

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 5, 2025  
MEETING MINUTES**

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:00p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, John Schilawski, John Purdie, Dennis Combs, and Chad Waltz. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Schilawski offered the opening prayer.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the February 5, 2025 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify the February 5, 2025 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Council President Perrin asks if there is anyone here for the Public Hearing regarding the sewer rate increase. There are none. He notes this agenda item has been canceled.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Levy Appeal Process**

Adam Stone, from Stone Municipal Group, is here to explain the levy appeal process to Council. The levy goes to the general fund and the amount can only grow one way before adjustments and that is through the state maximum levy growth quotient. Each year the state provides that number to all units. Recent legislation has capped that to no more than 4% per year. There are other ways the levy can be increased above the state maximum, which are additions and are the cum fire, cum cap, and debt levies. Other than that, an appeal is required to increase the levy. Each year around approximately Oct 21<sup>st</sup> as part of the normal budget process, Council can entertain 1 of 4 levy appeals: annexation, correction of an error, growth, and fiscal emergency. Each one of these have certain triggering qualifying events. Even if they are approved and advertised accordingly and approved at the local Council level, they are still subject to DLGF final review and approval. Mr. Stone advises to evaluate whether to do a levy appeal during each budget year.

**Liability Insurance**

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock recaps the previous meeting which 3 different brokers conducted presentations of their respective businesses: Mayfield, Gibson, and EPIC. Mayfield offered a quote which would save the Town \$20,000.00. That quote has expired and Kim Merideth, with Mayfield, is here to present a new quote which appears to save \$16,000.00. Councilman Purdie noted that Gibson had not offered a quote at the previous meeting and stated that he wondered if that was because all the insurance companies had already quoted our Town and Gibson couldn't access a quote since carriers can only give 1 quote. David Wheatley, with Gibson, clarifies that was not the reason they did not offer a quote. He was not sure which carriers had given quotes to the Town. Mr. Wheatley asks for the floor to speak. Council permits Mr. Wheatley to have the floor briefly. Mr. Wheatley reiterates that it is in the Town's best interest to select a broker first not to get tied up with carriers. With a growing Town and all of the needs that come with insuring a municipality, it is best to select a broker first. It's important to look at risk management tools, market share, how much the broker deals with municipalities, their process, etc.

Council President Perrin states that he has considered this a lot since the last meeting. He notes that Mayfield presented a quote that can save the Town \$16,000.00 and there's no guarantee that if they go with Gibson they might get a quote that is much more than what we're currently paying. Council President Perrin would have liked to see something. Councilman Purdie states that when he shops his homeowner's insurance, he seeks quotes from 3 different brokers. He doesn't look for 1 broker to find the best price. Mr. Wheatley addresses Councilman Purdie and notes that he is not spending \$120,000.00 on his home insurance. It's way more nuanced and there are more sophisticated exposures for a municipality. What he has seen in the market is a carrier, such as Tokio Marine, offering a lower price than what is paid currently, which looks great now. However, the following year there is often a hike in price. It's way better to think long term. By picking one broker, you can create more competition.

Attorney Lee Robbins shares what he has seen over the years with various municipalities with regard to insurance. He states that he is not convinced that a different broker would bring a different number to us from the same carrier. When the carrier quotes a location the premium is for that location regardless of the broker.

Utility Supt. Gillock notes that there have not been issues with our recent broker from EPIC. Claims and day-to-day interactions have been handled well. What happened is when our previous broker retired right at the time that we needed to renew, John Parmley had a very short time in order to review everything. Utility Supt. Gillock doesn't believe that would be the normal way of doing business going forward. He would like to see a broker come in and start from the very beginning and reevaluate everything and make sure we have the most accurate coverage. He says if we select a broker now, it would give them plenty of time before our July renewal to look over everything and make sure coverages are accurate.

Dean Mayfield shares about when the tornadoes came through and destroyed the roof at Citizens Bank, which Mayfield covers. Councilman Purdie, who works at Citizens, noted that the tornado came through Mooresville on a Tuesday, which ripped the roof completely off their building. Mayfield had a permanent roof back on the building by Friday night. Dean Mayfield states that if the Town goes with Mayfield tonight, one of the benefits is that the price will remain the same for the year. If we buy new equipment or vehicles, they do not charge for that. The price is the price or the next 12 months and at renewal they will add the prices for any new equipment or vehicles. Council President Perrin asks how long Mayfield's current quote is good for. Dean Mayfield states that it is good until February 12<sup>th</sup> and adds that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time they have extended the quote.

Public Works Supt. Duane McCauslin agrees with Council that it is our responsibility to look out for how we're spending the Town's money. However, that doesn't always mean getting the cheaper price. In PW Supt. McCauslin's opinion, if we are inadequately covered we are potentially costing the taxpayers more than the \$16,000 we might be saving.

Kim Meredith suggests that Council go ahead and approve the quote with Tokio Marine which used the same data Traveler's used for our current premiums, and will save \$16,000.00. Then Mayfield would proceed going forward with reassessing the coverages, although she adds that they are probably not far off. Councilman Purdie states that it looks like we could have apples to apples coverage and save roughly \$16,000. David Wheatley with Gibson states that the deadline is more perception than reality. Our current policy offers the coverages until our effective date is

over. He encourages Council not to be wooed too much by the quotes or to believe they have to act now, but to think longer term. Council President Perrin encourages Council to take the next 30 days to do some homework and call each of the brokers and talk to them and consider a vote at the next meeting. Councilman Purdie shares that he likes the idea of saving \$16,000.00. He mentioned that Dean Mayfield writes insurance for both his home and Citizens, where he works, and he was impressed with the way Mayfield handled the roof claim after the tornado came through. In light of that he makes a motion to approve the quote from Mayfield for \$122,950.38 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 4 affirmative & 1 dissenting**

