

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 December 18, 2018.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Minutes 11/1, 11/20, 12/6

Clyde made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

APPROVAL OF THE CLAIMS

Jerry made a motion for the approval of the claims. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.

Ohmer read a thank you card from Dave Miller regarding the Goodies, Goblins and Ghost Stories event which stated the following: Thank you Hope Town Council for funds and supplies for Goodies, Goblins and Ghost Stories for 2018. My best guess is that the attendance was about 400 to 500 people. Events like these always shine a light for our Town and it looks pretty good with a light shining on it. A special thanks to Ohmer Miller and Clyde Compton who handed out candy for the Trunk or Treat. Ohmer stated he passed out about 15 pounds of candy.

OLD BUSINESS:

RECYCLING

JT Doane stated here momentarily we are going to have, per your request at your last Council meeting, each of the three that provided a six month trial period proposal for a recycling option speak. In terms of the costs, funds are available from the administrative fees that was added to the trash. The ordinance was reviewed by Town Attorney Andrews. He indicated that it is proper for us to utilize these funds toward this recycling option.

Colleen, Best Way, opened it up for questions. Ohmer asked for an overview. Colleen stated we will provide an A Frame with sliding doors on it. We can set it up to where you call when it is full or we can set it up on a schedule. The charge is \$395 per pull. There is a list of the items that are acceptable. No fuel or environmental surcharges. Ohmer asked if the price is firm. Pauline confirmed. There was discussion on if items are in there that are not acceptable. The price is for twenty cubic yards. Tim Shoaf asked what size the dumpster was at the Community Center. David answered eight cubic yards.

Chris, CGS, stated we're basically the same as what Colleen described. It is a twenty cubic yard box. It will be a drop off. We have a processing fee of \$71 per ton that is adjusted monthly. There is a trip

charge. Chris stated we will have signs and provide you with literature that you can hand out. The cost is \$195 per trip. We do have a fuel surcharge of approximately 16.8%.

Kevin Wynne, Rumpke, showed and reviewed the different containers available and compared to their container that was set up at the Community Center. Kevin reviewed the list of acceptable items. Kevin stated we will have flyers that you can pass out. The cost of a thirty yard container is \$300 per haul. Kevin feels that based on the frequency of the container at the Community Center, it will need to be picked up once or twice per month.

JT stated to me when we first brought this to the Council, this fits our quality of life initiatives that we have done several of; the Red Tag Ordinance, the town-wide trash, enforcing no grass clippings in the road. When the container at the Community Center was taken away, I had a call from several residents asking if the Town was considering any options. Before you, you have three proposals for recycling options for a six month trial period. It was a consensus of the Council to review the information before making a decision.

PROJECT UPDATES

STORM WATER/WASHINGTON STREET PROJECT

Trena Carter, ARa, stated the application was submitted on November 30th. They will hopefully be awarding this project on January 17, 2019. We will anxiously be awaiting the news on that day.

USDA POLICE VEHICLE

Trena stated Council President Ohmer, Diane, JT and Matt met with Charlene, USDA Rural Development, to order the funding to reimburse the Town the portion from the grant funds. It should be here by the end of the year.

OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING REHAB

All of the Owner Occupied Housing Aging in Place Contracts have been signed. They will be working to get everything completed by September 23rd of next year. That is the end date of the project.

GARBAGE AND RUBBISH UPDATES (Chapter 5, Article 15: Garbage and Rubbish)

JT Doane stated just again, I stress this every meeting because of the importance of it, we are seeing some great dividends. It may be easy for homes to let trash pile up in the winter. If you see this, let us know here at Town Hall. We certainly are not having to distribute as many red tags as what we had last year. That is certainly a positive. We do have a couple that have been tagged within the last week.

WASHINGTON STREET STORM UTILITY PROJECT

JT Doane stated as ARa Administrator, Trena Carter, indicated the grant has been submitted. We all need to include that on our Christmas list. This project has been on the horizon for quite some time. We brought it to the Council's attention back in September of 2017. We had an analysis done on it. Mother Nature gave us a little extra excitement with a void that occurred. We will eagerly await to see the response from that January 17th. Steve Robertson, Strand, added I had hoped to bring review copies of contract tonight but that office is about an hour behind so I didn't get them. Here in the next few days Scott, JT and Trena will be receiving advance copies of that contract so they get a chance to look it over.

