**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**February 5, 2019**

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

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the January 15th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

None.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

INDOT Proposed Changes US 31 and Tracy Road

Adam Burns, CMT Design Project Engineer and Nicole Curry, INDOT Project Manager are here to answer concerns about the proposed changes at the Tracy Road and US 31 interchange. Councilman Alspach has been trading emails with Mr. Burns about concerns that the town has with the proposed changes. Burns explains that this project has been in the works for about eight (8) months and several options have been investigated; Median U Turn, Round About, Signal Modifications or No Build (no changes). They are approximately three (3) months from a final decision on the best solution. The Median U Turn appears to be the front runner but they have come tonight to listen to our concerns and explain the proposed plan. They plan to award a contract in August 2020 and begin construction.

The proposed plan would prohibit all left hand turns at the Tracy Road and US 31 intersection. You would not be allowed to turn left as you travel east and west on Tracy Road or as your travel north or south on US 31. Burns states the decision was based on crash history over the last three (3) years and a desire for more effective traffic flow. This plan also includes a traffic light at County Wood Drive W (road next to Burger King) and a flashing light for the north U Turn (in front of Ray Skillman’s) both locations would have improved lighting.

Councilman Alspach asks about crash history. Burns states there were sixty-seven (67) recorded accidents in the last three (3) years in the US 31 corridor from 2 intersections north of Tracy Road and 3 intersections south. Of that nineteen (19) were personal injury accidents mostly minor injuries. 61% of the accidents were rear end collisions and 10% were reportedly right-angle collisions. Councilman Alspach has also researched the accident history at that intersection and reports that in the three (3) year time period there were actually eight (8) accidents involving left hand turns.

Council offers multiple alternatives:

1. Impose consistent speed limit from Greenwood through Franklin on US 31.
2. Lengthen the turn lanes in all directions at this intersection.

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1. Add sensors in roadway to trigger signals when no cross traffic to keep traffic moving.
2. Lengthen the time that the turn only signal stays on.
3. Waiting on East West corridor work to be completed will alleviate traffic on Tracy Road.

Council also voices several concerns:

1. Distance to start of turn lane south of Tracy Road is 225’ – drivers on Tracy wanting to travel north would have to cross two (2) lanes of traffic going south to enter turn lane. Upon leaving the Median U Turn they would have to pull into the fast lane of traffic heading north in ongoing traffic.
2. CPCSC bus garage is on Tracy Road. This plan will cause school buses to back up in those turn lanes and potentially block the fast lane of traffic on 31 during peak times. It will also cause buses loaded with children to pull into oncoming traffic after going north to make the U Turn and head back south.
3. This plan will definitely delay response times for emergency personnel. Burns states that emergency response vehicles could have override mechanisms to change the traffic signals to make a left-hand turn. Fire Chief Saucier asks if the State will provide those for our vehicles as we don’t have funding for them in our budgets. Burns will investigate.
4. Will semi-trailers be able to make the proposed U Turns?
5. Council believes this plan is more dangerous than the current situation and are firmly opposed to the change.
6. Water stands on the west side of US 31 where a turn blister is indicated. Utility Supervisor Gillock asks if part of the project would include cleaning the drainage swale the length of 31 as has been requested the last several years and addressing the drainage issues.

The current construction estimate for this plan is $750,000.00. INDOT may hold public meetings to take residents input before final decision is made. They will take these comments back to the design team for review. Council thanks them for coming and listening to our concerns.

Fire Engine Specifications

Fire Chief Saucier and Attorney Robbins are working on the Specifications for the new engine. Council authorizes them to advertise for bids once the specifications are complete.

SRF Disbursement Requests

Mark Sullivan with Midwestern Engineers presents four (4) disbursement requests for approval:

1. SRF Disbursement #5 Best Equipment $354,716.00
2. SRF Disbursement #6 Williams, Barrett & Wilkowski $ 735.00
3. SRF Disbursement #7 Mitchell & Stark $ 26,759.25\*
4. SRF Disbursement #8 Midwestern Engineers $ 3,400.00

\*$2,973.25 being held in retainage for Mitchell & Stark.

