for profit or the town and then you would have to have at least one partner who would be willing to collaborate with you and provide some of the local funding. It is a dollar for dollar match program which means for every dollar they give you they expect the town or your partner to participate in that amount as well. It's between \$25,000 to \$50,000, are the parameters. Larry stated I called and talked to a lady out of Madison who is connected for the tourism angle. It seemed really positive. She would like to schedule a trip to come up. Trena stated she is from the SBDC. I know that is something we can look at. It has to basically come through the town.

Tim stated I don't know if this is the time to bring it up. In our working session, it came to our attention that the Fire Department might be at some point wanting to work through the town on getting some grants possibly for some equipment or something. I know we try to keep ourselves maxed out on grants and so it's something to kind of bear in mind. If they do have that need, we want to be able to be accommodating to them. Trena stated I remember I talked to them, I think it was Ed, when they were working on their facility. I know we talked briefly about whether you should try for CDGE or what they needed to try for. I try to send out even to the towns with a volunteer Fire Department when I find out about the FEMA funding. I noticed that you guys got some Department of Homeland Security Funding for some of your equipment. Ed answered we did earlier. They have access to that where I don't really have that much access to that. I have FEMA information that is sent to me. Tim stated it was brought up that we were keeping things tied up on other things. We didn't really know there was a need for us to participate on that. How does that work. You can only have so many different type grants going at once. Trena stated you can only have two Community Development Block Grant Funds opened at one time. The rest it depends on just application by application. Like through FEMA you can apply for Safer Grants. You can apply for Assistance to Fire Fighters for equipment and that type of thing. There's one other one. There's three different aspects to the FEMA and they're all of a different notice of opportunity with funding availability. They all have a separate notice that comes out when their funds are going to be available. Let's you know about where you can access the information on webinars. Tim asked let's just say we did this park grant. That's not going to tie up anything. Trena answered no. The park grant is a state grant. The planning grant will. It will tie up one spot. If you want to go for an application their funding rounds are once a year now. Which means it will be in the spring time. The applications will be between April and June, I think is the last application cycle for the different types of projects. Tim asked they were twice a year. Trena confirmed. They were not as specific as they are now. Like there is waste water, drinking water programs. There is a public facilities program. That's where your fire trucks, fire stations all of that fall under that program. There is also a stormwater improvements program. They have separated into three separate programs with three separate application cycle times. There is a

Main Street Revitalization Program as well. There's actually four applications for the Community Block Grant Funds. Each of those have their separate proposal date. Separate date that the full application is due. Tim stated I guess what I want to make clear is if the Fire Department wants to talk to you on something like that, as far as I'm concerned as the council you have our blessing to do so. Council agreed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**President** – Greg made a motion that Paula be our council President for 2014. Tim seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

**Vice-President** – Paula made a motion that Jonathan be our Vice-President. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

##### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Plan Commission** – Jonathan stated we have three that are up. Paula and Greg representing the council and then one appointed by the president was Jeff Janes. Paula stated we will do it again. Jonathan stated Paula you will have one person from the town that you'll have to get for that final spot.

**Wellhead Protection Committee** – Jonathan stated the council position was Shawn so that will need to be replaced. It is not an overly active committee. Tim stated I'll volunteer for that one.

**Retirement Committee** – Paula stated we probably need to replace Randy with Matt. Jonathan asked Paula is she would like to remain on it. Paula agreed to do it one more year. Jonathan confirmed with David and Diane to remain. Jonathan asked Matt is he thought Brenda would continue. Matt confirmed.

**Edit Committee** – Jonathan stated the Edit Committee has been Shawn, myself, Larry and David. I think it might be a good idea to at least change the council members. I think this is a good one for some of the rest of you to experience that side of it. Tim and Greg volunteered. Paula asked Larry to stay on the committee. Larry agreed. Paula stated she will talk to David.

**Stormwater Board** – Jonathan stated Shawn was also on that and Paula representing the council. Dwight Carter would need to be replaced or asked to serve again. Trena and Cindy are ex officio so we have their expertise if necessary. Paula stated she will talk to Dwight to see if he will do it again. Jonathan and Greg volunteered.

**Board of Zoning Appeals** – Jonathan stated Nellie Meek and Pete Law were from the community. Randy served. Matt served. Greg was on it and Cindy. Paula stated we will leave Cindy on it. Paula asked Matt if he would stay on it. Matt agreed. Paula Asked Randy Sims. Randy agreed. Paula stated she will talk to Nellie and Pete. Greg agreed to stay on.

