

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 6:00 p.m. on January 11, 2018.

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ed Johnson.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Shannon Hinton, Bartholomew County Emergency Management Director, spoke regarding the Emergency Management System. Every five years we are required to update the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and have the Council sign that. The update was completed in 2017 and was adopted by the County Commissioner as well as the City of Columbus. They have asked the Town of Hope and the Town of Jonesville to adopt it as well because we participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. They would like for us to look it over. If we agree to participate it makes mitigation money available as well as FEMA funds if we have a disaster. Ohmer asked, after our 100 year flood in 2008 that there was a knee-jerk reaction from a committee to change the flood map and a lot of places are considered floodplain and they might not necessarily be. When will that be revised, how often is it revised and who revises it? Shannon replied that she doesn't have the answer for all those. As far as how often it is updated without checking with the team that does that. He would need to contact the Planning Department with the City of Columbus. Some of that information could also come from DNR. As far as how often or if there are errors, there is a process to go through and review those. I'm not exactly sure of the process. I've heard of it but I've never seen it or been through it. There is a process to correct those if there is an error. Ohmer said he has talked to people who have been through it and sometimes it's cheaper just to pay the flood insurance than to pay the expense. Shannon said she has heard that as well. Shannon indicated that she knows Brown County did go through some of that in trying to update their flood maps. Ohmer said he knows people in this area who have had experiences that are uncomfortable and are being forced to carry flood insurance. Shannon asked if they have double checked to make sure they are in a flood area. Ohmer indicated they had a ditch running behind their house. Shannon reiterated that she does not have all the answers tonight but it's something they can look into. That's the best she can tell us right now. David Clouse said he might be able to answer some of those questions. Town Council approves what's in the town. Matt Galbraith, Building and Zoning at the time, went through all that and he had a chance to say how it wasn't right and everybody agreed with him. David said, you might be talking about out of town. Ohmer agreed, he was talking about out of town. Shannon indicated that she would leave a copy for Diane. Diane has the original for signatures.

UTILITIES SUPERINTENDENT SALARY:

JT Doane stated, as you recall, back on October 17th the Council approved the salary ordinance for a 2% increase in the range. It is my recommendation for Utility Superintendent David Clouse that we increase his salary by 3% which will add an additional \$1,697.52 to his annual salary. His annual salary will then be \$58,281.66.

TOWN MARSHAL SALARY:

JT Doane stated it is my recommendation that Matt Tallent also receive a 3% which would add an additional \$1,697.52 to his annual salary. His annual salary will then be \$58,281.66.

BUILDING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR SALARY:

JT Doane stated he would recommend that Greg Potts receive a 3% increase which would be \$178.60 added to annual salary. His annual salary will then be \$6,131.92.

Ohmer asked Diane if she is the one who sets Debbie's salary. Nellie asked if the Council had set her salary in the past. Diane replied, no, that the supervisors set the salaries of their employees. Ohmer asked if the Council can make recommendations. Diane replied, yes, I don't see a problem with that. Ohmer continued, that based on the fact that her workload has increased considerably, I think she should be at the top of her pay range. Nellie asked if Debbie was making less than Michele. Diane indicated that that was not correct. Diane responded that the Deputy is a higher level, but, no, that is not correct, Debbie is making more. Ohmer said that because of her responsibility he thinks she deserves more. Nellie wanted to know if we could make an ordinance where we do these ourselves. What would it take to do that, where the Town went back to setting these amounts themselves? Cindy replied that it would be a bit of an involved process. She said there was a lot of conversation at the time years ago and that's why it was changed. Tim Shoaf asked the Council does set the range of the salaries, does it not? Diane replied, yes.

TOWN MANAGER SALARY:

Ed Johnson stated everything so far has been a 3%. Ed asked JT for his current salary. JT replied \$53,000. Ohmer asked what a 3% increase would take his salary to. Diane replied that would be an increase of \$1,590 per year making his new salary \$54,590.00.

