

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 August 18, 2014.

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

6/16 Minutes

Greg made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

Greg made a motion for the approval of the claims. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

Diane stated I would also like to request the approval for a couple of claims that were not listed in the report. Two of them are for Napa. The water portion from appropriation 601001397 for parts in the amount of \$55.06. Also for Napa from sewer appropriation 606001397 for parts in the amount of \$30.81. For Major's True Value from water appropriation 601001211 for supplies in the amount of \$8.63. Total claims \$94.50. **Tim made a motion for the approval of the claims. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

PROJECT REPORTS:

Place Based Investment

Randy Sims stated they are getting quotes for the electrical. Trena asked Randy if he would be getting the quotes for the entire project. Randy confirmed. Trena stated we need to make sure you follow state regulatory requirements, state code. Since the money is coming through the town, we need to make sure everybody is on the same page. It might be a good idea to meet sometime in September. We've got the grant agreement. Everything is good to go with that program. We are just waiting for the perfect time.

Water Systems Improvement Planning Grant

Trena stated Strand is 90% complete. We are looking at September or October to hold the public hearing. I think we might discuss that at your next working session as far as the scope of the project and what we want to do to move forward. We'll draw funds once we receive invoices for up to 60% of total project cost as far as the planning goes.

Housing Rehab

Trena introduced Victoria Dake. Trena stated she is our manager of the housing programs. She does the grant support for all the housing programs. She is here to bring some items before you. Victoria stated just an update on where we're at. With the grant the town's required to assist eleven home owners but

with the local match money we're anticipating being able to do twelve. We've actually done all twelve inspections at this point in time. We've verified need, eligibility, we've gotten all the income information from all the homeowners. Our inspectors are still working on the final reports on everything. We're hoping to get those home owners approved through you this evening and then we would look at bidding all those homes out by end of next week. I have on here the anticipated use of funds, that work is from my report. We do the home modification assessments so things like walk in showers, grab bars in the bathroom, ramps, those sorts of things are really what the program focuses on. The inspector looks at things like roofs, electrical, that sort of thing. Those things aren't incorporated in here yet. I'll have those reports by next Friday if they are approved today. We usually give a two week bidding period. We'll sign contracts once that comes in. The bids we'll come into my office. We'll review it for the lowest, most responsive bidder. Victoria requested the approval from the council for clients A through L. **Greg made a motion to approve A through L. Tim seconded.** Greg asked after the fact, do we have an inspector that will inspect the work. Victoria confirmed. The same inspector that did the initial one will come back at the end with the form showing what we're doing because we may bid out all this work and it may come in over that \$15,000. We may have to take out some work. They'll make sure everything is done to code. Everybody signs off on it. Then that's the point where the contractor will be paid. The state inspector will come at the very end of the program once all the work is done and double check everything. The home owner, contractor and inspector will sign off on the form. **Motion carries 4/0.** The council signed the forms. Trena stated these eleven or twelve will take care of all the funds that you have received and that's including the local match.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Tax Abatement – Fourman Enterprises

Jonathan stated it is a resolution so we could move to approval of that tonight. It's pretty much a standard form. Cindy Boll stated I did get a copy of those documents this afternoon to take a look at and I also pulled out the statute. We haven't done one of these in a while. What I want to double check on is there might be some notice requirements before the resolution gets passed. Tim asked Cindy if she could look up the information tonight. Gary Bailey stated it has to be approved before the machine hits the floor. It will be here Friday.

After researching the current statute Cindy stated at the end of the meeting that she thinks the council can consider and hopefully pass the resolution tonight so that will be done before his equipment hits the floor. What it also requires though is that we've got some follow up to do publishing notice with adoption of that resolution. I will work with Diane with the follow up stuff on that, notifying the taxing authorities and all of that.

Tim made motion to approve resolution 2014-07. Jerry seconded. Cindy stated it looks like it follows the statute once again from a quick read. Jonathan read the resolution title: Resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to execute statement of benefit forms in conjunction with an application for tax abatement in a previously designated economic revitalization area pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-12.1-7. A copy of the resolution is kept on file at the clerk treasurer's office. **Motion carries 4/0.**

The tax abatement was signed by the council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

COMMUNITY CENTER

Nothing to report.

