

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 5:30 p.m. on November 16, 2015.

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 3/16

Clyde made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Greg seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

Greg made a motion for the approval of the claims. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0. Diane stated I do have two separate claims I would like to request a motion on. One is from Nading Mechanical and it's for the final invoice for the change order in the amount of \$5,045.00. We need to disburse because the grant will have to be closed out by December 18th. I didn't receive this invoice until Friday. Clyde asked who was responsible for the bricks to make the necessary corrections. Randy Sims stated they were supposed to be changed. He will follow up on them. **Greg made a motion to approve the claim to Nading Mechanical in the amount of \$5,045. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Diane stated the other one is for the fire department. We're still trying to work through, and I sent you an email on this as well, proof of payment and some more detailed invoices. I'm requesting a blanket of \$37,591.96. I will not disburse until all of that has been provided. Clyde asked you have fund raisers listed here for \$4,229.99. Fund raisers is what is supposed to bring you in money. Diane stated it was their cost of the fund raisers. Diane asked Clyde if he would like to see the file. Clyde answered no. **Ohmer made a motion to disburse \$37,591.96 to the fire department. Clyde seconded.** Greg asked with what Clyde is talking about is the proceeds or the profit. Has that been received. I assume that \$4,000 was for the fish fry. Adam confirmed. Greg asked wouldn't that money pay that bill instead of tax payers money. Clyde stated that was what I was getting at. Diane asked is that a category on the MOU. Jonathan stated no. Adam stated we weren't sure on that one so we turned it in to see if you would be willing to. Ohmer asked about attorney fees. Didn't we agree to pay \$3,000? Jonathan confirmed. He said that may come later. This is just the current. Clyde asked you are saying this is a blanket right now right. It has not been put into any categories. Diane answered it is in categories but it has not been entered. A check has not been cut. I'm actually planning to do it per category or however they end up submitting the proof of payment. It is not an issue at all to take out the fund raisers. Diane pulled the MOU. Diane stated you can say it is supplies but I totally hear what you're saying as far as that is an expense for the fund raiser. I really wasn't thinking of it that way. Linda Bair asked if the town sponsored the fish fry or the fire department. Jonathan answered the most recent one was the area fire departments. Jerry stated I look at it like it is a fund raiser you're putting on. When you get in your profit, you take out what it cost you to put it on. Jonathan stated I think what Clyde is saying is we don't approve that aspect but that money would still be there for something else. Clyde confirmed. Diane stated my opinion is I think it would be

better to lower it. All these categories are accounted for by receipts that were provided. Any new invoices I would just assume come through the next cycle. **The motion was denied 1/4.** Linda asked just for clarification if you don't use the money that is in this pot for reimbursement for the cost of fund raiser, that \$4,000 can theoretically be used for some kind of equipment that the fire department needed. Jonathan confirmed. Chris Ogle stated I think that's the way to look at it. I think it's a matter of perception. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the claims submitted by the Fire Department excluding the fund raiser for a total of \$33,361.97. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

OLD BUSINESS:

PROJECT REPORTS

Water Systems Improvement Project

Trena Carter stated we are getting ready for the loan preclosing on Thursday. Those attending will be Carrie and Trena from Ara and Mel and Diane from the town.

Ryan, Strand, stated we sent out the certified bid tabs for review. Before this would go to official closing, we have to find out which project you want to proceed with. We have the base bid and the two alternatives. SRF has approved it at the maximum amount. Tony stated the first alternative was the deductive one. We put that in incase the quotes came in high. The bids came in very reasonable. The second alternative was an add alternative. Tony explained this alternative would allow a contractor to do hot taps on water mains. Ryan stated the low bidder was Lykins Contracting. Their base bid was \$1,866,560. Our Engineer's estimate was about \$2,250,000. With alternative bid #2, the total would be \$2,074,585. Alternative bid #1, basically milling & surfacing of the roads once they get done, was a deduct \$269,540. Tony stated what we are looking for tonight is which way the town council is leaning. Buzz needs to know which alternative, #1, both or neither so he can finish up his numbers. Clyde asked David what he thought. David stated it's a lot of money but boil advisories are pretty involved too. Tony stated their intention if it came in favorable enough was to recommend to you guys to do alternative #2. Tony stated at the next town council meeting they will request the council to award to Lykins. This must be done after the loan closing which is on December 3rd. The council agreed on alternative #2. Linda Bair asked what the life expectancy was for this project. Tony answered the pipe itself around 75 years. There are some valves involved. They may only be around 40 to 50 years.

Park Project

Trena stated the park project is wrapping up. We will, hopefully after this meeting, have final claims and checks and will be able to submit the final draw. They will have to be submitted before December 18th. That is the end date for the grant.

Housing OOR

Trena stated we have begun the close-out process.

The Department of Tourism Development

Trena stated we will find out in December about the marketing asset grant.

Fire Department

Trena stated I'm working with Chad Emmitt, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department. We've received notification that the FEMA, Department of Homeland Security Funding for assistance to firefighters grant will open sometime soon.

