**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**February 16, 2016**

**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 Schilawski, Mike Rogier, Scott Alspach, Frank Vaughn and John Perrin. Also present were Town Manager Terry Spencer, Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Alspach offered the opening prayer.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the February 2nd meeting and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the February 9th Executive Session and is seconded by Councilman Vaughn. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

None.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Rogier moves to approve and ratify both and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

New Whiteland Fire Chief Derek Wilson introduces Firefighter / EMT Alex Scheidler who has completed his probationary year. Wilson administers Firefighter Scheidler’s oath of office and presents his badge.

**OLD BUSINESS**

401 Mooreland Drive

Attorney Robbins spoke with Eric Prime, the attorney for Habitat, and advised that the Town would consider a lower offer if they would take the building as is without addressing the flood plain mapping issue. The Habitat board should meet next week and we should have an amended offer by our meeting on March 1st. Robbins added that Jim Karozos, our realtor for 300 Tracy, did show the property at 401 Mooreland on Monday and several requests were made for additional information from that prospective buyer. Requested information has been provided.

Requirements for SRO Officers

Attorney Robbins distributes copies of the job description that Marshal Stephenson provided to him. Robbins notes that the listed duties include keeping the peace and making arrests among other duties which is more than a Resource Officer and more like a Police Officer. Previously we were told that the SRO would not handle investigations or make arrests, an outside agency would be called. Councilman Rogier asks that 4(E) be amended to clarify that a New Whiteland Officer working as an SRO will not make arrests. Marshal Stephenson will have that revision made. Rogier states if the officers make an arrest while working as an SRO and the case goes to court then we have a potential comp time issue for court time. Attorney Robbins states that officers or any employee cannot do work that relates to any outside employment on town time. That would constitute ghost employment.

Attorney Robbins has also reviewed the school’s insurance policy and Workmen’s Comp coverage for SRO officers is specifically excluded. Marshal Stephenson states that the

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officers know that if they are hurt while working as a SRO they are not covered by Workmen’s Comp.

Lastly, Attorney Robbins notes the officers need to know that in the event of an emergency, their employment by New Whiteland takes precedent over any outside employment. Marshal Stephenson states that is clearly spelled out in the department’s General Orders.

**NEW BUSINESS**

NWFD

Chief Wilson requests approval to apply for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security annual grant. Wilson states the grant amount cannot exceed $4,000 and is a reimbursable grant. He would like to apply for $3,832.50 to purchase 15 helmets. Council approves.

Dog Park

Town Manager Spencer is recommending that the playground equipment be removed from the Tot Park and that it be converted into a Dog Park. Spencer says playground equipment in that park is consistently vandalized and that the use of that park has dwindled over the years. Council President Perrin states that he is tired of punishing the community by taking away equipment because of the actions of a few. Councilman Vaughn states we need to find ways to put new equipment in our parks and improve them rather than continuing to remove old equipment without replacing or upgrading it. For too many years the Parks budget has been the scapegoat for budget cuts. Some discussion continues on possibly having part of Tot Park be a Dog Park and the other half remain a play area for toddlers and young children. Council directs Town Manager Spencer to research other dog parks and gather information on size of the park and equipment in those parks. Spencer and PW Supt Johnson are also asked to prepare a price list for material needed to fence in part of that park for dogs and on some new toddler geared playground equipment.

Flood Insurance

Town Manager Spencer recommends dropping the flood insurance on the Salt and Sand Storage Building. Spencer states that in the flood of 2008 that building was not flooded. Spencer adds it is a 3 sided concrete building with a concrete floor that would not be damaged in a flood. Risk would be to the salt stored in the building. PW Supt. Johnson states that anywhere from $20,000 to $30,000 worth of salt is usually being stored. Spencer states the cost of the insurance is $1,000 per year and there is a $1,000 deductible. Spencer adds that the building and contents are covered on our liability policy. He also states that if the salt washed into the creek and caused a waterway contamination issue the flood plain insurance would not cover that exposure. Council agrees to drop the coverage.

Credit Cards

Attorney Robbins presents a rough draft of a credit card ordinance for the council to review. Robbins notes that the language in this ordinance is taken directly from the State Board of Accounts manual. President Perrin likes having the credit cards secured at the Town Hall with designated users having a credit limit and having to log the cards out and return them along with a receipt. Councilman Rogier states credit card users will be responsible to provide tax exempt information to the vendor. Attorney Robbins states this will be placed on the March 1st agenda.

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Bicentennial Committee

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach is asking for input as to how we want New Whiteland represented in the Bicentennial event being held on the courthouse square in Franklin on Friday evening, September 23rd. Alspach suggests highlighting our patriotism, Proctor Park, Disc Golf, our schools, etc. She needs feedback to take back to the next meeting on March 1st. Councilmen Rogier, Vaughn and Schilawski volunteer to help identify what sets New Whiteland apart.

EPN Program

Councilman Alspach asks Town Manager Spencer for the status on the EPN program they discussed at the beginning of January to clean up problem areas in town like the yard full of cars on Southlane. Spencer states he will get started on it tomorrow.

ILEA Training

Town Manager Spencer has approved Marshal Stephenson instructing at the ILEA for the next 2 days.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

None.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

William Lamb, 415 Southlane states that he called in last week and spoke to Maribeth about having a street light reactivated on Southlane and has not heard back. Mr. Lamb states it is very dark from his house to Sweetbriar and would either like the light replaced or to have the pole moved between Willark and Southlane.

Town Manager Spencer states this was turned over to him and he had Marshal Stephenson and Officer Glaze investigate. Spencer states the pole is for transformer wires only not a streetlight. Marshal Stephenson states there are 3 streetlights between Sweetbriar and Delbrook and he does not believe there was ever a light on that pole. President Perrin states he lives in that area and he will drive by and check on the area later this evening.

Lori Morrison, 432 Melrose would like to see more youth programs.

Janelle Stephens, Greenwood states she was raised in New Whiteland and suggests trying to involve youth in some future parks projects.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

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

John Perrin, Council President