I know special wording has to be included. Those three will get contracts. We anticipate having them here for the January meeting. That's a few days before the award. The contract will be contingent of the grant being awarded. It is going to be a tight timeframe to get all of the work done.

2018 COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT (CCMG)

JT Doane displayed a chart and reviewed the streets to be paved based on what was awarded which are as follows:

DESIGNATION	FROM	TO	RATING	TREATMENT USED	ESTIMATED MILES	ESTIMATED COSTS
JACKSON	MAIN	HARRISON	4	MILL AND OVERLAY	0.07	\$55,815
WASHINGTON	MAIN	HARRISON	4	MILL AND OVERLAY	0.07	\$55,815
WASHINGTON	HARRISON	COMMUNITY CENTER	4	MILL AND OVERLAY	0.16	\$33,836
MILL	RACE	VINE	4	MILL AND OVERLAY	0.07	\$8,540
HIGH	AIKEN	UNION	4	MILL AND OVERLAY	0.19	\$22,224
LOCUST	RACE	MAIN	4	MILL AND OVERLAY	0.14	\$14,024
HARRISON	JACKSON	WASHINGTON	4	MILL AND OVERLAY	0.05	\$55,031
					TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$245,285

JT stated these are the roads that were rated a four. These are the roads that will be addressed on this next round of paving in the spring of 2019 as soon as we get a contractor in here and obviously working in conjunction with what we hope is the Washington Street Storm Water Utility Project. As you notice, Washington Street is on that list as well. So we will have to be strategic with the planning that we have already discussed. The total project costs is \$245,285. Out of that project cost the Town's match is 25% of that. Steve Robertson stated I am presenting Strand's task order 18-03. Some of the highlights are it will include the design, the fifteen sidewalk ramps, the paving, laying out and making sure all the documentation the contractor needs for bidding purposes comply with the State rules and laws. It will also include up to forty hours of on-sight observation when the contractor is working. In there we will include language on how to address cost overruns and some other things we have discussed over the last few months. You guys will get a chance to review that before it goes out for bid. We would like to coordinate this, putting this out for bid and stuff, at approximately the same time because there is a chance we might get a better price. They will not be connected. We will put language in there on when they can do work especially on Washington Street between Main and Harrison. We will look at the calendar. That way it will minimize disruption on the square. Our contract amount is for an estimated fee of \$35,000 as a not to exceed. We will only charge you for the time we are here. We would like to get started on this so we have all of our documentation. I will be the project management for this one.

Clyde asked if I recall correctly, your cost cannot come out of the grant so that is \$35,000 plus 25% match. Steve answered your part of the grant could be as much as \$61,321.25 if that is what the bids come in at. Diane added we did budget for that. **Clyde made a motion to approve task order 18-03. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES ORDINANCE (Ordinance 2018-01, 2nd Reading)

JT Doane stated before you the Recreational Vehicle Ordinance is one that had come to the Council's attention shortly after the first of the year. Council Member Johnson, after your last meeting, had asked me to email it back to you. JT asked the council if there were any revisions or changes that they would like to make to the ordinance. There was discussion on what the ordinance will allow. Pastor Ed Cottrell asked as an RV owner is there a possibility of us getting a copy to see what is being proposed. I have not seen the revisions. I remember I made some comments earlier on what had been presented before and some possible suggestions. Clyde gave Pastor Ed a copy. Ed Johnson stated one of the changes I asked for is for the recreational vehicles to not be able to set in front of the house. It was a consensus of the Council for it to be tabled.

