

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 February 18, 2020.

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

The prayer was given by Jerry Bragg.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Jerry Bragg.

#### **BID OPENING – MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT**

Tony Akles stated this is the bid opening for the Town square improvement project for the Town of Hope, Indiana. The bids came in as follows:

Poole Group – Bid bond included, addenda acknowledged, bid amount \$437,500  
Mitchel Stark – Bid bond included, addenda acknowledged, bid amount \$453,900  
Kings Trucking & Excavating – Bid bond included, addenda acknowledged, bid amount \$538,910  
Dave O'Mara Contractor – Bid bond included, addenda acknowledged, bid amount \$546,143  
JKES, Inc. DBA Smith Projects – Bid bond included, addenda acknowledged, bid amount \$574,999  
CNH/M Excavating – Bid bond included, addenda acknowledged, bid amount \$620,934

Trena stated the bids will need to be taken under advisement. The earliest the project will be awarded is next month and it will be a tentative award based upon release of funds.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Minutes 11/19/2019**

Ohmer made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 4/0.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS**

Ohmer made a motion for the approval of the claims. Nellie seconded. Clyde asked about two invoices payable to Detective Craig Whited in the amounts of \$200 and \$250. Matt answered he does our yearly core training and a second fire arms training course. Motion carries 4/0.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **PROJECT UPDATES**

##### **Main Street Downtown Revitalization Project**

Trena Carter stated we received bids for the project. I have a certificate of intent that I will need Jerry's signature on. This helps us move towards getting release of funds for the project. Trena requested signatures on the sign in sheet for the bid opening. The bids will be taken under advisement. We will come back with a recommendation. We will complete the process required by OCRA to get an all

conditions release of funds. It will have to be a tentative award with the contract officially signed at a later date.

#### **2019-2020 COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT PROJECT – CONTRACT AWARD**

Tony Akles stated we had a bid opening this morning at 10:00 for the 2019 Community Crossings Grant. I sent out the bid tab to everybody. There were seven bids. Basically the bids came in pretty good. We had a grant award of around \$252,000. The low bid which is Dave O'Mara came in at \$227,040. I reviewed it this afternoon. Everything looked complete. I think Scott is in agreement. We find Dave O'Mara responsive. They have a complete bid. What I would be looking at tonight is for the Council to award it. I will then need Jerry's signature and Diane to attest it. Clyde asked since it is under bid, how is the grant money split up. Tony stated still 75/25. Once the bid is awarded, INDOT will give you 75% of that bid amount. We will need to inform O'Mara no change orders. We have to stay within that budget. Anything over that will have to be approved by the Council and 100% funded by the Town. Clyde stated last time they did paving that I was not satisfied with the end result. There are still two places here in Town that were never fixed. Tony stated it appears we do have a different project manager this time around. I do know there was some issues last time. We'll make sure it doesn't happen again. Steve will bring any issues before the Council for approval or discussion. **Ohmer made a motion to award the contract to O'Mara Contractor. Clyde seconded.** Tony stated during preconstruction we can make sure they are aware that you were not satisfied with them last time. Steve will be watching and I will ask David and Ed to help Steve as well because we are not here full time. Ohmer suggested Clyde be there for the preconstruction meeting. Clyde confirmed. **Motion carries 4/0.**

#### **MAIN STREET UPDATES**

Trena Carter stated Susan asked me to read a statement from her. She gave me pictures of what we have established on the signs that I believe you approved. Susan's statement reads as follows: I would like to publicly thank everyone who helped make Groundhog Day 2020 a huge success. A special thanks to Matt Tallent, Kathy Hershey and Grubby from Utopia Wildlife Rehabilitators, the Hope Volunteer Fire Department and all those who attended and assisted either in costume or not. It was extremely well attended for a Sunday morning and we are already planning for next year's event. I have attached the last revision of the two signs for SR 9 and also those within the Hope Town Square. The next issue which needs to be decided is how to do the placement of the signs on the four corners of the square; two sided signs turned either toward the street or toward the park. This certainly changes how the arrows are placed on the signs. A contractor will be asking that question fairly quickly after a bid is awarded. If you need any other background information to interpret the bids received tonight, let me know and I will get it to you. And please pray for my sister. Trena asked the Council if they would like the signs facing outside or inside the square. It was a consensus of the Council to face out. Tony added as part of the process after the contract is awarded, I will bring shop drawings in front of the Council for all of the amenities. You will see what that is going to look like. I want you guys to give your blessing before turning the contractor loose. There is still some time that we can tweak it if need be. Trena stated once the contract is awarded, they will have to provide certain documentation to Strand for review and they'll bring that to Council. Clyde asked about the banner arms that were supposed to be retractable but they don't make them. Tony stated we haven't been able to find them. We can talk to the contractor after he is under contract and have them check again with the suppliers. There was discussion on the banner arms and the banners. Ohmer stated banners need to be approved either through a committee or this