Kim Merideth with Mayfield adds that our Worker's Compensation is a little off schedule. It renews in April. Rather than canceling and rewriting it with such close proximity, she suggests Council sign an Agent Broker form that will transfer the current coverage so the current Worker's Compensation coverage will switch over to Mayfield. Council President Perrin says we should keep everything together. Councilman Purdie moves to approve switching the current Worker's Compensation plan to Mayfield and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### Non-Emergency Calls

Attorney Lee Robbins refers to a discussion at the previous meeting regarding the number of calls for lift assists at VITA. He was going to research whether it was possible to charge the facility a fee. Their policy of having a nurse examine the situation first combined with being short on nurses means that our fire department has been getting a lot of calls for lift assists that ideally the facility should be taking care of. Attorney Robbins looked into this and we can charge a fee for that service. There are several ways to do it whether charging after the first several or if there are more than a certain number per week, etc. Councilman Schilawski notes that VITA is a for-profit business and residents pay a fee which includes that service. Someone should be on staff to handle lift assists. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss shared that in a conversation with Assistant Fire Chief Steve Wire, he indicated that there is a new person in charge who is assessing falls first to determine if the fire department needs to be called and that has reduced the number of calls somewhat. Council says they would like to have a conversation with Fire Chief Dave Curin and revisit this at a future meeting.

#### Road Study

Councilman Purdie asks about the status of the road study with regard to the new development on Whiteland Road and Sawmill Road. Public Works Supt. Duane McCauslin says that the study came back and determined there was not going to be a need for any additional improvements to the existing roadway. There have been somewhat of disagreements. The developer does not want to do acceleration and deceleration lanes. They do not want to do the channelized left turn on Whiteland Road. However, those were all things approved with the preliminary plat as well as the concept plan. They are working through some details and Supt. McCauslin notes we have construction standards that are the minimum requirements. Attorney Robbins states that the developer has to do what the ordinance requires and what is on the plat that has already been approved. They have not asked the Plan Commission for a waiver. He has sent them an email and has not received a response yet.

#### Tot Park Sign

Councilman Schilawski asks about the status of the sign for Tot Park. Public Works Superintendent states that he has it and will get it installed.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Biosolids Dewatering Project

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock introduces Joe Tierney with GRW. They submitted a study they conducted on the biosolids and dewatering system in September of last year. Mr. Tierney is going to talk about the next step of the process. Mr. Tierney notes that several updates have happened at the wastewater treatment plant. The UV System upgrades were completed last year. The biosolids study was done last year. The study found that the equipment is old and has had maintenance issues. Another thing they noticed is that the building is not per code. The electrical engineer reviewed it as well. The building does not offer a lot of space and is also in a floodway. One idea was to relocate and have a new building and put the new biosolids equipment in that area. There are several options for the equipment. The project cost is in the \$3,000,000 range. Funding options need to be explored whether funded in house or with SRF. In order to get an SRF loan we have to prepare applications and prepare a preliminary engineering report that addresses the issue. GRW also did a capacity study last year and put together some numbers for that especially in light of the new development. Mr. Tierney recommends that the next step is to do a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), which would outline everything. They would then submit that to IDEM. They would review it and we would get on their funding list. The PER can be submitted at any time of the year however it must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup> to be ranked to see if we can get on their priority list. The cost for the PER would be \$34,500. Utility Supt. Gillock states that he has funds in his budget for engineering and architectural fees that will cover this. Councilman Combs moves to approve engineering services for GRW to complete the Preliminary Engineering Report and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### Budget

Councilman Combs notes that he would like to meet with department heads during the budget cycle to ask about upcoming projects and purchases so that Council can have a long-term focus.

#### Fire Department Vehicle

Public Works Supt. Duane McCauslin states that the fire department has the truck transferred to them from the public works department. They have obtained 3 quotes regarding purchasing a new truck, which were sent to Council. PW Supt. McCauslin wants to clarify regarding the quotes that they were all for an F250 which is what he requested. Andy Mohr Ford is the only quote that has the utility bed as well as the snow plow package. That is at a cost of \$58,685. Ray Skillman Ford did not have an F250. They priced an F350 that does not have a utility bed which is an additional \$10,000. Hubler Ford has an F250 but did not have a utility bed or the snow plow package. If Council does approve the purchase of the truck at Andy Mohr Ford, he also seeks approval to sell the 2009 Dodge 1500 on GovDeals. Utility Supt. Gillock reminds Council that at budget time the fire department expressed a need to purchase a truck for the new Fire Marshal and the utility offered the one they transferred to the department so they would not have to use General Fund money. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the purchase of the F250 truck at Andy Mohr Ford and the sell of the 2009 Dodge 1500 on GovDeals and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

#### Cash Only

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss shares a letter from a customer who has been on cash only payment status with the town requesting to be removed from the cash only status. She also shares documentation that they have paid on time for the last 12 months. Per Town ordinance after a year of on-time payments they are allowed to be removed from cash only payment status with



Council approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the removal of cash only status and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**Bond Renewal**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents surety bond renewals for her and Kim Toler. We are still awaiting paperwork for Melissa McCarty and Cindy Yates. These will need to be signed by Councilmembers and then she will file them with the county Clerk. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the bonds and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**Check Fraud Attempt**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss shares with Council that she mailed the credit card payment on January 8, 2025 via Priority Mail. The mail did not reach its destination. She submitted a missing mail search with the USPS. Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> we were made aware that someone had altered the check and tried to cash it. Because we have positive pay, the system noted things did not match and the person was unable to receive the funds. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss spoke with Lauren Harmon at Citizens bank who suggested we hold off at this time on opening new accounts, but watch everything very closely for any other fraud attempts.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

None.


**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:   
John Perrin, President