POLICE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE SELECTION

JT Doane stated the ordinance for a Police Oversight Committee came before the Council for a 2nd reading that you approved at the last meeting. That committee consisted of a selection of Council Member Meek and John Beeker as a resident selected by our Town Marshal. The Council had made a couple of suggestions for a member that they would like to serve on that committee. Nellie stated she will withdraw her suggestions. Clyde introduced John Walstead who was in attendance. Clyde had recommended John Walstead at the last Council Meeting. **Nellie made a motion that we appoint John Walstead. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

HOPE FIRE UPDATES

Chad Emmitt, Fire Department Chief, reviewed his report given to the Council. Chad stated their run totals were up to 426. We're a little of 430 to date. We added a couple of things to the completed portion of the report. We were able to get our permit for our Shipping Container for live fire training from IDEM. A grant was received from the Heritage Fund for IamResponding software and for TVs. We did a couple of trainings last month. This month we are up to a total of sixty-four hours of trainings for the year. Nellie stated thank you for having the dinner and inviting the Council. I enjoyed it. Ohmer asked how they are doing with getting the old fire station cleaned out. Chad stated we have filled a thirty yard roll-off dumpster. We are possibly going to have another one. We have a lot of sorting to do as far as paperwork goes. It has taken a lot more time than we anticipated. Ohmer asked what their plan is for the building. Chad answered it is a toss-up right now. It's obviously up to the membership on what we want to do with it. Selling it will be our best bet as far as my opinion goes. Clyde stated you are still doing a good job.

MAIN STREET OF HOPE UPDATES

Susan Thayer-Fye stated I have a couple of things that require votes. Main Street has scheduled a couple of recurring events that we need approval for. We have scheduled Groundhog Day with Grubby, Utopia Wildlife Group. Kathy was happy we scheduled it on Saturday, February 2nd. We normally start it about 8:30. We will need use of the bandstand area from 7:30 in the morning until 9:00 a.m. We are hoping to

have music, however, the Hauser Band is not available that day. **Nellie made a motion to approve the park request. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Susan also requested use of the park for the Saint Patrick's Day Pet parade on Saturday, March 16 at 12:00. Susan stated we did dogs only last year so there will be dogs on the square. We will need use of the Shelter House from 10:30 in the morning to set up until 1:30 in the afternoon. We plan to donate any donations we receive above the cost to put on the event to the Paula Pollitt Memorial Animal Shelter. **Jerry a motion to approve the park request. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

Susan stated Trena mentioned the MSRP filing which we are still looking at doing in the spring if everything goes well. We got some preliminary estimates for the ADA Pathways which the basic design was done by Joe Dodd, a local Landscape Architect. I put together some rough cost they don't include engineering or administrative costs so it's going to be much higher than this. The basic cost is around \$76,500 for the ADA pathways. Susan explained what area this would cover. Susan stated we will need a vote on this in January for Trena and I to proceed. Main Street is suggesting the replacement of street lights, forty-three of them. That is a high dollar item. We have had some safety issues at Heritage Days this past year with exposed conduit in the square. The actual street lights that are there now are discontinued so we can't get parts when things go bad. They have been there approximately twenty-five years. The quote from Duke which will include all new wiring and will take care of the conduit issue was around \$325,000. If we use outside suppliers and private contractors which some other towns in Indiana have done, the cost is closer \$250,000. Clyde asked if we pay per month to Duke to take care of those lights. Susan stated it's on the bill. Clyde stated if we pay them to take care of it, that is their responsibility. It needs to be fixed. I don't think this can be used as a reason. Nellie agreed. There was more discussion on the maintenance. Susan stated they are not LED energy efficient. If you go with Duke, I think there is an option where you can purchase them over a period of time. You just pay annually.

Susan stated the Christmas Festival was cancelled due to lack of vendors. Hopefully the Community Center can work on that for next year.

Susan stated let me give you an update on the Rural Mail Carriers Museum returning to the square. The architect that we are currently working with has the survey of the square, which was done by Strand, and has a CAD document for one potential option that was put together by Randy Sims. His option was to extend the shelter house to the west and include the museum as part of the shelter house with a new roof. He passed on to the architect the dimensions of the two mail hacks and other artifacts. Ben Miller took pictures and dimensions and got those to the architect. He is currently working on the need for space and a couple of options; one will be a standalone unit and the other one will be attached to the west side of the shelter house. Clyde asked if she has spent money getting this done because it has not been brought up to the Council to even allow that property to be used for that. Susan stated the museum has a private fund that they have had for some time and that can be used for those kind of things. **Nellie made a motion for looking at putting the museum back on the square.** Ed stated I have to abstain. Jerry asked how much room is the museum going to take. Susan answered 620 square feet. Clyde stated what you are going to get into is climate controlled. Somebody has to take care of that stuff. The material that goes in there has been given to the Yellow Trail Museum. It does not belong to

