

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 August 17, 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.

Jonathan reminded everyone to have their phones silenced. He thanked Chris Ogle, County Council Member, for attending our meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 6/22 & 7/20

Greg made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Clyde 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

SECOND READING OF THE WATER RATE ORDINANCE 2015-04

Jonathan stated in consultation with our attorney and our grant writer, we have decided it would be best to table that until we have our public hearing on September 21st, our next council meeting. The Council agreed.

PROJECT UPDATES

DRINKING WATER PROJECT

Trena Carter stated as you know we have OCRA Funding. We have SRF Funding through Indiana Finance Authority. There will be an update later from Strand on where we stand on that project as far as going to bidding and that type of thing. Also the utility rate study where Buzz recommended the two phase increase, we will be having the public hearing on that and then the vote subsequent to that on the 21st agenda.

PARK PROJECT

Trena stated as you can well see the park project is very much under way. Actually getting closer to completion. There is a couple of items that will still need to be completed. It's my understanding that the clock may not be available until after Hope Heritage Days which you may be aware of already. The other item that we will need to do after the rest of the project is completed is the terraced sitting around the bandstand. Those are a couple of things that we'll need to make sure we get done before years end. The project expires mid-December. We want to make sure we get all the grant funds drawn prior to that.

TOWN HALL

Trena stated I was unable to attend the last Town Hall Committee Meeting. It is my understanding that Steve Robertson, with Strand Associates, said he will do some preliminary drawings to help with the cost estimate so we will be able to at least know where we stand as far as cost and then work towards the preliminary architectural report from that perspective. Tony stated we have started to work on that. We took the conceptual and put it into dimension drawings. We have a building contractor looking at the general costs per square foot. He is going to get me those numbers so we should have a range of cost, a range of materials. I was talking to Diane, hopefully we can get together later this week and go over some of the layout options that we have and go from there.

HOPE HOUSING OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB

Trena stated it's my understanding that all the homes have been completed. The only thing we are waiting for now is the State Inspection Officer needs to come out and do the final inspection. Then we will be able to wrap that up.

Jonathan stated I want to publically compliment Trena & Tony, from Strand, for the amount of time they have put into the water project and for their patience with me when I was late to a meeting. They were generous enough to wait on me. I think they have done a great job with the time table. We're extremely lucky to have you.

ELM STREET PROPERTY

Cindy Boll stated it's been another pretty busy month everyone. I do have a notice that's ready to be published for the Elm Street property. It has to be published before we can take bids on that property. I need to get with Mel and fill out some dates for how long it's going to be published and also when bids can be made and when the decision is going to be made. We're ready to go on that.

OHMER MILLER'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM

Cindy Boll stated I'm working with Ohmer on filling out his Conflict of Interest Form that needs to be filed in a couple of places. We are going to wrap that up tonight hopefully after the meeting.

PROPERTY UPDATES

Cindy stated we have the Davis property set for contempt hearing on September 17th in the morning. Any of you are more than happy to come. I believe it's at 9:30. I will make sure you all know. The complaint on the Huff property has been filed. We don't have a date yet on that.

VERIZON CONTRACT

Cindy stated we have just gotten our signatures needed on the Verizon contract. I will be sending that FedEx tomorrow to the attorney for Verizon in Indianapolis. So if you start seeing stuff going on with that and I know you'll probably be kind of busy with that too.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Cindy stated this was not on the agenda but I just wanted to mention that I don't know if you all get The Republic or not but the articles in the paper about social media and such are good reminder for all of us to be careful and circumspect with what we post on social media, twitter, Facebook because as I tell

everybody that comes in my office when it's appropriate, it's like putting a billboard on I65 and it's out there and it never comes back. Before you press that button think is this what I really want people to see about me and does it help the town of Hope is the other thing. The other thing I want to mention too is a reminder about emails. We had talked a bit about that last year. Ohmer I know you are new to the council and Clyde I'm not sure you were here then either but once again when you're emailing on behalf of the town, is this what I really want to say or more than I need to say. All of those kinds of things. If you have any questions about any of those, please give me a call. My advice always is if you have a question about it, don't push that button. Jonathan stated thank you for the reminder on that Cindy. I whole heartily agree with that working in the area of public education with high school students.

Jonathan stated I want to compliment Cindy, David and Strand for the work on that Verizon Contract. That has taken a long time but I have to tell you it was a thrill tonight finally signing the paperwork. Thank you and I think it shows the collaboration that goes a long way towards accomplishing things. David thank you for your part in that as well.

