

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 19, 2020.

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

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

**Minutes 4/21/2020**

**Ohmer made a motion for the approval of the minutes. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

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

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **2019-2020 COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT PAY APPLICATION 2**

Steve Robertson, Strand, recommended payment of pay application 2 to O'Mara Contracting for paving in the amount of \$170,781.50. Steve stated this will leave the Town holding retainage in the amount of \$12,002 until everything is signed off on. Steve also clarified that there was no overruns. **Ed made a motion to pay application 2. Ohmer seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

##### **2020-2021 CCMG APPLICATION**

Steve Robertson stated the website says you can apply for the 20-21 Community Crossing Grant sometime in July. They have not yet given a deadline. The Town will pay 25% plus engineering fees. A Five Year Road Treatment Summary was given to the Council. Steve reminded the Council that David Clouse had voiced the need for Aiken Street and Schaefer Drive to be done. The Council will need to decide, if they want to move forward, who will do the application and select the streets. Strand can assist with the application. The next application will not be until January 2021. Clyde recommended skipping this one due to reduced funds available, the cost of the application and fewer streets need completed. Clyde stated over the past three years, we have paved 60% of our streets. We have done a tremendous job. I think we should see what is going on with the State before we make that decision. Ed stated I feel we should go ahead and apply. Steve stated there is a lot of leg work involved in completing the application. If you are interested in doing just a couple of streets, our fee would be lower. Steve will check into the cost of assisting with the application. Ohmer stated I think if there is an opportunity for money we should pursue it. It was a consensus of the Council on getting an estimate of the application fee. Steve reminded the Council if it is less than \$150,000, the job can just be quoted which will cut costs.

### **DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT PROJECT**

Steve Robertson stated you received a couple of emails with shop drawings of the amenities that were included in the grant application. Steve asked for Council approval on the amenities selected. Steve stated you're confirming the style and color. There will be a couple more shop drawings emailed to you needing approval as well. I will give you a deadline and if I don't hear back from you, I will assume you agree. Clyde questioned what was going to be done with the park benches in the square that are poured in concrete. Steve answered they are going to be reused. Steve explained the process. There was discussion on the brown and yellow benches. Clyde ask if picnic tables are a part of the grant. Trena answered no. Ed asked about replacement bulbs. Ed feels we should keep a couple on hand. Steve will check on cost. **Clyde made a motion to approve the amenities presented. Ed seconded.** Ohmer asked where the cigarette receptacles will be mounted. Steve stated on the side of the trashcans. They will be black to match the trashcans. The benches will be black as well. **Motion carries 5/0.** Steve stated the contractor is scheduled to start June 1<sup>st</sup>. He still needs to add the Town and Strand as additional insureds to receive the Notice to Proceed. Steve stated Jerry needs permission to sign the Notice to Proceed contingent upon the insurance correction. **Clyde made a motion to allow Jerry to sign the notice contingent on the insurance correction. Ed seconded. Motion carries 5/0.** Steve asked for permission for the contractor to be allowed to do some concrete pours as early as 6:00 a.m. this summer when it starts getting hot. This allows it to finish out better and not as much risk for someone to walk on it. The Council agreed.

### **DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT – FENCING AROUND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

Ed Johnson stated we would like to fence off the playground to keep kids away from the construction. Steve added the contractor will provide orange construction fence at no cost. It was a consensus of the Council to allow the fencing.

### **REOPENING PARKS**

Clyde stated according to the State playgrounds can be reopened on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Are we going to allow them to be open? Clyde questioned opening the park and then closing it in two weeks for construction. Steve stated some potential scenarios including the park to be closed during the construction time or the park to be closed Monday through Friday and open on the weekend. There was discussion on the parks. It was a consensus of the Council to open the Downtown Park and basketball court on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Norman Park will remain closed due to playground equipment that needs replaced or repaired. Nellie stated we need to communicate that the park will be closing during construction.

### **DAVEY TREE CONTRACT – ASH TREES**

Jerry stated we were waiting to see how the Ash trees were going to do before spending money on treatment. They are doing very good, therefore, the treatment is needed to maintain the trees. The cost of the treatment is \$1,980.00. **Clyde made a motion to approve the treatment. Nellie seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **LIABILITY INSURANCE**

John Parmley, HBG, stated if you need any help or any guidance on playgrounds and on reopening, I have a lot of COVID information. My agenda is next year to take this completely out to market. I'm a

believer of three years of a relationship then take it out to market. I would then be looking at seven to eight markets for the liability, property and auto. Property values were increased by 3 1/2 % just due to inflation. Inland Marine is a scheduled agreement. We went through that list so that list increased over last year 19%. General liability is the same. Law enforcement is the same. From a limit prospective, Public Officials are the same. We added autos; actually one auto and a trailer. The general liability is rated off of your budget, street miles and roads and water hookups. We have 830 hookups and twelve street miles. This is about a 6% rate increase when you take out exposures. Ed asked are you aware we are going to be getting rid of a vehicle. John was not. John stated if it is off by June 1<sup>st</sup> an adjustment can be made. Diane will follow up with David. John stated that will save \$400 to \$500 dollars. Cyber Liability is the same. The reserve deputy policy is the same. No premium change. I appreciate everything. Clyde asked Ed stated this needs to be quoted. You're stating every three years. Apparently our three years are not up yet. John confirmed. John stated if you quote it every year, you won't get the best rate and coverages, best look from your carriers. Your policy runs from June to June. Ohmer stated I agree with what Mr. Parmley is saying. I also would like to see us make a local agent the agent of record. I'm not talking about Miller Insurance. I think we should move it to someone locally that is closer to us. That is my recommendation. Ohmer recommended that change be made now. Clyde suggested leave it just like it is this year. Next year we can deal with both issues. **Clyde made a motion to renew the insurance with Astra. Ed seconded. Motion 4/1.** Ed asked John if a recent claim was settled. John confirmed.