the Town anymore. You are going to have a building sitting there that we do not own. There was more discussion. Susan asked for a suggestion on how to proceed. Susan stated I don't want to waste people's time. I want to remind you whatever we do will be private donations at this point. We don't have any sources of funding that we are aware of. Susan asked for guidance from the Council. Susan stated the two people that headed this up is from Heritage of Hope. Steve Robertson added this is the Indiana Rural Letter Carriers Museum. This is a national thing. Hope is the oldest, continuous mail route in the United States of America. What the committee is asking for is will you consider after we get more information, to allow it to be built back on the Town square. We are not asking the Town for any money. We are just asking for consideration. If you say no tonight you won't even consider it that changes our direction. The Town will own the building but the Town won't have to pay for the building. Steve explained with the previous building there was an agreement between the Town and the Yellow Trail Museum on who would take care of what. There was more discussion. Jerry stated we need room for events. Are there other options for the artifacts? Jonna Shephard stated I retired from the Hope Post Office. I worked there 28 ½ years. Back in 1980 when Shirley Whittington was still Postmaster, we had a Rural Letter Carriers National Meeting on the square. We actually had a special stamp made for that day. It was when the free Rural Delivery Stamp came out. The National Letter Carriers had their meeting there on the square in the shelter house. It was a big to do thing. It brought in a lot of people. It is something near and dear to my heart because it was part of my career. Tim Shoaf stated I think everyone is in agreement about having the Rural Letter Carriers artifacts on display. Is there a reason that they can't be in the Arford Building? I don't know if that is in the plan. I don't see it having to be inside the square on display. Tim stated he didn't understand the urgency. Ed stated it has been five years. There has been no urgency. There was more discussion on the when the building was tore down and what was involved at that time including the artifacts were deteriorating. Tim stated that he didn't understand why they couldn't be put in the Spurling Building. Ed answered the biggest reason is we could not without tearing the mail hacks apart. Tim questioned putting a bigger door in the back. Ed replied you could but you're going to destroy the building. Barb Johnson stated when mail carriers museum was taken down, the Yellow Trail told the Town that we had no intention of moving the Mail Carriers Museum into what was the Spurling Building. Mainly because of the fact that things would not fit in there but we had already made arrangements for other uses for that section of the building that we had just achieved. The Town starting pushing for the fact that is where it has to go. That isn't where it has to go. We have not been able to raise enough money to buy another building. That was the next push. As a person who sets in the Yellow Trail Museum weekend after weekend and watch people come in and ask what happened to the Mail Carrier's Museum and state they came down especially to see it because it is listed in books. People would like to have it back. We don't have the space to display the items. We are still looking. Tim asked is there a consideration to purchase the Arford Building? Barb answered it has been a consideration but it hasn't been a possibility. Tim said what I'm looking at is cost comparison between building a building or purchasing a building. Ohmer stated I understand this is a topic that needs to be addressed but I think we need to move on with our meeting tonight. Susan stated in the past in the square, that was advertised state-wide at being available for viewing 24/7 so that's the difference between putting it in the square or putting it in a building. Ohmer stated can I make a suggestion that you and Nellie work together to try to find some common ground. The Council agreed.

Susan stated we currently have the Deck the Town lighting competition going on. Through Friday night at 10:00, you can vote on the Facebook Main Street Page. There are fourteen locations that were

nominated. The winner gets a traveling leg lamp with a plaque. There are a couple in the lead right now but it is very competitive.

