

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 5:30 p.m. on May 29, 2019.

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

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ohmer Miller.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOWER/MOWING SERVICE

David Clouse presented quotes for two new mowers, a Grasshopper and a Kubota. David explained the difference between the two. David stated his preference is the Grasshopper. There was discussion on the mowers. Clyde asked about the need of a mowing service. David answered last year JT did the leg work. I can't keep up with the volume that JT did. There was discussion on the mowing of the park and how that gets paid. Diane stated I hate to use the Riverboat Fund for that. It is nice to build up some funds in Riverboat for projects. We did that one year and if I recall correctly it took almost all the funds that the Riverboat brought in. I do agree that we need to look at a different way to budget for mowing the park. There was discussion on the lawns that need to be mowed. Ohmer asked what the fee is for mowing a lawn. David stated it is a \$100 minimum. Debbie calculates it based on a chart of how long it takes to mow the lawn. It's a range of \$100 to \$200. Ohmer suggested the Sheriff's work crew. David stated he doesn't know if they mow these types of lawns. Nellie asked if you have a new mower and someone lets you know when they need to be mowed, is it a problem for you guys to continue to mow the lawns. David answered no, it's not a problem. The problem is when we have rain every other day. Staying on top of looking for them is the hardest part. There was discussion on the requirement of the fees to go into the General Fund. Nellie suggested some funds come out of Edit to pay for the mower. Diane stated you can use Edit. It is very flexible. I would like to think about which fund is benefiting. We didn't budget for this so I need to see where funds are. Diane clarified with David which lawns the new mower will be used for. Diane suggested that she get with David and come up with a recommendation of disbursement. There was a discussion on hiring a firm. **Clyde made a motion to approve the purchase of the Grasshopper and for David and Diane to work out the funding. Nellie seconded. Motion 5/0.** Clyde stated we need to look into a way to pay the utilities for mowing the lawns. Ed asked if the fees collected can pay the utilities at the end of the year. Diane stated she will check into it. **Ed made a motion to declare the old mower a surplus item to sale with sealed bids. Jerry seconded.** Ohmer clarified that this is to take place after the new mower is in. **Motion carries 5/0.**

David questioned information that was needed for the Main Street project. He explained that his computer crashed last Wednesday. Diane stated that she has passed that on to Trena. The park labor for 2018 is all that is needed. David stated I do have to have a new laptop. My current computer is a Windows 7 which no longer meets the compliance requirements.

There was discussion on the electric being out on June 11th due to Duke's upgrade.

SPEED LIMIT/STOP SIGNS

Clyde stated I reviewed our Town ordinances. Our Town Ordinance 8-5 states that the Town, as authorized by State law IC 9-21.1-2, may declare or determine from the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation that certain maximum or minimum speed regulations shall be applicable upon specified streets. You were asking about the speed limit on South Street. Our ordinance states we have to do engineering and traffic investigation before we can change that. Town ordinance 8-10 states the Town shall place and maintain traffic control signs, signals and devices when and as required to regulate, warn or guide traffic. All we have to do is vote on it. **Clyde made a motion to put a stop sign on the corner of High and Scott Street and on Julia Street where it intersects with Manor Drive. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

ADDRESSES ON HOMES

Clyde stated concern that quite a few homes in Town do not have the house number on it or a visible house number. Town Ordinance 7-44 states this is a requirement. Clyde suggested the Utility Department note the houses that are not meeting this requirement. Ed added to have notification put on HSJ Online.

ROOF

Ed Johnson gave an update of the roof quotes for the shelter house. He has been getting prices on metal shingles. Two quotes should be received in about a week. The quotes will include tearing off the old roof, new decking and rain guard underneath the shingles for the shelter house, bandstand and the pump house.

EDIT FUNDS RESTRUCTURE

Nellie Meek confirmed that the Council is in agreement to have one Council Member and four citizens on the committee. Nellie suggested the four Council Members who are not on the committee appoint a resident to be on the committee. Three of the Council Member's would select a resident from their ward and the at large would appoint any resident of their choice. The Council agreed.