STORM WATER REPAIRS

Tony Akles, with Strand, stated we a couple of weeks ago walked all the areas that he talked about it. Last week we got everything surveyed. We're downloading the survey data to get an actual map of everything we need. We're putting together a report. The report will allow David and the town of Hope to actually go out to contractors to get bids. We're still looking to have that done by the end of this month so here in a couple of weeks. We will turn that over to David for his review and anybody else who wants to look at it. Any comments that you guys have we can take those into consideration and make any changes we need to the report to finalize it probably mid-September.

WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Ryan Mackos, with Strand, stated specification wise we're probably basically done with the specs of the project. On the drawings we're at 90 to 95% complete where it normally is to get permits. Tomorrow the IDEM permit now should be ready to go. We needed one more signature from Jonathan on that. Jonathan stated I got that. Ryan stated we've been in contact with INDOT to figure out what needs to be done regarding permits for the road bores that will be going underneath SR 9. We'll need four of them. At this point INDOT said they would prefer that we wait until the contractors have been identified for reasons regarding bonds. We are working with the county regarding the storm water and the right away permits along the county roads we'll be working on. Here this week we will get David a copy of the drawings to go over the next couple of weeks. If you have any comments that you guys would like to have changed prior to the bid.

NEW BUSINESS:

BCHS / REQUEST FOR HALLOWEEN EVENT

Anna Barnett stated I'm from the Bartholomew County Historical Society and we request that we can use the town square for a free Halloween event on Oct 24th. The public program will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. however we would like to be able to get onto the square at noon so that we can set up. We did this program last year as well. We probably had over 200 people from the community that came out and participated in the event. Yellow Trail Museum partnered with us and they did something inside their museum. We kind of used the half of the square that was closest to what was once Strawberry

Fields but if there is construction going on and we need to move over, we're happy to move wherever we are not going to be in the way. I know I need to get insurance in as soon as this is approved. We have the insurance ready to go. We'll get that to you. If the bandstand is not under construction, we would like to use it and the shelter house. Jonathan stated she would need to talk with Randy Sims about the bandstand. Anna stated and we will need electricity. She will contact Randy Sims. Jonathan asked David if we had any issues last year. David stated no. Anna stated last year we borrowed your cardboard trash cans and then we picked all the trash up and took it away which we'll do this year if we can borrow your cardboard trashcans. Jonathan asked if she knew who to contact with the Yellow Trail Museum. Anna confirmed. The Council granted permission for the event. Anna stated on Sept 3rd there will be an opening for the Rural Mail Carriers exhibit downtown in Columbus. The Yellow Trail Museum has all the rural mail carriers things now and they lent them to us so they can be on display while they are getting a new building. It's free to the public. I wanted to make the people of Hope aware of that. The posters are getting made. It is on Facebook and Diane Jekel was nice enough to share it with people. Do know that anybody is welcome to come to the opening on September 3rd and anytime the museum is open you're welcome to come see the exhibit. Jonathan asked for the time. Anna answered from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the 3rd and after that any time the museum is open. It will run through Thanksgiving. Jonathan thanked Anna and stated he thinks we have had a good relationship with you folks and we appreciate you wanting to continue. Anna agreed and stated you are just as an important part of the county as Columbus.

HOPE CHAMBER / REQUEST FOR ARTS AND ANTIQUES EVENT

Vickie Tedder stated I'm also asking for permission to use the town square on behalf of the Chamber. We are doing the Arts & Antiques again. We are going to probably be limited on what space we can use but we feel like that shouldn't be a problem to work around unless it's too bad. I don't know what the construction will be but we can always move elsewhere if we have to on the square. If the grounds are not good enough. The event is 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. We want to be there at 7:00 a.m. to let the vendors in that morning to set up. The date is August 30th on a Sunday morning. It's our 6th year of doing it. We'll mark our spots Saturday night. Randy Sims stated hopefully we'll have the grass growing by then. Jonathan stated having been to some of these I would highly recommend you all make it if you have never been to one. It's a neat day. The Council granted permission for the event.