**Emergency Warning Committee** – Paula stated she will stay on it. Paula asked David Clouse to stay on it. He agreed. Paula stated I will put Matt in place of Randy as well.

**Building and Zoning** – Jonathan made motion that we appoint Matt Galbraith as Building and Zoning Administrator. Greg seconded. Matt accepted. Motion carries 4/0.

**Town Marshal** – Jonathan stated we can't really fully appoint that because of the situation we find ourselves in. Jonathan made a motion that we continue with Matt in the role as the Interim Town Marshal. Tim seconded. Matt accepted. Motion carries 4/0.

**Utility Supervisor – Tim made a motion that we continue with David Clouse as our Utility Superintendent. Greg seconded.** David accepted. Greg asked do we at this point with the reappointment, does the salary change. Don't we normally take that into consideration too. Tim stated that just gets approved with the salary ordinance. Jonathan confirmed that's the way we did it last year. **Motion carries 4/0.**

**Animal Control - Jonathan confirmed the appointment of Jenny Hadley. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

**Fire Chief – Jonathan made motion that we confirm Bruce Neal as the Fire Department's Chief. Paula seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

**Attorney – Paula made a motion to retain Cindy Boll as our attorney. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

#### **MEETING DATES**

**Jonathan made a motion to keep it on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 as our regular meeting day. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

**Jonathan made a motion that when needed we meet on the first Monday at 5:30 will be our working session. Greg seconded.** Tim stated I'd rather have that working session say that's when it is going to be and we just count on it. Then if we don't need it, it gets canceled. **Motion carries 4/0.**

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

##### **COMMUNITY CENTER**

Larry Simpson stated we are still working with Indiana Landmarks. We've had two salvage companies come through. Unfortunately we could not work a deal with anybody for a \$1. It just became too cost prohibited for people that were interested. We'll be salvaging all the gingerbread, all the unique features off that house so they can reused and recycled. And then either tearing down or approaching the Fire Department about controlled burned for the rest of the property if they were wanting to do a training.

Larry stated on the gym project we are going to be approaching the Heritage Fund again. Dunlap has agreed to do the roof for a specific dollar amount. However obviously the weather is not great for redoing the roof on the gym at this point. We're just going to eat that elephant in bites and the roof is the most important aspect of that. We still have an Interim Director, Andrea Wallace and we'll probably continue to do so for at least the first quarter. Tim asked what is going on with the lot. Larry answered we hope to seed it and turn it into a lawn. We did rent a little bit of space and we asked for the council's blessing on that for him to put a storage building. He does have that there. It would be nice to have us a picnic area. He's agreed as part of the small amount of rent that he pays for the building to be there to maintain the lot. So he will be mowing the grass. We continue to want to pursue a grocery store and we're marching down that road. We have a new seed bank in Hope. We'll talk about that initiative later, the community garden aspect. The Columbus co-op will be there. This is a chance for us to kind of make our pitch. We would be willing to essentially give the lot away if we could get a grocery store to come in there. It would be nice to recoup what we've paid but if it's for the better of the community. It wasn't intended to be a money maker.

#### **ATTORNEY**

No report.

#### **POLICE**

\*A Police Report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

Matt Tallent asked the council if they had any questions on his report. Tim asked we have one car out of service. Do we still have cars going. Matt confirmed we still have three cars going. Jonathan stated it looks like a good report Matt. Thank you. Matt stated I have one more thing to add to it. This just came on recently. The Bartholomew County Sherriff's Department has decided to stop doing vehicle lock outs in the county. We've been called several times by people in the Schafer Lake area to see if we will still come out and do vehicle lock outs. As of right now we're telling them no. We're confined to the town limits. It's a good public relations thing. I didn't know if we can set a boundary where we can go unlock people's cars. Maybe within a two mile radius of the town of Hope. If you want me to stick with the town limits, that's fine. I can do that. I just hate for somebody who only lives two minutes away to have to pay \$60.00 for a locksmith. Paula said the two mile radius because you have to live within two miles of the town of Hope to be an officer, I would think that would be ok. How many calls do you usually get outside the city limits. Matt stated maybe two a week if that. Matt stated we do lock out waivers for every lock out we do. Jonathan stated I personally have no problem with a two mile. Paula stated I would rather keep the community happy. Tim stated I understand but you are taking the town's tax dollars and spending them outside of town. I agree with you but then when do you draw the line on other stuff. I just don't want to open up a can of worms. Discussion. Larry said just an idea, you could hand them an envelope that's already preaddressed to the reserves for the Christmas Fund. Paula stated she thinks donation is a good idea. If they want to. They don't have to. Matt stated if you guys want to think about it. Tim stated I think it would probably be good to think about it and make an educated vote on it. We can do it at the Working Session. Let Cindy be there to put her input on it. Chad suggested a fee by ordinance. Tim stated I don't know but I can see them not allowing the town to go outside the town to make money. Jonathan stated we probably better talk to Cindy. I think it would be good until we get a chance to talk to Cindy about this to say sorry we just can't. Matt stated that's fine. I don't have a problem with that. We have been getting a lot of complaints about the parking up and down Washington Street. People parking without a permit. I ordered parking tickets. It's a very simple hand written parking ticket. It's like three lines. You fill it out with the make and model. It actually has a sticker that you stick on their windshield and a preaddressed envelope for the fine. Greg asked is it over night or is it just one or two hours at a time. Matt said mostly people call in the mornings and say this person is parking on Washington Street without a permit. We will go down there and tell them to move their cars. I figure when it starts to get warmer, we will have a lot of problems. Tim stated that's what you need to do it and maybe it will curb it. Matt stated we always have a lot of problems with Goshen Meadows people parking on the streets. We will go out there as well.

#### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER**

\*An Animal Control Report has been given to the council prior to the meeting to review and kept on file at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

Paula welcomed Jenny back. Jenny Hadley confirmed that everyone received their report.

## UTILITIES, STREETS, PARKS

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**Water** – David Clouse asked if there were any questions on the water portion. Paula asked did anybody have any broken pipes during this. David stated yes. There was one in Goshen Meadows.

**Wastewater** – David asked if there were any questions on wastewater. Tim asked so the rip rap, that's just continuing what we need done. David answered yes. When it was built, there wasn't any put on the west side. But it's eroded pretty bad too. The other is from the past years above the rip rap. It will hold ten foot but the rip rap only came up to eight. Heavy wind has eroded that. Tim asked we've got all the rest of them in good shape, right. David confirmed. One, two and three is complete. David stated number three we need to talk about. Springwood Trailer Park, we have a problem with that ten inch main. We had to have Commercial Sewer come and handler that. I think it was \$1500 if I remember right. It's getting increasingly harder. They had to bring two different pieces of equipment to get through it. I couldn't get through it with ours. Its fifteen feet deep. Tim asked is that the one on the north side. David corrected southwest. Its fifteen feet deep and it's under the house trailer on the hill. There's four off sets where the pipes done this. It just catches and roots are getting in it. There are two trees on the side of the trailer. I think we need to have Strand come down and do some preliminary engineering. I think it's possible to set a new manhole there on the corner of the trailer and do away with the deep part. They are going to have to do some elevations and see whether we can do it without moving the trailer. This has been going on according to the video people at least ten years. They've been down here unclogging it every couple of years. We've looked into pipe bursting. There's not enough room there to do that, where you would pull a new pipe and break the old one as you pull it through. It takes too big of a hole on each side. Steve Robertson stated you can't do the sewer lining because of off sets. You could do like a six inch pipe but it runs all the way to Aiken Street. You can't shrink the capacity. We would have so many issues upstream. We need to come up, get the ground shots, get the flow line, get a location, figure out exactly where it's going. David said there's a manhole to the north. If it plugs up, it overflows. It's in a low spot fairly close to the creek. We have a couple of suggestions as a possibility after we surveyed that. Maybe get rid of the really deep manhole. Get it out closer to the road. That way for the future, to dig something fifteen, sixteen foot deep with those requirements, it's a lot more expensive than if you're digging four feet. David and I talked about it and we thought the best method is like he said; we come up, survey it and get that information into the computer. That way we have good, accurate locations of all the pipes, all the elevations. There's a benchmark right on the bridge. It wouldn't be very involved. We could get it surveyed in less than a day. A couple of days worth of work probably to analyze things and make a recommendation on which route to take. Greg stated sounds like we need to do something. It's not going to go away. Steve confirmed it's not going to go away. It's getting progressively worse. The other thing that would be involved is if we do some work there, Cindy is going to have to be involved. Right now all of that is on private property. There would have to be an agreement between the town and the property owner. Not necessarily buying right away. You can do what's called a right of entry where they just sign off and say as long as they fix it back up, we're ok with it. You want to follow the legal to make sure. Tim asked we don't have an easement through there or anything for it. Steve answered we've done some research years ago. There's no easement. Nothing