ATTORNEY

Cindy Boll gave an update on the water tower contract. Cindy stated it took me longer than I thought. There are a lot of things that I think are not right about the contract that Verizon shot out to the town. As you can see with almost three pages of comments, a redline version is going to be almost a different contract. Before I spend the time to do that, I wanted to talk to you guys. I think a better way to go about it is for me to call the individual and say we have various concerns in these areas. Is there any chance your company can make some changes. If not, I don't know what to do. Paragraph after paragraph is very pro Verizon. Jonathan stated as I look over it to a certain degree they are asking us for a favor. I realize there is a financial benefit for us but I don't think we want to sell our souls. Cindy stated the whole term language is problematical. I think it's incomprehensible. I don't like the idea that they have twenty-four hours, seven days a week access to the tower without any notification to the town or the utilities department. There are a bunch of provisions that give Verizon the ability to change out equipment without any advance notice to the town and to change frequencies. I don't want anything messing with any of our emergency frequencies or whatever we use for the water department with the water tower. Jonathan stated I think on a couple of things we will have to check with the insurance to make sure how they felt about that. Cindy stated what I would propose is that I give their rep a call tomorrow or the next day and let him know that we have quite a number of things that concern us and kind of test out the willingness to accommodate those. Going back to the frequency, one thing that really caught my eye. It had some language in there that as long as Verizon was working on a frequency issue, they're not in violation of the lease. I'm just trying to watch out for the town with this one. I'll let you know what I hear back.

The other thing is I got some information from Mel since the working session on the changes to the Unsafe Building Ordinance. I haven't had a chance to read through all those changes yet. What I would like to do is put it on the working session agenda and we can have some further discussion about it. When we adopted our Unsafe Building Ordinance back in 2010 or 2011, we based it on what was there at the time. It sounds like there have been quite a few changes to make more bite to it. I would like to be able to report that out to you guys. Tim said I would like it to be a priority. Jonathan stated I think a report at our working session will be appropriate for that.

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 stated the new police car will be done this week. We're coming in right at \$1100.00 under the estimate that I gave you when we first started talking about getting it. As far as my injury goes as of right now like I said in my email, they're saying I'm going to be out four to six weeks. I would like to stay and do the administrative work while I'm off if I can. If you guys will allow me to, I have no problem in doing that. Tim asked will the doctor allow you to do it. Discussion. Matt stated as far as the schedule

goes for the rest of August, I've already updated the schedule. All the shifts are covered. I've had to use the part-time more than we're used to but I have all the shifts covered for the rest of August and September. Jonathan stated I would like to publically commend Matt for tracking me down as quickly as he could. At that point he already had things covered for a few days. That's leadership. You take care of what needs to be taken care of. Plus I noticed there was an orchid in the paper for you last week. You're pleasing even nonresidents. Matt asked if the council was OK with Mel proceeding with the grant application. Diane added information on how the grant works. Diane stated maximum grant amount is \$50,000 or 35% of the total project cost whichever is less. In his situation it will be 35%. The estimated cost of the mobile computer automated system is \$21,000. The 35% of the grant will cover \$7350 which will leave \$13,650. \$12,000 is budgeted for that. It is pretty close. I think Matt would be willing to work that into his remaining amount for equipment. Matt confirmed. Diane stated the four wheel drive vehicle which he has already discussed previously with you guys, he doesn't really know yet what that will cost. If it is \$25,000, the grant will cover \$8,750 which will leave \$16,250. \$15,000 is budgeted. The question I have emailed Marcia with the USDA is I know Matt has two trade ins for that, is the grant amount based on that purchase amount and the trade ins will help our end. I have not received an answer yet back from her. Matt stated he will start researching the pricing. The council agreed for Mel to proceed. Matt notified the council that he has an appointment with the orthopedic doctor tomorrow. I will send you an email with an update.

ANIMAL CONTROL

*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.

Diane stated I have the Animal Control Service Agreement which needs your signature. It's your annual agreement. It's from the Bartholomew County Humane Society. I did have Jenny look it over. There are not any changes to it. It's still \$45 per animal and additional \$100 for the rabies but she said she never has them do the rabies. **Tim made a motion that we enter into the agreement. Greg seconded. Motion carries 4/0.** The council reviewed and signed the contract.

TOWN MANAGER

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

Mel stated first of all I want to commend you for acknowledging Matt's leadership. I want to thank his fellow officers too because they have all stepped up to the plate. I think one of the significant things that has happened in the last month is Larry set up a meeting with Erica Spears from OCRA. DJ, Jim Kelly, Larry and I met with her. This is really the process of discussing Main Street and starting that application process. It's really a key to the Comprehensive Plan, beautifying downtown and money for development. I want to thank Larry for doing that. Due to weather we are two weeks behind on our schedule we had for planting and all that before Hope Heritage Days. We've reorganized. We hope to get that started Wednesday.

UTILITIES, STREETS, PARKS

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

Streets and Alleys – Jonathan asked is it relatively close to what we've had. I tried to look back and I couldn't find it. David stated it's about fifteen percent higher. It's the same price as anybody in the county. Each county is priced a little differently because of delivery charge. Jonathan asked if he has seasonal help. David stated no. Not since school started. Jonathan stated I commend you on continuing to get those meters replaced.

