**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**March 15, 2016**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were 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. Councilman Schilawski was absent.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Rogier moves to approve the minutes of the March 1st meeting and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

B. Baker, 409 Sawmill had a leaking toilet. Resident presents a repair bill showing the repairs have been completed. Council authorizes a $272.50 adjustment.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

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

**TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Street Repairs

Recommendations for the 2016 street overlay bid specifications with alternates are presented. Councilman Alspach asks if the pothole on Tracy near Sweetbriar and US 31 can be added to the list and if the right lane from Sweetbriar to US 31 could be straightened out or squared up to allow 2 lanes of traffic from Sweetbriar to US 31. Spencer will look at the areas and research the right of way. Spencer adds that they are planning to do some work on Sawmill in front of Break-O-Day School and the wooded area where the road is cracking along the west side during Spring Break. This work will be outside of the contracted work. Council President Perrin asks if a claim could be filed against E & B for the road not holding up better. Town Manager Spencer says they poured asphalt wider that the specs required and they poured it on dirt so there is no base to keep it from failing. Attorney Robbins says if the work is outside the specifications we would not have damages or a claim.

Burn Ordinance

A copy of the existing Burn Ordinance and a proposed amended one are presented. Section 4 1-D will be reduced from 1,000 cubic feet to 500 cubic feet. Language will be added prohibiting open burning, bonfires or campfires on town property. Signs will need to be posted in all parks that includes prohibiting the dumping or disposal of coals or ashes on town property. This item will be placed on the April 5th agenda.

Alarm System

Discussion about failure to set alarms in town buildings. Councilman Rogier suggests checking on combination key fob/swipe card rather than employees having to carry two separate ones. This item will be placed on the April 5th agenda.

New Whiteland Entrance Signs

Council authorizes the purchase of six (6) new signs for the entrances with the new Town logo at a total cost of $900.00.

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Limb Removal Service

Proposal is presented to rent Whiteland’s new grapple truck and an operator on an hourly basis to collect limbs from resident’s property. After much discussion it is decided that this service could be authorized by the Town Manager after a severe storm but not on a regular or routine basis as the homeowners can bundle limbs and dispose of them on heavy trash day.

Service could also be used as an abatement measure for properties who are given a notice to clean up their limbs and do not comply. Limbs would be removed and a lien would be placed against the property for the cost of the cleanup. Council approves an abatement procedure for limb removal. Attorney Robbins will help provide a form letter / notice to be delivered by the police officer if the homeowner does not abate the violation on their own.

Councilman Vaughn asks who is responsible to clean the ditch area along US 31. Spencer answers it would be State Highway. Vaughn states there are several sections that are overgrown and filled with trash. It is all visible from US 31 and is not the image we want to present of our community. Council directs Town Manager Spencer to contact State Highway to see when they will be cleaning the area.

**OLD BUSINESS**

401 Mooreland Drive

Attorney Robbins reports that Habitat for Humanity has made an offer of $75,000.00 “as is” conditioned on getting the necessary zoning approvals. Council will take the offer under consideration but states the $100,000.00 price was well below the appraised value and the property has always been listed “as is”. Council authorizes Attorney Robbins to contact Jim Karozos to draw up a 30 day contract for him to list the building. He has had some interest and believes it would bring a significantly higher price. Place this item on the April 19th agenda.

Training / Work Session

Council will finish the newly elected officials training session at the conclusion of the April 19th town council meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Cell Phone Upgrades

Attorney Robbins states that the town is in possession of several old cell phones that have been upgraded through the years. The phones are considered worthless and with council approval may be disposed of. Before the phones are trashed they may be offered to town employees or given to Turning Point or the Prosecutors Office for domestic violence victims. Before any phones leave the possession of the town they must be wiped clean of all information.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2016-02

Attorney Robbins presents the ordinance authorizing the use of credit cards in title only on final reading. Councilman Rogier moves to approve Ordinance 2016-02 and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

NWPD 2015 Statistical Report

Marshal Stephenson distributes and explains copies of their annual report and is available to answer any questions. There are none.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

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

John Perrin, Council President