through there. It was one of those hand shake, yeah go ahead. David stated nothing ever got recorded. Steve stated the trailer is occupied. To replace it in place, you are going to have to get them to move the trailer which is going to be expensive because they're not going to move that trailer on their own. Discussion. David stated they were aware of all of our lines through there because their bank made them get it surveyed. James Yarnell surveyed it and had me locate all of our stuff. They have on their maps where everything of ours is in there. This trailer has never moved. I sent them a letter probably nine months ago telling them about the problem. To keep it in the back of their mind that if that trailer ever moved that we needed to get in there and do this. They actually own the trailer now. Steve stated we can do the work especially if we reroute it. We would probably plug up stream pipe for maybe a couple hours. The contractor would be able to do all the work and then make the connections to existing manholes at the last minute. It's not like there's going to be bypass pumping or anybody put out of service except for maybe a couple of hours while their lateral is getting hooked back up. Greg stated plus it won't be fifteen feet. Steve stated that is one of the options we want to look at. If we could move that manhole to the north, it might take two manholes. After we do the survey, we want to see the possibility in using cost analysis. If you could maybe set two smaller manholes and get that closer to the road, then if you ever had an issue you're done with the trailer, tearing up the yard way back in behind the trailer. Discussion. Steve stated we'll know more after we shoot all the elevations and get the layout to see where the laterals tie in. We can put together a couple of preliminary options and talk with David. The council agreed for Steve to move forward with the engineering. Steve stated we'll try to get that going as soon as we can. That way before spring comes when it's a lot harder dig and stuff.

**Streets and Alleys** – David asked are there any questions on streets and alleys. Jonathan asked are we going to have enough on number one. David stated we are going to be stretching it. I'd say this year when it is done, we'll be out. We're using treated sand when we can instead of salt. Paula asked what happened to the kid in number two who hit the sign. Did he pay for it. David answered no one saw him do it. We just saw the tracks.

**Parks & Misc.** – Tim asked what ever became of the playground materials. David stated it's too cold. It will be spring before I hear something from them. They can't do that in the winter. Tim asked I mean are they planning on warranting it. David confirmed. It is under warranty for five years. Tim asked did he ever come up with a (solution). You know he said at one time it was going to just continue to do it. David asked the patch. I haven't talked to him since then. I told him I'm not sure that's what you guys wanted to see. He was going to get with the manufacturer of it. This is Davy Tree Service annual. Last year we did the fertilization which I can't tell you the amount. We're on the biyearly. This is for the inspection and treatment for pests on the trees. Tim asked is that for the ash bores. David answered no. They already did it. Tim asked is that a onetime treatment thing. David answered every two years. Tim stated I just read an article. They said that was one plus of it that it was supposed to kill a lot of that stuff. David stated this is for all the trees in the downtown park and the six Enkos in the parking lots. Jonathan stated last year with the extra included it came to a total of \$3645.00. This portion of it last year was \$1700. It's just a slight increase.

**Jonathan made a motion to authorize David to work with Davey to go ahead. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

David asked number three any questions about that. You guys can't get on there and look at it yet. I generated a report. It's an automatic send to me. I'll get another one when it's been taken care of. You can go to the link and check the status on it. This is going through Bartholomew County GIS. Discussion.