Letters were received from Edit Committee Members, Vickie Tedder, Dave Miller and Michele Clark. Clyde reviewed his recommendations which he is suggesting to be By Laws for the committee. They are summarized as follows:

- 1) Committee should be revamped to one Council Member and four community members.
- 2) Hope Clerk Treasurer will cast a vote to break a tie if needed.
- 3) Committee's vote will take a majority which means three votes.
- 4) This is an open door meeting but after presentation only legally have the right to listen.
- 5) Never should any member vote based on personal feelings

Clyde also suggested the following:

- 1) Set a dollar figure for some of our organizations that we fund annually.

- 2) Must demand all organizations requesting money prove they have sought funding from other sources.
- 3) All funds distributed should benefit the citizens of Hope in some way.
- 4) Provide a scholarship to a local college to two seniors from low income families to be selected by the Hauser Guidance Counselor in the amount of \$1,500.
- 5) Appropriate funds for matching grants for capital improvements.

Ohmer Miller stated I feel like Edit funds are being given out like trick or treat candy. I am uncomfortable with how some of it is being spent. I feel like none of this money should ever be spent for income. Nellie read an article HSJ Online published about her comments on funds recently disbursed to teach a class. Nellie agrees Edit funds should not be used for income.

Ed stated he believes some have felt money was no longer going to be given for events. He felt that way himself after the Council Meeting. There was clarification that was not the intent. Ohmer added the events the town sponsors should not be for profit. Diane suggested putting in the By Laws that they have to be a not for profit organization.

There was discussion on if an organization who has funds appropriated for them by the Council want to request additional funds. It was decided they can still come before the Edit Committee to make that request. Ohmer requested a listing of those who we have consistently given to in the past.

Ohmer stated I am disappointed that our two people on the committee resigned. I feel they could have been part of the solution.

Barb Johnson stated the attitude that has been expressed this evening was quite a bit different than what I was receiving the last few discussion that you have had. I felt like before action was going to be taken to cut funding for every organization that was going to apply. My statement to you was going to be, you really need to be careful of what you get rid of in the town of Hope. There are an awful lot of events that people appreciate. Ours is the town where the community comes together for events, activities and programs. In a different situation, a lot of our Hope families could not afford to go to that kind of program. I think we need to be extremely careful about how much funding we refuse to give. We have gained a reputation of being a town that offers great opportunities to the people that live here and those who come from other places. We don't want to do anything to put that in jeopardy. I have one other comment on Clyde's comment that we need to ask people to go to other sources for funding. It gets tough. There aren't a lot of funding sources out there right now. Then we are looking at personal donations. Barb expressed her concerns with that. Getting personal donations is very difficult. If we look at economic development; if you don't bring people into town, we are not going to show people what a great town it is.

Ed stated we need to watch the negative attitude. Not only with this but also with everything else that we do. We just need to watch so we can make this town move forward. Ohmer stated I feel like everyone on this Council wants to see the town move forward but we are experiencing some growing pains. To my knowledge we are the only community in the State that does anything like this. It's a blessing that we are able to contribute to the events that we have. There comes a point in time where

you have to make a mark in the sand and not go over that. Rest assured we want to see this town continue to prosper and grow and draw people into the community.

Nellie expressed that we need to have funds to take care of the needs of the town too. Diane clarified the amounts set will be for the following year and set each year. The Council confirmed. Lizzie Flora made the suggestion of putting in stipulations on what the money cannot be used for. There was discussion on the need of an Edit Committee. It was decided there is still a need for a committee. Clyde will be the Council Member on the committee. The Council agreed that each Council Member will select someone from the ward. Jerry will choose a resident from any ward since he is At Large. Nellie asked for clarification on what Edit can be used for. Diane answered it has broadened. Jerry suggested that sidewalks as a budget item. Nellie brought up helping to provide a Resource Officer for the school. Clyde stated I feel like all that we are talking about makes sense. There was more discussion on the scholarship that Clyde had suggested. Nellie feels it should be reviewed by our attorney. There was discussion on whether this should be recorded as a resolution or an ordinance. **Clyde made a motion to change the resolution to one Council Member and four citizens of Hope. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Nellie said we will need to get with Scott to change this resolution.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Attest