UPDATES/REPORTS

Contracting and Nepotism Policy Forms

Cindy Boll stated as elected officials each of you plus the Clerk Treasurer are required to fill out a form, two for each of you. One saying that you are in compliance with the contracting with a governmental unit policy and one saying that you are compliant with the nepotism policy involving direct line supervision. All of this came about with a change in the law in 2012. I have a folder with a copy of ordinance we did back in 2012, a copy of the ordinance the town adopted and the forms that need to be signed. They need to be signed and returned to Jonathan as President by December 31st. He has a state form that he will need to complete. I will remind you at the next month's meeting as well. Jonathan stated my plan is because it has to be done by the end of the year, you can sign it anytime between now and the December meeting.

Eastern Bartholomew Water Corporation Agreement

Cindy stated there was a revised amendment to the agreement between the town of Hope, Indiana and Eastern Bartholomew Water Corporation. It made a few changes from what you would have received last week. A summary of the changes are: On page 3 the flow rate was amended to \$2.45 per 1,000 gallons. In the prior version it was \$2.39. There were some grammatical changes. On page 6, paragraph 6 there was some language that was changed to reflect the United States Department of Agricultural/Rural Development as needing to be the entity to look at this, before it was FHA. Cindy asked for approval from the council. Tony added we will need to have it approved prior to loan closing.

Greg made a motion to approve the agreement. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

Water Systems Improvement Project

Cindy stated the other part that has been keeping us really busy is as Trena, Ryan and Tony have talked about, the preclosing for the bond issuance is this Thursday. Cindy stated she had lot of documents from Ice Miller that Jonathan and Diane will need to sign after the meeting as well as some documentation from the clerk treasurer. She asked Trena to stay as well. She will then Fed Ex them up to Patty, Ice Miller, so she has a chance to review it prior to preclosing.

SEWER ADJUSTMENT REQUEST FROM LINDA BAIR

Jonathan stated we have been asked by Linda Bair to consider making some adjustments to sewer rates. Hopefully you've had some time to consider that and a chance to look over that information. We can discuss tonight and put it to bed or we can ask Cindy to proceed with rewriting the ordinance. Ohmer stated I know it's an emotional issue. We talked about swimming pools. We talked about gardening. Everybody has a hobby. I really don't see a need for an adjustment. Jerry asked how it would be tracked. The process was discussed. Chris Ogle explained their process. Their software figures theirs. It is an automatic deduction in the sewer rate. Discussion. Greg stated this is a summertime thing. I would like to see it discussed at our next working session. David suggested Buzz look at it and see how that will affect wastewater. Linda suggested it be for who requested it. David stated he didn't think it could work that way. Linda stated people have to ask for the adjustment for swimming pools and leaks. Clyde stated

I did some studies of their water consumption for the year of 2014 and 2015 as a comparison. In 2014, from April 30th to October 30th she paid \$235.11 for wastewater. In 2015 she spent \$268.93. She actually only spent \$33.19 more this year than she did last year. Linda said but these have both been drought years. You are not going to get an accurate indication of that unless you go back 5 to 7 year period. Clyde stated we can't control water flow. To change an ordinance and creating a can of worms, I can't see that. Jonathan summarized, we have 2 that don't want to proceed and we have 2 that want's Buzz to look at the numbers. The council agreed to have Buzz look at the numbers. Clyde added as long as he understands we have to do it for everybody. Jonathan will contact Buzz and ask for written documentation. We will address it before summer. Linda ask if they could go back and look in the 90s when they did have an ordinance. Linda said it was not across the board. Jonathan answered I think based on current state ordinance, we can't differentiate on that but I will check. Linda stated but you can say you can't put in a well.

NEW BUSINESS:

HEALTH INSURANCE

Dental/Vision

Lisa Kelly stated the dental and vision policy renews December 1st. Right now it is with Siho. The first page is the renewal proposal and benefit summary. It shows the current rates and the renewal rates for over 20 and under 20 for both dental & vision. The rate changes are as follows:

	Current Rates	Renewal Rates
Under 20 Years of Age for Dental	\$27.70	\$28.81
Age 20 and Older for Dental	\$25.57	\$26.59
Under 20 Years of Age for Vision	\$ 4.47	\$ 4.65
Age 20 and Older for Vision	\$ 6.36	\$ 6.61

Lisa stated there are no change in plans. The total premium for dental is going from \$411.25 to \$427.66. The total premium for vision is going from \$99.87 to \$103.80 for everyone that is on the plan. Lisa stated she did shop it with several carriers and no one was competitive with Siho. Lisa gave the council packets that had details of the plans.