#### **BUILDING & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

Matt Galbraith stated the first thing I have to do is apologize to you. My monthly report did not print out. Billy Davis Jr property is still in noncompliance. If you go by there, it looks just about as bad as did the day they tore the shed down. Cindy and I the only force we have is to file back in court. We're asking your blessing to do that. The Council agreed. Matt stated in the next two or three weeks whenever Ms. Boll gets a chance, she and I are going to sit down and go over all the pending cases that I have open. See where they are in the court. That sort of thing. We do have a court order for the Steining property at 223 Union Street. That's the last court case we went to. The court ordered it to be cleaned up by February 10<sup>th</sup>. It is still not in compliance. That one we're going to keep working on. That one also if you remember from the last meeting, that was the first time the judge issued a fine on first hearing. They got a fine issued on this as well. I got a complaint about 1206 High Street. If you remember that address, it's where all the cats were. I had a trash compliant. If you go out there right now, there's a big roll off dumpster. That dumpster's now about three quarters full. There's some sort of big clean up going on out there. When I was there the lady in the house wouldn't answer the door. I didn't get to talk to anybody about what was going on. Planning Commission did not meet last month. But we will meet the next month, the second Monday, to do an organizational meeting. We got a complaint that came through the police department about garbage in Mr. Watson's garbage truck. It's accumulating rats around it. My colleague at the health department is looking at that. I'm going to go out secondarily. It seems like people are in a habit when the trash truck wasn't running to go over and throw garbage in it because when he got it running, he would take it off. Well it hasn't been running for a long time and people have still been throwing trash in it. We are going to go look at that health department wise and then I'm going to go out as well and make sure we are ok on that. The last thing is do you want to schedule an annual meeting again. I think that the last couple of years those have been quite helpful for me. If you would like to meet again this year, I would be more than happy to meet with you again. Paula stated sure. I don't see why not. If they are helpful to you, they are helpful to us as well. Jonathan asked do we need to. Tim stated I'm thinking right now things have been going very good myself. Paula asked do you want to meet with us for any reason. Matt answered if the direction is the same as it has been in the last two years. If you need me to switch directions, you let me know. Property across the street from the Hawcreek Missionary Baptist Church, he has cleaned up a little. He has positioned some of those trailers where I cannot see the license plate anymore. I'm going to have to see if he will let me get back in the backyard. He's done a slight clean up. It's not anywhere where we need it to be so we're going to keep after him. Tim said when you are Cindy meet, I assume you are going to make yourself a sheet of where everything is at. If you do, is that something you can forward to us so we just know where everything stands as far as where it's at in the pipeline. Matt agreed. Greg asked the property on South Street, the steel working place up there, again one day last week between 8:00 and 8:30 there was a tractor trailer up there. They're out there unloading with a fork lift and traffic backed up. We've got steel three feet from the road. I know you went up there. Do we have anything as an ordinance. Matt answered they have to keep it out of the right away. Greg stated it's not working. Discussion. Steve Robertson stated there was right away purchased when South Street was redone so there is documented right away. Typically I'm pretty sure I agree with Matt, it's the fence for Premier Ag and I

think there might be a power pole. David Clouse stated Duke Energy moved the pole and we moved the street sign because they were saying if those were out of the way, they could maybe get off the road when unloading. They've still got so much steel out there they can't right now anyway. Larry Simpson stated I had a consumer complaint in the paper about city trash service. So they have been out of commission for a while. David stated since March. Larry asked so are people leaving their trash along the curb or have people made alternative arrangements. David stated yes. Most people has got a different company. They are still doing our town square. Discussion. Larry asked has there been any movement on the house over by where they live or a couple of blocks down where an out of state owner was willing to just get rid of. Matt stated I haven't heard anything back from them. That is one of the ones that's on mine and Cindy's list.

**HOH**

Nothing to report.

#### **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Chad stated I've been in communication with Columbus Visitor's Center. Just to remind you of the background; Columbus Visitor's Center is the one that got 30% of the roughly 1.3 million in Inn Keeper's Tax. They had said they would set aside \$40,000 for us. They were supposed to decide on how we can apply for that in December. We didn't hear anything. In their January meeting, I got an email that \$40,000 has been set aside for a satellite operation of the Columbus Visitor's Center. When I questioned if that was the only funding that was available to us just for a satellite operation, I got an email response but it never addressed my question. It just said that they were now going to talk about that and decide it at their February meeting. So I feel like we are kind of getting pushed off a little bit there. As results, I've come up with an idea to do some fund raising so we can have money for advertising and for all the events in this area. I'm going to be calling an emergency meeting of our board either this week or next week and get that to our board for them to vote on and probably Larry get with you and The Republic so we can get some publicity on that for the fund raising. I think we are going to have to do a little more on our own. Be more proactive. Columbus Visitor's Center is kind of dragging their feet a little bit. Tim asked are they allowing you to come down to their meeting to address them about it. Chad answered no. I was just told they would get back with us when they met in February.

Paula read the report from the Welcome Center. The Hope Area Welcome Center had significant traffic during the holidays. Many visitors stopped in on their way to and from holiday destinations. Some of the cities represented were Louisville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Shelbyville.

We have adopted new hours to accommodate our staff going to a one person staff. Shelley Lange resigned on December 14. Her last day was on December 20. We all would like to thank Shelley for the time she gave to the Hope Area Welcome Center and we all wish her the best. Shelley's reasons for resigning had to do with her family's needs. New Hours: MTTHF-9:30-5:00, WED- 9:30-1:00. These are considered our winter hours. Saturday hours will resume again in mid-April unless there is an event on the square. If this is the case we will be open during an event. Of course, these hours could fluctuate depending on meeting times, extreme cold or snow, etc. Please call 546-HOPE if you are unsure of our hours.