Nellie asked if they wanted to wait to change the minimum/maximum for Debbie, the Utilities Clerk. Ed Johnson asked, what do we need to do? Can we set that at a regular meeting? Cindy replied that it was part of your ordinance. Diane asked are you saying you want to change it from the salary ordinance that was done in October. Ohmer said he didn't know if he wanted to change it but he would like to see her get compensated for the work that she does. I realize you have two people that under you and I am sure Michele is a good worker but I don't know that she has the work load that Debbie does. Diane asked if he was comparing the two. Ohmer said he's not comparing them because I don't know what the one does, but I know what Debbie is doing. Nellie said, so we need to do an ordinance for this, right? If that's what we want to change? Cindy replied that you would need to amend an ordinance that was adopted in October. Jerry Bragg replied, that's why we have it set up the way we do. We set the range. She is her supervisor. She knows what each and every one does. That's why we have it the way we do. She knows the load of each and every one and that's how I see it. Nellie replied, but her load changed. Diane said that Debbie did get a very nice increase last year. That was suggested when

the market analysis was done. Ed Johnson said, you are going to have to bear with us because I'm going to stumble a lot. It's a learning curve. Nellie said, if we are asking and discussing, then maybe we will get it right then. Ohmer said we will figure it out this year and then we will know what we're doing next year.

2018 PLAN COMMISSION

JT explained that the Town Council appoints two government members and the Building and Zoning Administrator. Those would be three of the seven. Then how it's set up in the ordinance is that the president appoints four citizen members and no more than two of the citizen members can be of the same political party. The 2017 plan commission consisted of the following: liaison from the County Plan Commission was Rick Flohr. Cindy indicated that he will be the County Plan Commissioner again this year. In terms of the other members who served last year, two government members were Ed Johnson and Ohmer Miller, Building and Zoning Administrator was Greg Potts and the four citizen members were Randy Sims, Mary Bragg, John Walstead and Mike Nading. Ed Johnson the attendance of some of the members. This was discussed. Ohmer asked, how many of those meetings do you have. JT replied there were three. JT said, there were a few names who came through social media and a gentleman came by town hall. They didn't really specify what committee they were interested in. They were just interested in serving. Those three individuals were: Jason Eckhart, 6413 N SR 9, Brandon Green responded through Facebook, and Herby Asher. Nellie asked if Jason Eckart lived within the city limits. It was determined that he is outside the city limits. Nellie said that to keep in mind that Randy Sims is on the Plan Commission and he is also on Board of Zoning Appeals. He is someone who knows what's going on.

2018 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

JT stated that ordinance states that one member must be on the Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. The 2017 Board of Zoning Appeals consisted of the following: Council member Nellie Meek, Building and Zoning Administrator, Greg Potts, Randy Sims, Matt Hill, and Amee Taylor. Amee Taylor did send an email back and indicated she did not have an interest in continuing. Nellie said we never had a meeting. It might meet every 3 or 4 years. Ed said, if she doesn't want to be on the committee, we aren't going to put her back on. Ohmer asked if she had interest in being on any other committee. JT replied that her email was regarding Zoning and Appeals so she very well may have interest in others. Ed said that Matt Hill talked to him at a basketball game about serving, so he is interested in staying on.

PERSONELL COMMITTEE

JT read the current members:

Matt Tallent

David Clouse

JT Doane

Brenda Tallent

Diane Burton

STORM WATER COMMITTEE

JT said there were some other names that were out there and he will let David give a little background on this committee. David said we have not met in 11 ½ years that I have been here. I think it's only for if

someone wants to appeal their storm water assessments on their taxes and we have not had to deal with that.

STORM WATER COMMITTEE

JT read the current members:

David Clouse

Gary Bailey

WELLHEAD COMMITTEE

JT read the current members:

David Clouse

Steve Robertson

Ed said he and David have talked about this. We are down to one wellhead. It has been recommended to Dave that we continue to keep the Wellhead Committee and I think we ought to add to it that you are the representative to the Eastern Bartholomew Water Company. JT asked Ed if he knew if Steve is interested. The last thing he heard is that he was trying to get off of several committees. JT asked David to confirm with Steve whether he wants to continue. David agreed.

Nellie asked Pam about someone she had recommended named Isaac Emch. She said he works at Cummins.

EDIT COMMITTEE

JT read the current members:

Dave Miller

Vicki Tedder

Clyde Compton

Ohmer Miller

Michele Clark

Ed said he has had some complaints that they felt like the people on it should be from within the town. That is the only thing that I have heard. Michele Clark, does she show up at the EDIT Meetings. Diane confirmed that she has only missed one. Nellie said that she doesn't think that any of the members, other than the council members, are from Hope. Ed said he has had several people voice concerns about that. The money should be directed by people in Hope for the people of Hope. I have no problem with any of them that is on the committee. Nellie said she didn't either, just thought it should be people from Hope. Nellie asked Pam if she had expressed interest in being on the committee and she confirmed.