LETTER TO TOWN COUNCIL CONCERNING HPD ESCORT

Bonnie Lawson stated I'm here today to discuss a slight that my sisters and I experienced on the morning of our mother's funeral. My mother, as most of you know, was Charlene Stapp and I'm referring to the fact that the Hope Police Department did not provide police escort from the funeral home to the Moravian Cemetery. To me this was very disrespectful. My father, Dee Stapp, served this town not only as the Town Marshal but as a Reserve Police Officer prior to that. No, I'm not saying that my mother should have had a police escort because of my father serviced this town. My mother also serviced the town as the Town Marshal, the first women to hold such a position in the state of Indiana, which alone should have afforded her respect. She was also a Police Dispatcher for numerous years here. My parents were known and loved in this town and dedicated a portion of their life to serving and protecting this community. Police Escort should have been a common courtesy and the lack thereof was definitely a slap in the face for my family. This simple lack of action is beyond my understanding. My sisters and I were deeply disappointed. If this is the way that you honor your former police officers, then

Hope should be ashamed. David Mann was there to represent the town of Edinburgh even though he never even worked with my mother when she worked there. I had been asked by Mel Fox if we requested an escort and no we hadn't. We felt like this should have been a no brainer for the police department. We are very deeply disappointed that wasn't provided for our mother. Jonathan replied thank you for sharing that with us.

EDIT REQUEST / HERITAGE OF HOPE FOR HERITAGE DAYS

Jerry Bragg stated we have a request from HOH for the 48th Heritage Days. They're requesting \$15,850 to help with the expense of putting on Heritage Days. We all discussed and we all recommended it. It was unanimous vote to help them with whatever we could help them with. Jonathan stated since this comes from our Edit Committee it does not require a second. We have been giving HOH sums of money each year to help with the festival. I think you can see there that Randy and the folks put together a nice itemized list for us. **Motion carries 5/0.**

BUDGET EXPENSES FOR 2016

Diane Burton stated the public hearing will actually be next month and then I will provide you with all the forms. Form 4Bs and all of that so you can see the revenue and everything together. Tonight I mainly just kind of want you to see what I am recommending. To see if you want to make any changes or if you have a different opinion on anything. I didn't really make a lot of changes. They are pretty standard throughout. I did increase liability insurance quite a bit because we did have that increase this year. That was increased \$5,000. I did make just a switch basically with telephone and computer purchase since we make that change this year with our computers. I'm not going to go through everything unless you have comments on something specific. The main thing I wanted to get your feedback on is for the Town Manager salary. I feel like it still needs to come from EDIT. We're still doing some work with water. Next year I will probably recommend we do 50% from EDIT and 50% split between general, water and sewer but I feel like this year that salary still needs to come from the EDIT Fund. That was mainly where I wanted to see if you are thinking the same thing on that or if there are anything you have questions on or feel like it needs to be different than what I have listed. Jonathan asked how soon would you like to have feedback from us as we kind of review this. Quite honestly I've just skimmed it. I haven't really gone into detail yet. To make your job easier, is there a timetable you would like us to either call you, email you or drop in with concerns. Diane answered I will get it to you a week prior to the meeting, all the revenue forms and everything. If you can get your comments to me prior to that. That way I can submit to everyone all the forms with any changes that would need to be in it. Clyde asked for a hard copy. Diane confirmed.

REQUESTS FOR TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE EXPENDITURES

Jonathan Titus stated Mel is not with us today she has been ill for a number of days but you should have received the information in regard to the technology upgrade and expenditures. This goes along with what we've been doing in trying to provide greater security for our data bases. We've all heard the stories of breaches on security and stuff like this. This is becoming standard. I did a little bit of research and the contracted amounts fall within the averages that you tend to find for municipalities of our size around the state. We're being told that we've been proactive in doing this. There are some that don't have things protected as they need to be at this point. On Mel's behalf I would recommend we go ahead and approve those expenditures so that we can maintain the integrity of system and make sure that we

have the IT support we need. Ohmer stated I think any time we can protect ourselves as far as these type of things go, it's to our best interest. It protects the community and the members of the community. **Ohmer made a motion we approve the recommendation. Clyde seconded.** John Clark asked how much we are talking. Diane Burton stated for the IT agreement \$450 monthly. Chris Ogle asked do you guys have your own IT or do you get any support from our guys on IT. Jonathan answered we have secured an outside contractor that we have been working with because of some past security questions. Diane stated for the Static IP \$107.80 I believe. The \$107.80 is with Comcast so it will be on the utility end as well as the town hall. **Motion carries 5/0.**

SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR MORE EDIT FUNDING/FLOWERS