Council. We probably need to have some seasonal banners. I feel if we let an entity use that space, we need to charge rent. Trena said I have not seen that before. Ohmer stated we need to set some standards. Trena stated I will ask other communities for their banner policies. The Council agreed. Jerry stated I think it needs to come before Council for approval and needs to be for an event.

## **2020 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Nellie had questioned if three people who are on the Plan Commission can also be on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Scott Andrews answered you cannot by ordinance and by Statute. The ordinance indicates that it consists of five members. All members of the Board of Zoning Appeals must be residents of the Town. Two members must be members of the Town Plan Commission. The Statute in Indiana states no more than two members from the Plan Commission. Somebody that is appointed to a position cannot be on the Board of Zoning Appeals other than somebody that is appointed on the Plan Commission. The reason for that is exactly what you said because you're appealing a position from the Plan Commission. Nellie stated Randy Sims needs to because he has knowledge of what is going on and of course Matt Galbraith. John Walstad will need to be replaced on either the Plan Commission or the Board of Zoning Appeals. That member will be chosen by the President of Town Council.

## **775 EAST ANNEXATION UPDATE**

Scott Andrews stated the 775 East annexation was passed at the last meeting. Diane has published that in the newspaper. Within a ninety day period, it has to be filed with auditor clerk and a letter needs to be sent to the State in order for them to take the streets off the county and on to ours.

## **NEW STREET LIGHT – LIBERTY PLACE**

David Clouse stated as you remember at last month's meeting I received all this information mid-day. I sent it to you and you approved it at the meeting. I was looking at it closer the next day and I noticed he has the light that we had being across the street from the Liberty Place, next to it instead. It is already crowded there with trees. I asked him about it and he sent a new proposal which costs \$188 more up front. The monthly price is \$.50 cheaper though. **Nellie made a motion to approve the location change. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 4/0.** Diane informed the Council that this portion of the cost will come from the EDIT Fund.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Billy Kirkham stated I met with the employees a couple of weeks ago. I got the numbers back for their health insurance renewal. There is a slight increase with Anthem. We did have some discussion about the United Health Care renewal option. It is a significant increase in the premium so it wasn't a good fit. Basically all we did was stay with Anthem. There are a couple of plan adjustments because the plan that you are currently on is going away. This is the closest plan to what they have now. We did go out and bid to MEWA which is basically a Chamber of Commerce membership. They require full underwriting. There is a health issue in the Town that will get us turned down on that. The employees wanted to stay with Anthem and not make any changes. I just need approval from you to move forward with that. Matt and David confirmed the recommendation. David stated we all agreed. **Clyde made a motion to accept the Anthem renewal as recommended. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

### **DAVEY TREE CONTRACT**

David Clouse stated this is the 2020 contract for tree care for Norman Park and the Downtown Park. We've been alternating the Ash tree treatment every other year with the fertilization program. The pest control is done every year, quarterly throughout the summer, spring and fall. My question this year is on the Ash tree in the center of the north side. We cut a lot of the dead out of it right before Heritage Days. I am wondering whether it is going to leaf out. I talked to the Arborists and he recommended that you approve the pest treatments and leave the Ash treatment contingent upon how they look in the spring. It is \$396 per tree. There are five Ash trees. They are treated in the fall. It is not a rush to make that decision. David explained the process. Clyde questioned the cost if the Ash treatment is held off and confirmed the \$1,980 will be excluded until later approved. David confirmed. **Clyde made a motion to accept the quote. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