CR 775 E ANNEXATION

JT stated this has been another topic that has come up in the past. We approached County Commissioners looking toward the future and having a vision for Hope and for some additional development. There are some ground behind the school on 775 that will be idea as a possible area for additional housing for Hope. The Commissions and I set down at a Working Session and had a discussion about it. As you recall they granted the request to annex road 775 East which is behind the school and they also granted if we wanted to annex 775 East also referred to as Angler Road. The council decided for the time being to focus on Road 775 East behind the school. Town Attorney Andrews has been working with County Attorney Grant Tucker to get some formalities in place. Scott Andrews clarified half on the road is owned by the Town and half by the County. Scott stated the thought is we would annex the other half so the entire road will be within the Town limits. The Commissioners are wanting a legal description for half of a road. We are trying to determine how to come up with a legal description for half of a road. I just had discussions with Grant Tucker. This week he is going to go back and have some more discussions on that and get back to me. Once we get a good legal description that is satisfactory to the Commissioners, we will be moving forward with the annexation. Hopefully we will have something back by January and I'll be able to present a petition for annexation in January. Ed asked about the effect on 600. Scott said he will make sure that is taken care of. Tim asked if they're taking in consideration zoning on the East side of that road. On the North side, that was addressed years ago. 180 or 250 feet on the opposite side of the road that the County cannot make a decision of what can be built that may not be beneficial to the Town. Scott stated I can tell you there has been no discussion in regards to zoning on this annexation. Tim stated it gets tricky because you're asking to have planning jurisdiction over County property. Ed stated that's called jurisdictional zoning. I know that can be down. JT stated they understand what our intensions are that if down the way that should development come, that we're contiguous on some sides to have a stronger argument to annex with possible land for further development.

TOWN MANAGER CONTRACT

Clyde questioned on terms it says that Town Manager is an "at will" employee. The Town shall employ him at the pleasure of the Town Council for a period of one year beginning January 1st. You have to do one or the other according to State Statutes. Scott Andrews answered that "at will" part is that they can be terminated is specifically for cause. I can take that out if it is confusing. **Nellie made a motion to accept the contract with a term for one year. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Scott will send the PDF version. Mark Webber asked are there more restrictions on this contract for 2019, other than what we talked about, compared to 2018. Nellie said this is just a new contract that we made up for the Town of Hope. I'm not sure how to answer your question. Ohmer added so we can assess the job. **Jerry made a motion to offer the contract to JT Doane for 2019. Clyde seconded.** Ed stated it's a contract and it is quite a bit of money. I think we should at least put it up for bid. Clyde questioned what he meant. Ed stated we've put every other contract up for bid this year. We have bid insurance. Clyde questioned an employee is going to have to bid for a job? Ed stated he can bid on the job just like anybody else. Jerry stated since he has been here, there has been more prosperity and growth in this Town than I have seen in my lifetime and I'm 52 years old. This man here doesn't even live in our community but his heart is for