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the disbursement requests and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.** Clerk-Treasurer Alspach will submit the signed claims for payment tomorrow.

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Johnson County Criminal Justice Center Tax Support Request Update

Council President Perrin and Attorney Robbins attended the Special Meeting of the Johnson County Council last night. Perrin explains that Rob Henderson, Johnson County Council President, addressed the concerns that were presented in our meeting a few weeks back. The request was made that the County put language in the interlocal agreements with New Whiteland and Princes Lakes that any additional tax revenue that passes through our communities and back to the county can only be used for things related to public safety. Perrin states that he still prefers the 184 option that puts a twenty (20) year sunset on the tax increase and only raises the money needed for the public safety projects and does not include money for the area municipalities. County Council is concerned about possible legislation that would prohibit 184 monies from being used to pay for operational costs. New Whiteland Town Council agrees that the jail expansion is necessary and fully supports that, they do not want to see their residents taxed more than is absolutely necessary. We are now waiting for response from the county to the language revision request we have made.

Camera Status Update

Public Works Supt. McCauslin states the hold up in Proctor Park was due in part to Metronet not scheduling the install. The install has started but now we are waiting on the security box for the server that is on backorder. It should be shipped within the week. Once the secured box is installed Metronet will finish their work.

Camera server located at the fire station is being relocated into a secure cabinet with limited access.

Council asks for pricing to add two (2) additional cameras in East Park to cover the west half of the park.

Council President Perrin reminds all Department Heads to submit a work order for any work being done in their buildings to PW Supt. McCauslin with what is being done and who is doing the work even if they are doing it themselves.

1114 Ashland

Attorney Robbins mailed a letter to the property owner expressing our interest in acquiring the property if they are interested in selling. Letter was mailed January 24th but he has not heard from anyone.

**NEW BUSINESS**

ADA Transition Plan

Attorney Robbins states that changes in the Community Crossing Grant Program now require that all recipients are in compliance with Title IV and have an ADA Transition Plan. PW Supt. McCauslin is our ADA Coordinator and he and Lee are working on the final draft of the plan. McCauslin has submitted a Voluntary Compliance Action Plan. Attorney Robbins will present the final draft for council approval when it is complete.

Applications were submitted at the end of January for a Community Crossing Grant. Grant awards are to be announced in March. McCauslin is working on bid packets now as we will need to advertise for bids and open them at the April 2nd meeting as we must have a signed contract by April 15th if awarded funding.

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Access Johnson County

Council received a funding request in the amount of $2,189.00 from Johnson County Access. Our 2019 budget has already been approved. We will notify Johnson County Access that they can submit a request for 2020 in June of this year when we begin planning for the 2020 budget if they so desire.

Cash Only Account

Clerk Treasurer Alspach is requesting that a resident be removed from Cash Only status due to the online payment software defaulting to a closed account on their profile. The closed account has been removed and all fees and penalties have been paid. Council approves.

Server Replacement Request

Clerk Treasurer Alspach presents copies on an estimate to replace the server in the police department along with three (3) old computers. This equipment is quite old and runs very slow. Alspach is asking that $10,238.00 from Rainy Day Funds be used to fund this expenditure. She notes that most of the computers in the police department are this old and that the remaining computers will be replaced within the next year or two through the budget process. Councilman Rogier asks that a second quote for the server be obtained from Gary Stofer who works for the Sheriff’s Department. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Trash and Recycling Contract

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach has met with two (2) contractors to discuss the upcoming bid process. Our current contract with Republic expires at the end of this year. She has begun working on rewriting the specs and would like input from the council on any changes they would like to see made. One of the contractors recommended offering bi-weekly recycling pick-up. Also have discussed adding leaf pick-up to the program. Alspach recommends adding alternates to the bid specs to allow the council to consider options. Alspach is recommending not having a joint bid process this year as it caused too many issues with confusion for the contractor and our residents on the differences between the contracts. Council agrees. President Perrin directs the council to send any recommendations on contract changes to Clerk-Treasurer Alspach.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

None.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

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

John Perrin, Council President