BUILDING & ZONING

Matt Galbraith stated I was gone for seventeen days. Coming back we have got a building permit ready to be issued for 113 High Street, Nat and Stephanie Long's house. It started out with an electrical permit and turned into a full remodel. As far as follow up on complaints, I'm no further than last month. Sorry. I'm ready to keep going. Ms. Hardy is on my agenda to do. Terry Baxter is still on my list to get done. I'll follow up on 160 Meadow Place, Stamer. Greg asked for update on the Davis property. Cindy Boll stated we've had deadlines a number of times. The judge is increasingly unhappy with Mr. Davis. I've still got three properties I'm looking at for Kathy McCrory. David stated 444 Seminary, somebody started trimming up there.

HOH

Larry stated I provided to Mel a recommendation from Heritage of Hope Inc. Since we do have the town square revitalization project coming up and Heritage of Hope is one of your partners on that project, the feeling is that it might be the perfect time to go ahead and remove the shed like structure that houses the Indiana Rural Letter Carriers Museum artifacts. The items were going to Indiana State Museum. The agreement from them stated that they would give the contents of the museum to the town of Hope under the understanding that they would be taken care of. That building is not environmentally controlled. There is no heating or cooling which is not good for the artifacts in there. Years have passed since that time. The town of Hope appointed the Yellow Trail Museum the steward of those items although the ownership actually belongs to the town of Hope. Our recommendation is since we are revitalizing the town park, that it might be the best time to remove that building. The building itself is not historical significant. Just the items within. In talking to Barb (Johnson) I told her I would be happy to approach the Bartholomew County Historical Society to see if they would be willing and able to absorb on a temporary basis, this is not an ownership issue, just to care for the items. They are willing to devote space within the Haw Creek Heritage Center for everything except the mail hack and the Clouse wagon. There is no door large enough. They do have a warehouse attached to the building. There is space in there for those two to be stored. Obviously the best case scenario is if the property owned by the Yellow Trail Museum adjacent to their building was to become available and for those items to be displayed over there but at this time they have no space. Our recommendation is for the town to have the shed torn down as part of the town square project. With your approval and the Yellow Trail Museums blessing for those items to find a temporary home. As I mentioned in there and I'm sure you'll remember when the Haw Creek Heritage Center came and requested some Edit funds. On the calendar was the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit called Mail Call that highlighted detailed letters to and from soldiers from the Civil War era up to Afghanistan that tour has been pulled for refurbishing. We still on the list out there to have that. It will be a great tie in for our claim to fame which is the Nation's oldest rural mail delivery route. I think there is a logical tie in there with Indiana's bicentennial coming up. I just wanted to see if you think the timing was OK. Tim agreed. Tim stated it's not being preserved very well. Discussion. Jonathan asked when Barb is intending to talk to the Yellow Trail Museum Board. Steve

Robertson, board member, answered a week from tomorrow. Steve stated The Yellow Trail Museum has looked at design ideas. We've looked at moving it. Finding a location for the Clouse wagon and the mail hack is the problem. We have some limited space for the paperwork and stuff. The museum board doesn't have the manpower to move it. If it gets moved, we are going to need some volunteers to help. One of the ladies from the Heritage Center is on the board so there is a good working relationship there. My feeling is there is not going to be any issue from the Yellow Trail Museum to temporarily house the things up there until we can come up with a better working solution. Discussion. Mel stated as someone who is just very passionate about history, I belonged to the Indiana Society of Pioneers and many other historical groups so from a personal standpoint that is such a rich history. We owe it to those families who have the items in that museum. They do need to be in a better location. I agree that now is the time to do it. The council agreed. Jonathan asked make sure we are in the loop in case we get those questions. With your other hat it needs to be in the paper. Tim asked as far as the park project is there a defined project of exactly what is going to happen. Trena answered to a certain extent yes. It was what was submitted to the state. If anything varies from that, we have to request a modification. Tim asked if there was a master plan with a timetable. What is going to be taken care of this fall. Randy explained the plans. The electric and concrete for art pads will be done in the fall. By next spring have it all set and wired in. Start doing the terracing next spring. Discussion. Tim asked if there was any provisions for future restrooms. Trena answered no. Tim stated I don't want to have to disturb it other there any more than we have to. While you are getting prices on stuff, can you at least get a price on what it would cost to maybe do the restrooms. I don't know if we have any other access to other monies. Discussion on restrooms. Larry asked do you want to gather some quotes that would include some stuff for phase two. There is no way for someone in a wheelchair to get to that shelter house which is a shame. Randy said we just need to know where the line is going to be at. More discussion on restrooms and being ADA compliant. Jonathan asked about Civil War being affected by the terracing. Larry said if we have to move it. We talked about doing something by the one room schoolhouse at one point. That might be the time to make the move. Another thing is the Community Center is not going to do the Goodies, Goblins and Ghost Stories. They dropped this event. The Historical Society feels like it's a worthwhile event and hope to keep it. They are willing to put on that event. They have reserved the park in October. I think we are going to be able to work it from the shelter house north where it has always been held. That space can still be usable and have electricity at that point. Another thing I want to bring up, the three pines that are on the south side of the shelter house are in the state of dying. This might also be the time to remove those. Jonathan stated when we did the walk around with Chris and examined the various ones. There was concern there at that time.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Diane Jekel stated the Chamber has bought a 10 X 10 tent to use at the functions to be more visible. We are working with Heritage of Hope trying to establish some spots. We're going to be at Windy Hill for the Hope Ride too. We are toward the end of getting all our pricing for the every door direct mailer that we are going to be working on with our chamber members. I would love to say I have our website up and running but all I can say is my computer died today. Wasn't able to get as much done as I'd like but I'm working on it. We're going to be working on our logo. We're going to be transforming it from the welcome center logo that they had. We're going to revise that to the Chamber. Diane asked for opinions on using the gazebo. Several stated they like the idea of using the gazebo. David asked if Heritage of Hope trademarked that. Steve Robertson confirmed that it belonged to Heritage of Hope. Permission