Tim Shoaf stated I think ethically it should be composed with people within the town. Not accusing anyone of doing anything wrong. It just cleans things up. I know when that all that started. I fought that and I think it should get back to that. That's why I came tonight. It's a good time to clean it up with new appointments. Tim said he knows it's a strain to get people to serve.

EMERGENCY WARNING COMMITTEE

JT read the current members:

Matt Tallent

Brenda Tallent

Matt said the Emergency Warning Committee meets when something needs to happen with the tornado sirens. Ed asked if we are okay there. Matt said yes.

JT asked if he wanted to look at the Endowment Board. Ed said it is not up for reappointment this year. We only get one appointment and right now Diane is serving on that. She has one more year.

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

JT read the list of members.

Tim Shoaf

Jim Tedder

Matt Tallent

JT Doane

Diane Burton

Brenda Tallent

David Clouse

Ed asked Tim how much more planning and stuff do you have left on the committee before it gets down to where we have to get the money? Tim said he thinks they are prepared to make a presentation. We are going to have to have a plan to get to that. I think with this presentation, for the most part, we will be in a stagnant mode until some things can get set in line. We need to be ready to act because if some funding would miraculously come available somewhere else that could change things. At least the ground work has been laid. I think we are getting ready to present something. Ed said he has been on here a year and nothing has been presented. Tim said they don't want to present something with a lot of open ends. Ed asked if we owed anyone any money for work that has been done. Tim said no. At the onset, with Trena's guidance, we purposefully have went as far as we could without committing money because we didn't want to get in a financial burden. There were some earlier expenditures but we did it in a process that will qualify us so we don't have to go back and start from scratch. Mainly researching what we need.

ECONOMIC GROWTH TASK FORCE

JT read the current members:

Superintendent Sean Price

Rachel Thayer, teaches at the school

John Walstead

Tom Miller

JT Doane

Ed asked JT about the Economic Growth Task Force that he has appointed. JT said they will have a meeting in March. The last time we met the focus was on the senior living community. They asked if Tom Miller was on the committee and he confirmed he was for 2017. Nellie asked if new people are going on every year. JT confirmed. Nellie asked how many people do you think will be on there altogether. JT said five including me. Ohmer asked what the purpose of the task force was. JT said to meet and have some additional ideas and brainstorming on areas we looked at last year with the senior living community that was in the Comprehensive Plan. We engaged in some discussions with potential contractors and a land owner about wanting to sell some property. That was just one area we were looking at for economic development.

TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATION

Cindy Boll stated I am just here and I can help you select new counsel. She will be happy to download as much information as she can to the new person. A lot of it is learning on the job. Ed asked Cindy to compile a list. Cindy stated I will submit my list to you and you can pass it on to the rest of the council. Cindy said she has been practicing since 81. That is 37 years. She has been serving Hope since 1996. Cindy said there is value on getting a new set of eyes on things. It is a good opportunity for us.

Ed asked David about lights on Schaefer Drive and now at Hauser Drive all the way down past the school for lighting. David stated there are several things I need to meet with an engineer. That is one of them. JT said, lights on Schafer, Hauser Drive and what was the other? David said Liberty Place, that bridge area. Ed said it starts there and out there where you come out of Goshen Meadows on to 775. David said its dark as dark can be. Ed said especially after a game when you have kids and people walking in the middle of the road with dark clothes on. .

Nellie asked David, about how much money do we save by the gallons that we are saving. David stated about \$20,000 a year.

Tim stated one thing I would caution on is designing salary ordinance based on individual employees. It can come back to haunt you because that employee may not remain in that position and then all of a sudden you have a big salary ordinance. Tim said, I don't know what Debbie makes but when employees perform their supervisors keep them pretty much at the top of their salary ordinance anyway. We had that years ago when we started adjusting. Nellie said that when you have an employee who has stayed as long as she has then they should be getting a little something extra and she has taken on all this new work. Tim said that might be something to think about. Nellie said, you don't think that longevity does? Tim said, no. When you are in that range. Say if a person's job is to push chairs in, you expect those chairs to get pushed in and that's what that salary is for. If that person pushes them in better than anyone else, then they go to the top of that salary range. By the same token you can't say well, you are going to the bottom of the range. The job is expected to get done in that range and you can reward for the quality of the job within that range. I think when the town had the company come in to look over our salaries it gave a true balance. Sounds like they are finally getting realistic.