The Hope Area Welcome Center contacted the Columbus Visitor's Center regarding monies we were told was available to us. Lynn Lucas has responded by informing us that a process has not been put in place yet concerning this money. They are planning to discuss it at their February meeting. We are staying in close contact hoping to apply for advertising money for all events that we are aware of taking place in Hope.

The 2014 Festival Guides have arrived. Many visitors have already picked theirs up. The Winter Travel Indiana, Discover Columbus and The Country Register are available as well.

We would like to remind everyone that the Lion's Club Community Calendars are available at the Welcome Center if you have not picked yours up.

Events coming up in February are Chillin' For Chase's Comrades Fundraiser February 1st. This will take place at Hauser's field house and cafeteria from 11:00-3:00.

Letters of Forgiveness, a play adaptation of Rena Blake Dillman's book Forgiveness will be held at Strawberry Fields on February 13 through 15 from 6:30-8:30. The play is directed by Pete Law and David Webster. This is a dinner theater event and reservations are required. The cost is \$20.00 per person.

Please make sure to like us on Facebook. As always, we appreciate the support of the town of Hope and the council. Respectfully, Lori Robertson

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Bruce stated I noticed the building we've got our doors up, it looks like all the windows and entry doors are all up now. Ed could probably help us with more information. He's up there keeping an eye on it every day for us. We are right now in the process of getting the apparatus all service tested. That's something we do annually for our ISO rating. It's also if you have a piece of fire apparatus break down on you on the scene, it gets kind of crazy. This takes care of all that. It's pumped at its rated capacity for an hour and with doing that it pretty well shows if there is any problems at all. We've got some guys that do this for us. They've done our maintenance for years. We're really satisfied with them. If we could, we would like half a block shut off so we can do our pump test. They've got their own set up with dunk tanks and everything. The old Dunlap property, we're service testing over there but for some reason they want to do it here on station. That's what we've been doing the last few years. That's what they like to do. We've had other people come in and did that. We used our facility over at the old ice plant. They're doing the maintenance on everything right now. The pump tests should be in the next few days if we could shut at least half a block off for their testing. Council agreed. Greg stated coordinate with Matt. Bruce stated speaking for the Fire Department Auxiliary I would like to thank the town for use of the town hall on Saturday for photo shots that they had and we are going to need to use it again for about three hours, I've already cleared it with the clerk treasurer, on the 31<sup>st</sup> so people can come in and look at their prints. Thank you so much from the Ladies Auxiliary. The Ladies Auxiliary is my wife and my daughter. Paula stated you're welcome.

#### **CLERK TREASURER**

Diane stated I do have one thing. Our medical insurance has been switched to United HealthCare and with that Carolyn with SIHO suggest that we do a three month run out for HRA payment of claims. This

allows members to submit claims up to ninety days for the dates of service for 2013, to get their reimbursement. It's \$3.00 per member per month. It looks like we have eighteen members on SIHO. It will be \$54.00 per month which I think is pretty minimal for the ninety days. The council nodded approval.

#### REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

No reports.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

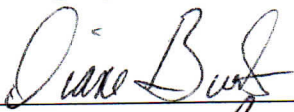
None.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT


Paula stated one other thing. I had Diane print up a signature sheet for David and Matt to give to their employees after they read the Random Drug Testing Policy then you can keep that on file and we can move ahead with my next step.

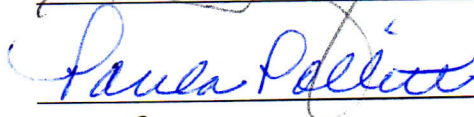
Larry Simpson stated I have tickets to the annual county dinner through the extension office. It's always a good time. It's on February 6<sup>th</sup>. You will see a lot of people that you know. A lot of county people are there as well. It's a chance to rub elbows and eat some good food. See the program about what the extension of soil and water have planned. What they've achieved this year and what they're planning for the next year. Who knows we may have another farmer of the year from our neck of the woods. That would be great. If you would like any tickets, please come see us at the paper.

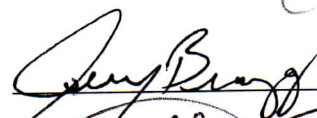
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

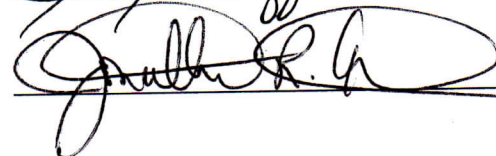
  
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