would be needed. Diane stated I've got to get the logo down so we can do our shirts and so we can operate the website. Farmer's Market, I haven't gotten anybody except Jim Kelly to be on board. The other big thing that I've really been pushing for is we have a day of service for Utopia through the United Way of Bartholomew County. We have a day of service coming up on September 11th. Timeframe is 1:00 to 4:00. I'm trying to get at least twenty people to represent Hope so that we can go out to Utopia and be a united front in helping our neighbors. A fundraiser that we are doing, we are working on a motorcycle ride. That's in the beginning stages. Homer is working on that.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bruce stated we had a total of twenty-nine fire department runs last month. Twenty-two of them were in town. Three were fire related. The other nineteen were ambulance. We made all ambulance runs that were dispatched in the community last month best I can figure. We may not have taken our squad but we were there with our first aid guys and our first responders.

CLERK TREASURER

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDIT COMMITTEE

Tim stated we met. There was some discussion. We are kind of looking at a few things. Part of it came from the Edit Committee to the council and then we went back to Edit Committee. What it boils down to was now that we are in a position, we've got a lot of things going on in the town, we want to ensure that we have Edit money to back up some opportunities that we might have for economic development. There was some discussion about the function of the Edit Committee. Diane has a recommendation of \$175,000 budgeted use of Edit money. We recommend that \$50,000 be reserved for the type of activities that we have now coming in for Edit money and that \$125,000 of that be earmarked for use by the town for opportunities to encourage economic development. We've got a lot of opportunities for things coming up. We want to make sure we have a ways of funding them and to make them happen. On the meeting side of it, we felt like the Edit Committee could get by with meeting quarterly instead of monthly. Tim asked if we have to take an action to divide that up. Jonathan asked Cindy what process they should take. Cindy answered if that's the consensus of the Edit Committee, they're the filter through which things come to you. If that's their consensus and you are all ok with that, then I'm going to guess that they will only send things to you that fit that. If you set it in stone and something comes up that doesn't fit that division, I don't want it to hamstring you guys. Discussion. Larry added the numbers, how that division happened is Diane brought some excellent paperwork that showed an average of how much has gone out each year. That's how the break out was decided. Tim stated as an Edit Committee we've been very encouraging of everybody to try to step up and wing themselves off the Edit money. Steve Robertson asked if there were any guidelines stating the money had to be spent during a certain timeframe. Jonathan stated we have to give an accounting to the county essentially since its county controlled. Jonathan stated I think that has been changed. We don't have to give a full accounting. We just have to update what our focus area is in writing. I'm with Cindy. I don't think we need to take a vote as long as we understand and agree. I want to support the things we've been supporting. I don't want any of those to necessarily go away. We do if Mel gets a call, want have some funds available.

PLAN COMMISSION

Matt Galbraith stated Plan Commission met last Monday. We did a review of our Comprehensive Plan. We were all in agreement that we think we have a really good plan and implementations are beginning. We're pretty excited about what's going on. Randy stated we feel there is enough energy in Hope right now that we can probably take on anything. Randy feels a hotel or bed and breakfast and more restaurants are needed with all the ball tournaments. Randy stated we should see if we can tie that in with revitalizing the square.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

None.

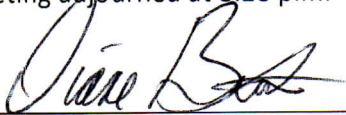
OTHER BUSINESS:

The council agreed to cancel the Working Session in September.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



Attest