this community and this Town. He goes above and beyond his duties every single time. That is worth a lot to me. We could put somebody else in there who sits at that desk, you are throwing your money away. He was willing to pick up brush. Some said he shouldn't do that. That is how much he cares about this Town. When you put your heart in your job, you can't get anybody else that's going to beat that. What he has done for this Town, is very commendable. I applaud him for all that he has done for this Town and all of us. Ed stated I'm not picking on JT. Jerry said I think you are going way off to the left. Ohmer stated this is going to turn into an emotional situation. I know several people are going to want to talk. I'm going to limit the amount of time you talk. Nellie said just go ahead and take the vote first. The rest of the Council said let's hear the comments. Ed Stone, Cross Street, stated you haven't mentioned how much of a pay raise he is going to get with the contract. The question I have is I don't believe in 2018 it was shared what his bills were. Is it true, the rumor around Town is he is paid from the time he leaves his house from Johnson County to come to Hope? Those kind of fringe benefits that we're not aware of or are they true. What all pay package does he get? Does he get paid to go to all these other County Meetings and Association Meetings that he goes to? What's the cost for the Town and is it justifiable. I personally don't see where he justified his pay last year. I know of an instance where if he would have kept his mouth shut there would have been a business transaction in this Town. When he didn't say anything and he started talking about it in a public meeting, the guy backed out. Mary Bailey asked what's your time limit. Ohmer answered be brief. Tim Shoaf asked did Strand submit bid for their contract. Nellie confirmed. Did ARa provide a quote for their contract? I ask because we have never done that as a Town annually. Ed stated we just did the insurance last year. Tim stated not annually. My understanding from years on the Council and since that ever so often you quote things just to be sure everybody is keeping honest but by the same token keep continuity going on. We never bid attorneys before. We did because we needed an attorney but we never asked for a bid from an attorney before. I think it is a good idea ever so often. I don't look at your Town Manager as a contract. Number one, I assume that you hold social security and things on him. That makes him an employee. He's not a contracted employer. Ed stated its part of his pay package. Ken Patton stated I own commercial property in this Town. I will say that JT Doane is the sole purpose that we have a pharmacy in our Town. We wouldn't have it if it wasn't for JT. I own the building. He found the tenant. He is the absolute sole reason why Studebaker is here in Hope. I had the building. I told JT I had interest in selling the building. He worked eight months diligently. I gave up on it. JT called them every day. There's Hope in Studebaker. This guy fights for Hope. I agree with everything Jerry said. Ohmer called for vote. Nellie asked for clarification on what the motion is for. There was confusion with the vote. Ohmer called for the vote again. Motion denied 2/3. Tim Shoaf called out that Ed voted in favor of it the first time. Nellie answered he didn't know what he was voting for. That's why I asked what the vote was for. Randy Bailey asked does nobody else get to speak. Tim Shoaf stated it is a railroad track. Randy Bailey said I thought we were on a time limit. You said you were going to give us a time limit. Nellie said people speak after the meeting. Randy Bailey stated, Nellie, I haven't been in here for five years and I think I should be able to get two minutes. Nellie again said after the meeting there is a time limit but not before. When the meeting ends we give a time limit to people to speak. Randy Bailey said you guys already had your mind made up and you don't want anyone to speak is what your problem is. Tim Shoaf stated I have never heard of an employee having to bid on their job. Nellie asked for Matt.

NEW BUSINESS:

2019 METERS

JT Doane stated as you recall last year we did two skids to get on track. By the end of this year we will have replaced 64% of our meters. Before you is an invoice to get a skid of meters for this coming year. David added that was the plan we started in 2014. We had to skip 2016 because of the water project so we did two last year. We are back on course to do 102 per year. The ones we are replacing are nineteen years old now. David explained the benefits of the new meters. Ed asked if it is a budgeted item. Diane answered we haven't actually done the budget for water and sewer yet but it is something that we have done every year. **Ed made a motion to approve the purchase of the meters. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** David stated it is funded 50% water and 50% sewer since the sewer bill is figured on water usage.

2019 COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT (CCMG)

JT Doane stated next year will be a two cycle year. As I mentioned at the last meeting, January 7, 2019 applications will open. There will also be an opening in the fall of 2019. As you recall, last fall there was some roads that came before you that the Council had already approved. They were submitted with our 2018 application. JT reviewed the roads included. The total cost of that project was \$175,829. The Council had approved our 25% match of \$43,957.25; \$30,000 for which came from CCD, \$13,957.25 from EDIT. The request before the Council is whether you want to pursue that January calling to get these additional roads submitted for a grant. **Nellie made a motion to proceed with the grant application. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0**

2019 TOWN SQUARE TRASH CONTRACT

JT Doane stated Jeff Yarnell's annual contract expires December 31st. This is a contract for 2019. Mr. Yarnell is not feeling well, therefore, was not able to come and sign the contract. We did discuss it. There was a change. Clerk Treasurer Burton added under No. 1 monthly to read monthly fee. Ed clarified that it is a monthly fee of \$200. Diane confirmed. Diane stated it should have been in there last time. It was just an oversight. That is the way he receives his checks. Jerry asked are we going to take bids on this too. Nellie asked if everything get picks up. Matt confirmed. Jerry stated we had a contract that we just went over and you said we need bids on it. This is a contract. It's no different. **Nellie made a motion to renew the contract. Ed seconded.** Clyde stated Jerry is right. Ed stated let's bid it. Ohmer called it to vote. **Motion carries 3/2.**

2019 BUILDING & ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

JT Doane stated similarly Greg Pots is on an annual contract. It expires December 31, 2018. This will run for 2019. There was a modification done on this. The amount on this contract is \$6,072.44 per year. Clyde stated this is another contract. I think we should bid it. The council agreed to bid it. Nellie stated I did talk to JT recently and JT confirmed that he does a good job. Clyde stated well so did JT. That is beside the point. It was consensus of the Council to bid the contract.