Jonathan Titus stated the other request which I think you gentlemen saw is to use some EDIT funding to maintain our flowers that we have set up around the square, the beautification efforts that have been ongoing. Obviously that is something that was new this year. There were not sufficient funds budgeted for it. Really the options are we either use some edit funds or you would hope somebody would step forward and volunteer but that might not happen. I checked with some other communities around and in each case they are either paid employees of the town or paid community members that are taking care of it. When you drive through Shelbyville and see their beautiful flowers that is the situation. Greg asked David if anybody had approached him about a utility employee watering the flowers. David answered Rick did. He did it for the first six weeks or so. Greg clarified as a paid utility employee. Rick did it but he was paid from Edit. Did anybody approach you about a paid employee doing it. David confirmed. David stated there was talk about it. Greg stated to keep from using Edit money to do it and just an hourly employee doing it on the clock. David answered I remember Clyde said something about it. Clyde confirmed he brought of it. Clyde stated that answer I got is the town employees would not take care of the situation as well as whoever this other person is. Clyde asked how much is she requesting. Diane answered I believe it is \$1680.00. Greg clarified that's how much is needed for the rest of the year. Diane stated I don't think it will take that much but that is what she is requesting to be allowed. Clyde asked is that what it is for labor or flowers. Diane confirmed labor. Clyde asked the original amount. Diane answered I think it was close to \$7,000 but that was with flowers. Where she got this amount is, I think she emailed this to everyone, with the fact that the outside restrooms needed repaired. That is the amount she pulled from that appropriation to repair the outside restrooms so that's where that amount came from to put that back in there to water the flowers. This late in the season I don't think we will use all of that. David stated I was shortanded when she started this. Greg stated we don't want them to die. They have done good things to the appearance of the square. I just think next year going forward try to look at incorporating that in with someone that is on the job. Clyde asked if they use town equipment to do it. David answered yes, the gator. The wagon was purchased last year. They used Matt's gator last year. It is inconvenient sometimes with them using the gator but it's a trade off because they are picking up trash. Jonathan stated do you think that going forward that you could incorporate it into your schedule with the understanding that there would be times that if there is a leak. David answered that's the problem we've got something else to do and all of a sudden the flowers are dying. I hate to be responsible for that. I would really rather not have that on my plate. Ohmer asked if it will stop after Heritage Days. That will stop October 1st. David answered yes or at least you won't have to do it every day as the temperature drops. **Greg made motion to approve the \$1680 increase. Jerry seconded.** Chris Ogle asked who does mowing. Jonathan answered that's part of the utility department. Chris replied well that doesn't work. That's generally how it's handled is the mowing

crew handles it. Jonathan stated a lot of times we hire seasonal help. That allows David to have a few employees during the summer. Tim Shoaf stated it has looked real nice and we had a lot of compliments on the town with the flowers and everything. Over in Edinburgh I've noticed they've got some women that in the morning they work off to the side. They go around and take care of all the flowers. The other day they were pruning all the baskets back. That's what their job is. I assume they are just part time. Jonathan stated everywhere that I'm aware of Tim the town provides the equipment. Tim stated it does look nice around here. I've seen some before and after pictures posted. I didn't realize how bad it was looking until you see how good it looks now. **Motion carries 4/1.**

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Matt Tallent stated I would like to take \$3,791.33 from my general maintenance budget and move it to my equipment budget so I can use it to outfit the new Durango. Jonathan asked Diane, I assume this is not a problem. I assume you and Matt have already discussed these figures. Diane confirmed. Matt stated the Tahoe and the 08 Crown Vic, we have another law enforcement agency call us, the Mount Summit Police Department, they were using a 2002 Crown Victoria. That's all they had in their fleet. I sold both the Tahoe and the Crown Vic for \$2500.00 to Mount Summit after we got our equipment out of it. Diane stated unfortunately you can't just take those funds and use that. I wanted him to be sure and bring that up because he is bringing that in but it has to go into the General Fund and in order to pay for the other the transfer is needed. Jonathan stated thank you for the clarification because I know sometimes people think you can just take from here and do this and we know we can't. **Clyde made the motion to approve the transfer of funds. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Jonathan stated Michael Dean, Heritage of Hope, asked me if I would read this letter so it's in the record. The letter reads: To the park project contributors, as I have mentioned to some, the Verdin Company has offered us the opportunity to visit their headquarters and manufacturing site to see the Hope town clock in production. I am suggesting Wednesday, September 23, but the day before or after are also an option for Verdin. We would need to leave at 8:15 a.m. to allow for the drive from Hope to Cincinnati with an event starting time of about 10:00 a.m. The headquarters is downtown at Pendleton Street, Cincinnati Ohio and they have plenty of free parking available. The Verdin Company also makes large bells and it will be a part of the tour at the headquarters. Their offices are in an old church. They use one of the old education buildings as their offices and the old sanctuary is now 'The Bell Event Center', a large space for receptions and corporate meeting space. They have a number of historic bell and clock pieces on display in this space, along with restored paintings, stained glass, and organ pipes making this building an example of the history of Cincinnati. Typically one to one and a half hours is spent at the offices and then we go to the factory about six miles from downtown, Kellogg Avenue. Here we will see our clock, as well as other post-type clocks in various states of production. We will also see many bell, tower and clock projects – both new equipment and restorations of historic equipment. Typically a tour of the factory requires one to two hours. We can figure out a lunch plan, depending on the number of persons attending. Our contingent will be leaving Hope at 8:15, but the addresses were given about if you choose to travel on your own, attend only a portion of the tours or become separated from the group. The maximum number of visitors that can be accommodated is about 30 and I will need a head count before others are invited. Jonathan stated I read that into the record because some of you are present this evening. I won't read all the contributors but quite a few people in this room are contributors. If you would like to see the list of contributors, I have it incase Michael's maybe