#### **RESOLUTION 2020-04 TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

Diane Burton stated the first thing I want to clarify is that this is not a change in the budget. It's just change in where the funds are located. I think these savings accounts were at one time for a purpose. This was before my time. I had previously mentioned closing the savings out so I don't have to keep doing transfers. This is Resolution 2020-04 which reads as follows: Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Hope that the follow transfer of funds be made to close the savings accounts: From 211 MVH Savings \$20,112.18 + accrued interest to 201 MVH \$20,112.18 + accrued interest. From 212 Local Roads and Streets savings \$19,342.58 + accrued interest to 202 Local Roads and Streets \$19,342.58 + accrued interest. **Nellie made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-04. Clyde seconded. Motion carries 5/0.**

#### **EDIT REQUESTS**

Clyde Compton stated we had two Edit requests. One from Pete Law, Actor's Studio of Hope, for Student Scholarships \$4,000, Hauser Auditorium Rental \$500. Total of \$4,500. The Edit Committee recommended approval 3/1. Nellie stated I don't think we should approve this. We don't give money to any of the sports or gymnastics. They all pay the fee. We don't pay anyone to do that. We don't allow anyone else to create themselves job. I think that is what this is. I am very much against it. Clyde stated I want to bring up some points. He has Hauser down here as a rental and he does have subject to change. The school has been shut down for weeks. According to State law you cannot open that school building up for any reason until June 30<sup>th</sup>. As far as I'm concerned it's poorly planned. One of members asked him since he had brought students in from other counties, did he ask for funding from these counties. The answer was no. I think it is way too soon to take forty to fifty children and put them in a small area for a week. If they caught something or took something home to their parents, I would never forgive myself. I am against it. Ohmer stated I agree with Clyde and Nellie. Students should pay and have an offsite location. **Motion denied 0/5.**

Clyde stated the second request is from Susan Thayer Fye, Main Street, for flowers \$2,000 and a gardener \$5,000. Total of \$7,000. The Edit Committee recommended approval 3/2. Ohmer stated we're not going to have anything on the square. Clyde stated you hit on a point that I was going to bring up too. That is the same price as last year. They are doing less work. The square is going to be torn up. The one thing I don't think we really want to do though is be like a possum and roll over dead. The gardener gets paid by the hour. They only ended up spending \$5,329 last year. My opinion is that we should still do it but cap it at \$5,000. Ed asked if flowers will be planted then have to take them out. Diane clarified they will not have anything in the park. It will just be on the sidewalks. In the fall, when the park project is done, they'll plant some mums in the troughs. **Motion denied 0/5. Clyde made a motion to cap it at \$5,000 for both flowers and a gardener. Ed seconded. Motion 5/0.**

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

\*A Police, Animal Control 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.

Clyde asked Steve about a Heli Flux Magnetic Locator borrowed from Strand. Do you have any idea how much they costs. Steve answered no but he only uses maybe once every other year. We don't mind loaning it to him. We own two. I don't think it would be worth the investment.

Clyde clarified there were eighteen domestics last month. Matt confirmed. Matt stated they have definitely increased.

Nellie stated we need to discuss small houses and the ordinance on houses. There was a discussion about a shed on Seminary Street. Matt Tallent stated Matt Galbraith sent them a letter stating they are not allowed to live in it, however, they can get electricity hooked up to it since it was supposed to be a shed. There are people living in the shed. Matt Galbraith also told them they will not get approved for any utilities. Nellie added it is not in its proper location. Clyde stated I looked up the ordinance. We have a maximum percent of roof area but there is no minimum. Ed corrected Indiana State residential code states it has to be so many square feet. Nellie also commented on the junk on the property.

Ed asked about the Billy Davis home on Walnut Street. Matt stated that house is still the same. It hasn't changed. Ed asked if there is a court date. Matt stated that I don't know. Ed stated we have a lot of tall grass too.

Clyde asked Steve about the corner of Walnut and Washington. Clyde stated last year we paved that intersection. This year we tore it out and paved it again. Steve confirmed. Steve stated the contractor wanted to do that to make it look better. He wasn't paid extra to do that. It helped with some of the drainage. I also want to bring up at the corner of Elm and Washington, the property owner had a tree taken down. It damaged the new sidewalk. They removed the damaged portions but what the contractor installed is not all there anymore. Ohmer asked about replacing it. Steve answered you don't have to replace it. The ordinance will need to be reviewed to determine who is responsible for sidewalk replacement.

Steve stated an annual thing that Strand does is a stream gage calibration out at the lagoons. It is scheduled for this Friday. David authorizes it. This shows him what the flow in the creek is to know how much he can discharge.

Clyde asked Trena to follow up on guidelines for banners that she was going to provide.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

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Attest

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