TOWN REPORT

JT Doane reviewed his Town Report and stated the following:

Make sure to encourage residents to visit the Hope Wellness Pharmacy. The more support they get increases their longevity.

I attended an IDOT Meeting on November 29th. Clerk Treasurer Burton attended as well.

Further effort in collaboration with Studebaker International. I spoke with Heritage of Hope about the involvement for Hope Heritage Days in 2019.

If you have any other detail on interior projects for homes, as you recall First Financial indicated that they will assist with some efforts. They have a tentative date of February 2019. If you know of anyone who has interior projects, have them contact Town Hall.

JT stated in light of the Council's recent decision, Clerk Treasurer Burton checked today, it's my request before the Council that I receive accrued time that I have at present. Nellie asked how much that is. Diane answered I believe he has earned since July 11th, two weeks of vacation, one personal and five sick days. Ohmer stated I think that needs to be approved. **Ed made a motion that the requested earned time be paid. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

METER INSTALLATION AGREEMENT

Diane Burton stated I have a Meter Installation Agreement between the Town of Hope and Gerald Hamilton. The address is 14373 East County Road 600 North. It is for a Sewer Tap in the amount of \$825. David expanded on the location and situation. **Ed made a motion to approve the Meter Installation Agreement. Jerry seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

TRANSFER OF FUNDS (Resolution No. 2018-10)

Diane Burton read Resolution No. 2018-10 Transfer of Funds which states the following: Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Hope that the following transfer of funds be made:

From appropriation 202001221 Local Roads and Streets Operating Supplies in the amount of \$3,000 to appropriation 202001315 Local Roads and Streets Professional Services in the amount of \$3,000. Diane explained this transfer was due to higher engineering costs than what was budgeted for. The next transfer was to move some funds from General Fund into the Rainy Day Fund to have a cushion for future. From appropriation 101001122 General Health Insurance \$31,500 and from appropriation 101001341 General Liability Insurance \$8,500 to appropriation 436001301 Rainy Day Projects \$40,000. Diane stated you are allowed to transfer ten percent of your revenue to Rainy Day. Nellie questioned the excess in the Health Insurance appropriation. Diane confirmed that she always has cushion due to the uncertainty of insurance. **Ed made a motion to approve Resolution 2018-10. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

UTILITIES WRITE-OFFS

Diane Burton stated this is our end of the year write offs for utilities. The total for water is \$434.25. The total for sewer is \$25.83. The grand total is \$460.08. Nellie asked what happens when a lien is paid. Diane answered it goes back into that fund. **Nellie made a motion to approve the write offs. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

SALARY ORDINANCE (Ordinance No. 2018-06, 2nd Reading)

Diane Burton stated this is the second reading of the Salary Ordinance. What was recommended last month was the three percent. The only change with this Salary Ordinance other than the percent was verbiage for Utility Department for on-call during a holiday. **Clyde made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-06. Jerry seconded.** There was a question on how the three percent is implemented. Diane explained the three percent is for the Elected Officials and the ranges. It is up to the supervisors for their employees. Nellie asked if they need to set the pay for the Town Marshal and Utility Superintendent. Diane answered that has typically been done in January but that is a Council decision. **Motion carries 5/0.**