Shirley asked how a business gets added to the trash. JT answered they need to contact Debbie. The business is going to benefit from it because they are going to get a better rate. Hope Hardwoods is one

and also Norman Funeral Home who opted into it because of the savings. Ed stated he got a compliment from a couple who initially didn't like it. Jerry Bragg said a lot of people didn't like the change or feeling forced to pay money. Tim Shoaf said other towns have seen this and I have talked to people and they ask how do you get your trash picked up so cheap. Ed said some people still have Rumpke. Nellie said she heard that Rumpke said they weren't picking up anymore.

JoEllen Seiright said that Monday she had a recording that said we can't get there to get your trash because of the weather but we won't charge you and we will be there next Monday. When I was with them before, they picked up Monday. I called them back when it all changed over and I said charge me to the end and then I'm going with the town and they said fine. So, I called them the next day and I was still getting picked up twice and was paying you guys and them. So, I think a lot of people don't know anything about it. I thought I covered all my bases. Ed suggested she tell them to call Debbie and let her handle it. She said, this was mine and I took care of it.

JoEllen said one more thing, when Tim Thayer came with the rumors and Compton got mad at me and told me he would take care of it in an Executive Meeting, to hush up and go on, is that one of the things this meeting is for, because I think it needs to be looked into. Ed said, we are going to handle it. We are trying to do one step at a time.

Pam May said she would like to agree that the trash has been very good and very helpful. I wonder if we could ask the people if they would be willing to do something like waste recycling one Saturday a month. Just try it, maybe no one will participate. It would be better than hauling your stuff to Columbus. Ed stated he has talked to several people about that and there is a lot of interest in that. We are not going to pick it up at your house. You could maybe take it to the utility building or a spot someplace. It will have to be secured, otherwise you will have people dumping cars and tires, and tractors and people and everything else in the dumpsters. Matt Tallent added that the Community Center still has cardboard and paper recycling. Ed said he doesn't want to step on their toes. Chelsea Kindall clarified that it is open to the public but it gets abused. The Community Center pays for that out of our funding. That's something if we could say that it's open but not push people. Tim Shoaf stated they don't make anything off of it and so many times it is full. Was there any discussion or a possibility, like myself as a resident, do they have recycling at all, CGS, so I can opt to pay them to pick up there? JT said in their bid there was an option for recycling. Ed said it was \$1/month to get a container. Shirley said you can buy a roll of tags and you can put out big items. Tim said he's talking about recycling. He is willing to pay extra if it's an option. JT stated you can contact CGS directly. Jerry stated I would love to see a central recycling. Ed stated there are a few business owners are using bigger containers and are willing to go with CGS if they would do it. Tim asked, did I understand that they mentioned if people outside of Hope wanted trash pick-up they would give them a better rate since they are in our area? JT said they did say to contact them they would consider it. JT said that will be exclusively between them and CGS.

Chelsea shared that the annual meeting is February 15th at 6:00 p.m. It will be at the Moravian Church with a pulled pork dinner. Shirley said when Tim and I were on the Council the Community Center was on the agenda to give an update to the council. It was always welcome. It benefited the communication between the two.

Jerry stated we just have to keep moving forward. Ed stated he hopes that he has done a lot of soul searching. The thing I want to work for this year is that we have worked together as a board with the Town Manager and the Clerk Treasurer and we have answered a lot of questions that haven't been answered in the past and we are going to fly by the seat of our pants until we get settled in. Nellie added they are going to be very open about everything. Ed said we are going to give people a chance to talk as long as they are civil. We are not going to shut anyone off. Ed said that is the one complaint I have had in two years – I can't go do the town board because they won't listen to me. That's no reflection on any one person. Just one of those things that builds up over a period of time and I know that if you turn somebody loose at a mic they can talk for hours. We don't want that but we want everything above board and do it as a group. Nellie said we don't all have the same opinion of what is right and wrong but we respect opinions and you are right to say what you believe. Ed said we are all in this for one reason. We want to make Hope a place people want to live and where I want to live. I don't care who you are, if you are a millionaire or don't have ten cents in your pocket, everybody has the same thing, everybody needs to have a good place to live and you have to feel safe here.

Jerry Bragg closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Attest