Health Insurance

Lisa stated our health insurance policy renews January 1st. Lisa referred the council to the renewal review that United HealthCare sent out. Lisa stated the current plan is a \$1500 deductible with no out of network benefits. That's what they have been on for a couple of years. Out of pocket maximum is \$6,250 per year. The total premium right now for everyone that is on the plan is \$5,375. They are no longer offering that plan. The plan suggested by United Healthcare is a \$1500 deductible however if you look at the out of pocket, they bumped it up on us which I don't like. The other thing I don't like if you look at the coinsurance, before it was 80/20 now it is a 60/40 split. I don't think it is a fair trade. The premium is \$5,367.02. The premium is about the same but the plan is not great. We did not have an increase in the life AD&D that we have on employees and dependents. Exhibit II has detailed information on what United Healthcare was recommending. Lisa stated again that this is not what she is recommending. Lisa referred the council to Exhibit III. The two plans that Lisa recommended were AD-XB and AD-VA. Lisa went over the differences in the two plans. Some of the highlights are: The AD-VA

will have the same \$1500 deductible with no out of network benefits which is what the current plan provides. The monthly premium will be \$6,320.29. The AD-XB has a \$2,000 deductible but offers out of network benefits. It is a 50% out of network benefit. The monthly premium will be \$5,461.95. Linda asked if these were the premiums that the town is paying. Lisa stated there is an employee contribution. The employee contribution is: \$9 single, \$13.50 employee & dependent, \$15 employee & spouse, \$17.50 family. Lisa stated the market survey results, I shopped a couple other carriers matching the plans I am suggesting as close as I could. Anthem came in at \$8300 and Siho came in at \$7,000. Jonathan stated we have a couple of options here. The Dental and the Vision we need to approve tonight because of the timetable on the renewal. The health we have these figures here that we can go ahead and review on our own. We can vote on that at the December meeting. Lisa left the council additional, more detailed information that they could review on their own prior to the next meeting. Jonathan stated I will feel more comfortable if I had more time to review it. The council agreed.

Clyde made motion to approve the Dental/Vision Renewal. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

SALARY ORDINANCE

Diane prepared salary ordinances for the council with options of a 2% and a 3% increase. Diane stated I do have a couple of suggestions which was emailed to you as well. The suggestions were: An increase for the Deputy Clerk Treasurer from the range of \$8.40 - \$11.20 to \$8.49 - \$12.51 plus either the 2% or 3% increase, additional premium for the Council Present of \$50 to \$100 per quarter and an increase for the Animal Control Officer. There was discussion on the Animal Control Officer's salary and duties. Matt Tallent stated he was going to check around with other towns Hope's size to see what they pay their Animal Control Officer. Clyde suggested paying the Animal Control Officer an hourly rate of \$8.00 to \$8.25. Ohmer suggested possibly having a minimum if they have to go out on a call. Matt explained what takes the most time is the maintenance of the kennel and the care for the animals in the kennel. He is going to try to break down what time on average is actually spent hourly, weekly. Jonathan stated for the record Salary Ordinance #2015-07, ordinance establishing the compensation of officers and employees of the town of Hope, Bartholomew County, Indiana for the year 2016; Compensation for officers and Employees. It lists each of the sections and how to fund it. There are two options presented, a 2% increase and a 3% increase. Clyde questioned the process of giving percent increases. Jonathan explained the council decided a couple of years ago that giving a percent is really the best practice to focus on the position and not the person in the position. Clyde questioned if raises should be given this year since Social Security did not give increases and cost of living is based on Social Security. Discussion. Clyde also brought up insurance costs and questioned if the employees portion should be increased. Jonathan stated for our perspective, we felt that was a good benefit keeping that low. Clyde stated he did not have a problem with that but had concerns for the budget. Jonathan asked Diane if our budget can support a 2% or 3% increase. Diane confirmed. 5% was actually budgeted so there is a cushion and funding is available for whichever increase is decided upon. The council will review what was presented. They will have the second reading at the next council meeting. A copy of the salary ordinances are available to review at the Clerk Treasurer's Office.

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.

Bruce Neal stated thanks to the utility people for the leaf pickup. I appreciate that. Thank you to the council members who came by for our fish fry. We had well over 3,000 people come through who purchased food and made donations. The county fire departments were there to support us. It was a good day for the fire department.

David Clouse stated number five on my report regarding turn on and shut offs (price increase). Is that anything you want to reconsider. The consensus of the council was to leave it the way it is.

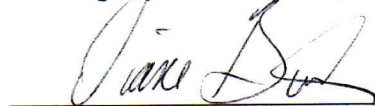
Clyde Compton stated he wanted to thank the Baptist Church for their community Thanksgiving dinner. I think that is awesome of not just doing it within their church. They invited everybody in the town. There was a quite a turn out. I would like to thank them for that.

Clyde Compton also stated I don't think they get quite enough credit but the Hauser girl's volleyball team this year won an incredible 34 and 2. Once they lost, it seemed like it was forgotten. That is totally incredible and I think they need a round of applause for that. Everyone applauded.

Mel Fox said Friday is the Christmas of Yesteryear. Also, this weekend if you haven't seen it, the play, Dearly Departed, by our local theatre group is fantastic. Our Facebook posts this past week reached 31,000 people. I think some of that was because of Greg's granddaughter signing with Indiana State and the found Great Dane. This community is animal friendly.

Clyde Compton stated one more thing, the town clock looks absolutely gorgeous. Jonathan stated well done Randy and everyone else. Randy added Michael. Mel added Randy came up with the idea of the brick project. We sold three more this afternoon.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



Attest