LIABILITY INSURANCE AGENT OF RECORD

Ohmer stated this is something that I recommended so that we can bring the insurance back to an agent in the county. Ed clarified if that was for all three types of insurances. Ohmer confirmed. Jerry stated then you are limiting it to Bartholomew County only. We up here are supposed to have the best interest of everyone. Sometimes you're going to find it outside of Bartholomew County. How are you going to know if you limit it to just Bartholomew County. Ohmer stated the insurance was brought to McCarty Miller from Johnson Whitkemper. Johnson Whitkemper they didn't do an Agent of Record change because we were a local agency and we could support the Town of Hope. There are elements in this room that as the McCarty Miller transitioned into Miller Insurance didn't feel like they wanted to keep it with my agency. That is alright. I do not have a problem with that but I do have a problem taking the money out of the county when we could support our local economy. Jerry expressed the importance of the saving thousands of dollars for the Town by going out of the county. We don't limit anything else that we do to just Bartholomew County. Ohmer stated it was merely a suggestion. Clyde stated this is totally a conflict of interest from the start. He is right. You're putting this Town into a little corner. What he is talking about which is confusing you, the Agent of Record, he can get a percentage of the profit the other company makes. It is going to set it up to where no outside companies is going to want to bid on it. The last time it was bid, there were two bids; one that was yours and one from Indianapolis. There was only one insurance company in Bartholomew County that bid on it so that means that you have the potential to make money off of this. That is conflict of interest. Ohmer denied that he would make a profit. Clyde stated IC 35-44-1-3 specifically states that. If you are going to try to do this, you have to write to the State Board of Accounts. You should not be able to vote on this to begin with because it is an insurance matter. If you vote on it, someone is going to be getting a hold of the State Board of Accounts. It is a class D felony. Ed asked when you changed the Agent of Record last year after the bid was done, did you contact the State Board of Accounts. Diane answered it was all part of your bidding process. Ed stated he won the bid. He had the lowest bid. Diane stated the motion was made for HBG and that was what was voted on and accepted by the Council. Nellie stated I might be wrong but I didn't think what he is talking about here has anything to do with his insurance company. We're not giving anything back to them or to him. Jerry stated like with everything else whoever wants to bid on it, can bid on it and we look at it from there. The topic was tabled. Nellie stated she will contact the State Board of Accounts and find out if it is a conflict of interest. Clyde stated he will contact them as well. Clyde stated I don't know what you are trying to accomplish with this crap. You are tearing this Town to pieces by doing this stuff.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Tabled.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Tabled.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ABOUT SUBMITTED REPORTS

No comments.

*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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Webber asked on the offer that was turned down regarding the contract to the Town Manager, do we know what the current proposed salary was and what happens next. Nellie stated that is something that before we leave here tonight, we should set a salary because we have not done that. Clyde stated you can't set it because that contract has to be bid on. He wants people to bid on it.

Russell Burton, 535 Seminary, I want to know where you three that voted to get rid of JT, are you thinking that we are going to have a Town Manager or are you going to do away with a Town Manager. Ed commented sure. Russ asked I would like to know your reason on why you are getting rid of JT. I don't understand. I am a friend of JT's. He is a great guy. He does a great job. All of these things you are putting on these guys. Ohmer stated I have no comment. Nellie also stated no comment. Russ stated I figured you wouldn't. Nellie asked what are we putting on these guys. Russ answered if I was applying for this job and I started reading these minutes, I would run as fast as I could. I don't blame JT. I would run from this place. You're a disgrace. I'm a Town taxpayer. I have lived here all my life. Ed Stone, I have never you say anything nice to anybody. I'm done. Ohmer stated please have a seat. Russ said you guys can take care of your business and I'm going to take care of mine.

Pastor Ed Cottrell asked does that mean as of January 1 we do not have a Town Manager. Ohmer answered that is correct. Thank you.

JoEllen Seright stated you two guys on the end, you talk about disgrace. I have never heard such stupid stuff come out of two people's mouth in this meeting. You guys need to get along together not oh I didn't get my way so I'm going to sit here and not make a motion and I'm not going to do anything. That is exactly what you two did. It is ridiculous. Clyde answered I'm not going along with something that I don't feel is right. Whether you feel it is right or not, I don't care. JoEllen stated I'm not going to fuss with you because I don't like you. Clyde answered I don't like you either. JoEllen stated you need to use some common sense. You need to know what you are talking about.

John Walstead asked if David Clouse's job needed bid on when his contract runs out. Ohmer answered he doesn't have a contract. Nellie added he is a Town employee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Liana B...

Attest

Cheryl M...

William E. Johnson

Clyde Compton

James B...

Hellie Meek