**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**January 17, 2017**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, John Schilawski, Frank Vaughn, Mike Rogier and Scott Alspach. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Perrin offered the opening prayer.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Vaughn moves to approve the minutes of the January 3rd meeting and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

Bill Whitlock, 53 Brookside is requesting an adjustment on the bill for this property dating back to October. He said the tenants living in the house had a leak in the wall as well as a leaking toilet that he repaired. Mr. Whitlock did not bring receipts or proof of the repairs with him tonight. Council approves a credit of $746.65 if Mr. Whitlock takes the receipts to the office and pays the remaining balance. Whitlock agrees to do so.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the January 17th Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Alspach moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Storm Water EPN

Attorney Robbins states that he is working on a draft for the door hanger for Storm Water EPNs. This item will be placed on the agenda for the February 7th meeting.

Signage for Town Offices

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach reports that PW Supt. Johnson met with Duke Energy about getting electricity to the right of way along Tracy Road for an informational sign for our offices. Johnson estimates our cost for getting the electricity run at $1,500.00. Council authorizes running the electrical but are still debating what will be included on the sign.

I & I Study

Attorney Robbins states that in a recent conversation with Steve Brock he was informed that New Whiteland may qualify for some SRF monies to finance the upcoming I & I project. Steve Brock has discussed our project with Mark Sullivan of Midwest Engineers. Robbins recommends having Brock attend a meeting in February once Sullivan’s final report has been presented. Attorney Robbins will contact Steve Brock.

Councilman Schilawski asks about the signage for Tracy and Sweetbriar. President Perrin states the signs are not in yet. He adds that the striping may need to wait until spring.

NWFD

Captain Currin asks about the status for purchasing replacement radios. Several of their radios are failing and need replacement batteries. Currin doesn’t want to purchase batteries if we plan to buy new radios this year. Council says the radios are still good for at least 2 years, buy batteries.

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1114 Ashland

Attorney Robbins states that he has filed a complaint with the courts due to inactivity on the property owner’s part. This is the first step in the process to allow us to demolish the home.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Social Media Policy

Attorney Robbins has received a copy of a Social Media Policy from another municipality. New Whiteland does not currently have one. Our employee handbook addresses no personal use of the internet on town time. Attorney Robbins states that several municipalities have been sued over social media, several have taken down all interactive social media and post all information on their website. Robbins notes that the town and the fire department have Facebook pages. If the council wants to allow Facebook pages directly linked to the town or town departments they need to have written policy on things like what can be posted, who is authorized to post, is the public allowed to comment, etc. Council asks Attorney Robbins to provide examples of social media policies.

Republic Request

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach has received a request from Republic to change the week they pick up heavy trash. She has advised them that they would need to present their request in person at a council meeting.

Attorney Robbins leaves at 5:45 p.m.

WWII Monument

Councilman Rogier presents a proposal to add a limestone monument similar to the large limestone Proctor Park piece at the entrance to the park that would have the silhouette of the USS Indianapolis blasted on it to commemorate the WWII Veterans. Rogier has a friend that will do the design and the labor. He estimates the cost at around $1,000.00 for the limestone and would like to set up a GO FUND ME PAGE in his name to raise money for this project. Council gives preliminary approval. They would like to see and approve the final design, they will determine the location for the monument and they want a disclaimer on the GO FUND ME ACCOUNT that any additional funds that are raised over the cost of the monument will be used for park improvements.

President Perrin states that he recently heard a minister speak about finding ways to encourage more participation in community events, local governments, community service projects, etc. Perrin states that this gentleman is going to try and set up some meetings to brainstorm ways to accomplish this goal. Perrins asks for suggestions, ideas. Councilman Vaughn states filling vacancies on various boards like the Plan Commission. Councilman Alspach suggests the Neighborhood Watch Program that has been discussed. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states that she was contacted by Grace Assembly Church asking for ideas like this and she sent them a list of things like creating a data base of residents with specific job skills like plumbers, electricians, carpenters, people with snow plows that would donate their time and skills to help others in a crisis. She would like to see a list of disabled veterans or elderly residents that are unable to shovel their driveways and pair them up with snow plow operators to get their driveways cleaned. She would like a way to provide heat to a

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family whose furnace goes out and they can’t afford to have it repaired. This data base could help connect people willing to give with those who need help.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

None.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 John Perrin, Council President