**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**December 15, 2015**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the December 1st meeting and is seconded by Councilman Noonan. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

None.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Noonan moves to approve and ratify both and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

401 Mooreland Drive

Attorney Robbins states that Town Manager Spencer contacted Chris Badger with Badger Engineering after the last meeting requesting additional information including references, similar projects that he has completed successfully and a revised proposal breaking the fee out in phases. Today he emailed a short list of references and the reports he did for a couple of other projects. With the exception of the references we do not have much more information than we did at the last meeting. Robbins adds that we would have to get approval and permits from both DNR and the Johnson County Drainage Board to make any alterations or improvements. If permits are issued when the work is completed we would have to apply to FEMA to amend the flood plain map. All of the time and money spent will not guarantee that FEMA will amend the map but we would certainly hope that would happen. Town Manager Spencer has approached Midwest Engineers about getting a second opinion / proposal. Town Manager Spencer and Mr. Badger have both contacted DNR and been advised we would need a LOMAR F and would need to remove the rear and side sidewalks, bring in fill dirt, compact and regrade the area around the back corner of the building and then request remapping. DNR cautions there is no guarantee the request will be granted.

Attorney Robbins states that one of the bidders on the property at 300 Tracy Road has advised the realtor that he would be interested in purchasing 401 Mooreland. Council directs Attorney Robbins to discuss possibility of lease agreement rather than purchase agreement with Habitat for Humanity. Could be a lease to purchase or straight lease but need to know if they are still interested in some type of arrangement if the flood plain issue is not addressed. Robbins is to also get more information from the realtor on the potential use of the building if the other party were to purchase it. Will this create zoning issues?

300 Tracy Road

Attorney Robbins states the realtor believes one of the bidders will be resubmitting a higher offer after the first offers were rejected. Terry Spencer has been in contact with the realtor also.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Communication Equipment Grant

Fire Chief Wilson presents information on a proposal for a grant writer to prepare and submit a grant application to replace the radios and pagers that will need to be replaced in 2017. Wilson was notified of an available grant on December 11th. He, Marshal Stephenson, Town Manager Spencer

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and Clerk-Treasurer Alspach participated in a conference call earlier today to gather more information. Wilson estimates the cost of the equipment at $100,000.00. Because of our population we would have a 5% match. The contract for the grant writing service is $2,100 and if we receive the grant $1,500 of that amount is reimbursable. This grant closes on January 15th so we need to get started if we want to apply. Wilson intends to apply for 30 radios (estimated cost $3,700 each), 3 recharging banks, 25 pagers and batteries for this equipment. In the past the radios have been provided by the County through the 911 monies collected. The State has removed radios from the list of items those monies can be used for so now the burden falls on the local departments to purchase and maintain the equipment. Councilman Rogier moves to approve the contract and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Request for SRO Officers

Marshal Stephenson states that he and Whiteland Town Marshal Rick Shipp met with Mr. Stalets with Clark Pleasant Schools this week. The school has received a Federal grant to provide School Resource Officers at the high school. They want to fill those positions with Whiteland and New Whiteland sworn officers. Officers would wear the department uniforms and use their town issued equipment. Some items of concern were for the officers; what if they are injured when working this part time job. Councilman Schilawski states they will be individually contracted with the school, not employees and will not have benefits or workman comp coverage. Attorney Robbins cautions the employees need to be made aware that in the event they are injured while working for the school they will not be covered by the town’s insurance, either workman comp or possibly their health insurance. Anthem could deny a claim if it is determined it resulted from part time employment that should fall under workmen comp of the employer. Also discussed that while working for the school they would be Resource Officers and if the need for an arrest arises the local agency should be called to handle any arrests. Stephenson is asking for permission for the officers to attend the SRO training that the school corporation is paying for. Council asks if school is alright covering the cost of the schooling without a guarantee of final approval. Town will not reimburse the school for the training. Stephenson states this would be Monday – Friday during school hours at the high school only. Councilman Rogier asks what happens if there is an incident at the Middle School will they be sent there. Stephenson states that the school corporation is talking to Greenwood Police Department about covering the middle school since it is in their jurisdiction. Council asks for more information on the requirements and duties of an SRO before final approval is given. Permission is granted for officers to take the SRO training on their own time at no cost to the town.

Nepotism Certificates

Attorney Robbins presents the annual certificates that need to be completed and on file showing that each individual councilman is in compliance with our ordinances 2151 (I.C. 36-1-20.2) and 2152 (36-1-21). Certificates are executed.

5 Year Plans

Town Manager Spencer states each department’s 5 year plan has been included in your packets tonight.

NIXLE

Town Manager Spencer presents basic information about this notification system and is waiting on additional information from a competitor.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Resolution 2015-7

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents the resolution to reduce the 2015 Rainy Day Fund by $30,000.00 to be able to fund the 2016 budget. Once approved this resolution will be forwarded to the DLGF.

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Councilman Rogier moves to adopt Resolution 2015-7 and is seconded by Councilman Noonan. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2015-15

Clerk Treasurer Alspach presents and explains the transfer ordinance on first reading. Motion to approve by Councilman Schilawski with second by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Motion to suspend the rules and consider the ordinance on final reading by Councilman Noonan with second by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.** Clerk Treasurer Alspach presents the transfer ordinance in title only on final reading. Motion to approve by Councilman Rogier with second by Councilman Noonan. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Transfer Memo

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents a transfer memo for the Wastewater Utility. Motion to approve by Councilman Schilawski with second by Councilman Noonan. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

End of Year Docket and Transfers

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states that a final docket will be run on December 31st. She asks council members to stop in the office to sign the docket and any necessary end of year transfers.

Councilman Recognition

Council Vice President thanks Councilman Noonan for his years of dedicated service both as a councilman and as a volunteer helping anywhere he was needed. Noonan’s counsel, experience and model of public service has been appreciated by all. The council wishes him well in his retirement and reminds him that while he will be missed he is always welcome to attend our meetings!

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

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

John Perrin, Council President