accidentally forgot someone. But essentially he wanted to make sure you were all aware of this. I think he was trying to give everybody a copy of it. I do have a couple of copies if you would like to see it. Know that that invitation is standing.

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.

Jonathan stated I would once again, I've thanked Trena, I've thanked Cindy, I would like to thank all of our people, David and Matt and Mel's not here. I thought all the reports this time were an outstanding example of how proactive you've all been lately. That's a thrill for us. Some of us who has been around before when we weren't proactive and when we just responded. I think that's terrific. Some of the time you folks have been putting in. I'm amazed at the hours that you have put in to make things go smoothly. David, thank you. Thank your crew. Matt. I've spoken to Matt about it. Our Animal Control Officer will probably be here next meeting for those of you who have yet to meet her including those of you in the public. I can tell you I've heard nothing but positive comments via email, phone calls. People have been really happy with what she has been able to do so far.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Ogle asked is your guy's money the same as ours. Do you get a percentage of whatever the state gets back based on the total Edit money that comes in. Jonathan confirmed. Jonathan stated when we first established that, we established some ground rules on how we would try to spend it. We want it to be economic development and what we thought would work in our small town may not necessarily work somewhere else. We have focused it and members of our committee when they review requests, those items are checked. Does it fit the parameters that were set.

Nellie Meek stated I have something here I want to read. This is something that has really been bothering me for a good while. I've asked about it. I've checked with fire departments everywhere and asked do you guys have contracts or do you have MOUs. On Monday, August 17th I spoke to Indiana state Board of Accounts Director of Cities and Towns, Todd Caldwell in regard to an email sent to Randy Wood by Mel Fox. In the email Mel stated it was the State Board of Accounts that recommended the MOU, which is common practice for fire services. Mr. Caldwell said that would not be the case. He said they recommend a contract for services supporting protection. Towns that do not have their own town fire department use contracts, not an MOU. He said he could even give me the chapter and page of the Manual for Cities and Towns which supports what he told me. It is found in chapter 7, page 51-4. Mr. Caldwell said if someone from their office might have been in Hope and in the midst of a long conversation maybe someone mentioned an MOU, but not recommended. He didn't even know who might have talked with her about the difference of contract versus MOU. He said it is definitely not common practice for fire departments to use an MOU. Towns and Volunteer Fire Departments use contracts, as recommended by the State Board of Accounts. I told them that I was just a citizen of Hope. Jonathan thanked Nellie. Nellie stated I think if we can just get over this MOU. Diane stated I called the State Board of Accounts and I believe it was Todd that I spoke with. I will call and verify that. I am the one that called him on that and I believe I talked to you, Cindy, as well. With the situation going on, that's why I called the State Board of Accounts. Maybe it is because of the situation that they

recommended it not the normal practice but I am the one that called on that. Nellie stated the situation is nothing right now until January so there is nothing that is going to happen that hasn't already happened. I don't know what you told him and we would be interested to know that. Diane stated that's been a while back but I know I called him on that. Nellie stated I just wonder what you said that made a difference. You said it might be the circumstances. Diane answered the lawsuit. Nellie stated the lawsuit is not until January. As of this year nothing is going on. Jonathan stated Nellie can I assume you did not see my email reply this afternoon. Nellie answered that wasn't the same thing. Jonathan answered I know. Nellie stated that needs to be addressed also. Jonathan verified but you saw my reply. Nellie answered I did very fast. Jonathan stated I don't want to go into great detail tonight. Bruce, is it fair that I say that we have been in conversation. That we have had extensive meetings. Bruce and I feel like we are on the verge of working something out for the good of all. Nellie stated it's just this MOU, many of us have questioned this. We've asked what it is and how used for the fire department and we've been told by everyone and I think even you, I'm not sure where you were getting your information, that it was something that was common practice with fire departments and he said no it is not.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.



Attest