### **UTILITY TRUCK REPLACEMENT**

David Clouse stated this is a proposal to replace the 2005 Chevy pickup. I have two quotes. One on a Ford and one on a Chevy. The Chevy is a heavier duty truck for about \$4,000 less. David reviewed the cost and what comes with the package. Accessories needed include a snow plow, a toolbox, a magnetic cab mount, strobe lights, grille mount and rear mount. The grand total \$38,390.00. David stated Country Chevrolet made the decision to go ahead and build the vehicle which means we can have it within a couple of weeks. Nellie asked Diane about funding. Diane stated David and I did discuss today where to pull the funds. What we would like to recommend is \$12,500 from the Water Fund, \$12,500 from the Sewer Fund, \$7,441 from the EDIT Fund and \$5,949 which the cost of the plow from MVH. Clyde asked what will be done with the 2005 truck. David answered we will sell it. Clyde questioned keeping it as a spare. David stated we can get rid of the S10 instead. There was more discussion on the possibility of keeping the 2005 truck. David stated keeping it is a gamble. If we sell it, we could probably get \$5,000 out of it. We have time to think about it. I would rather keep it than the S10. **Clyde made a motion to purchase the 2020 Chevrolet truck as presented. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

### **TRANSFER OF FUNDS – RESOLUTION 2020-01**

Diane Burton stated there are three sections of Resolution 2020-01 Transfer of Funds which reads as follows:

Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Hope that the following transfer of funds be made:

From: 435001005 RIVERBOAT – Main Street Project \$10,000  
From: 437001301 EDIT – Downtown Revitalization Project \$20,000  
To: 437001052 EDIT – Park Project \$30,000

From: 211 MVH SAVINGS \$20,000  
TO: 201 MVH \$20,000

From: 201001341 MVH – Liability Insurance \$3,000  
From: 201001241 MVH – Other Supplies Streets \$3,000  
To: 201001441 MVH – Other Equipment Street \$6,000



**Ohmer made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-01. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

#### **CEDIT 2 YEAR PLAN – RESOLUTION 2020-02**

Diane Burton stated the resolution has been amended to reflect changes in the title to LIT Economic Development Distribution, committee name to EDIT Committee and the referenced resolution to 2019-03. The use of the funds stayed the same. Scott reviewed the resolution. **Ohmer made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-02. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

#### **PERSONNEL POLICY**

Diane Burton stated it is time for the personnel policy to have its periodic updates to be current on FMLA and other requirements. I would also like to request for sick day benefits to be changed from the first of the year to the anniversary date of the employee. I discussed this with the department heads and they agreed. This will allow sick days to be added at the same time as personal and vacation day benefits. **Ohmer made a motion to approve the change in sick day benefits to anniversary. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 4/0.**

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS**

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

Ohmer asked David if he has noticed any deterioration of the streets this year. David stated yes. Luckily most of it is on the streets that are scheduled to be paved this year. David did express concern for a section at Schaefer Drive that is not on the list.

Clyde questioned information on the quote David provided for streetlights. At the bottom of the form it states "Approximately 90 days for the two on Schaefer Drive". David confirmed it should read 775 East.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pastor Ed Cottrell stated something the Methodist Church has done that I know you have looked into is we had a Knox box installed. The Fire Department has a key on the apparatus to have access to it.

Matt Galbraith asked for guidance on a homeowner who was charging rent to roommates. Matt stated the home is zoned single family resident. I received a complaint on the situation. Clyde stated it doesn't matter how many live with her. Nellie said it is almost like an apartment. Scott stated I agree with Clyde. Within the definition it doesn't talk about how many people you have living there. It is whether or not you are using it as an investment property and not yourself living there. Scott will check into it further.

Matt Galbraith shared some personal issues that has caused him to not be able to work as much for the Town. Matt offered to skip a month of his paycheck. It was a consensus of the Council to still make payment to Matt.

Matt Galbraith stated I would like to commend Matt Tallent and his staff for the efforts in finding my sister-in-law who is missing. We also appreciate all the prayers and concerns from the community.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

*Liane Bink*

Attest

*Clyde Compton*

*Jerry Barger*

*Thomas M. M. M.*

*Nellie Reed*