**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**March 7, 2017**

**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 Perrin, Frank Vaughn, Mike Rogier and Scott Alspach. Also present were 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 February 21st meeting and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

None.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the March 7th Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Vaughn moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS**

Police Chief Rynerson introduces Cindy Carroll as New Whiteland’s first Reserve Police officer. Ms. Carroll is a 37 year veteran of the Greenwood Police Department and brings a wealth of experience to our department.

Chief Rynerson also introduces Officer Josh Medsker who is our newest full time officer. Medsker is a 2008 graduate of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and was previously employed with Franklin Central Schools.

**Solicitor Permits**

Nickie Bough has concerns about how solicitor permits are handled in New Whiteland. She asks how many permits are currently active and how many have been issued. Chief Rynerson states that we do not have any active permits at this time. We issued one (1) solicitor permit in 2015, one (1) in 2016 and one (1) in 2017.

Ms. Bough asks if background checks are done on individuals requesting solicitor permits. Rynerson states that they are and that anyone with a felony or misdemeanor conviction in the last 15 years cannot get a solicitor permit.

Chief Rynerson states that the fees we charge for permits may need to be reviewed and possibly increased. Council asks that permit fees from surrounding municipalities be researched. Requiring a deposit on the identification badges is also discussed to be certain that they are returned. Instead council suggests that language be added that failure to return all badges would exclude individuals or businesses from getting future permits. Councilman Alspach recommends that a photo of the applicant be put on the back of the identification badge and that photos of those with active solicitor permits be distributed to our officers.

Ms. Bough asks if all soliciting can be prohibited in New Whiteland. Attorney Robbins states that we cannot prohibit soliciting but we can regulate it which we have been doing through our ordinance. Attorney Robbins states that individual property owners can post No Soliciting signs on their property, if a solicitor knocks you can ask them to leave. If they don’t leave they would be trespassing. Chief Rynerson states that our ordinance allows for revoking these permits if the solicitors violate the terms of our ordinance or if they threaten

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or are rude to our residents. Rynerson states the public has to report these incidents or concerns to the Police Department so that they can be documented and investigated. Ms. Bough states that this is in no way a complaint against our officers – she is only concerned about unknown people being in our neighborhoods. Ms. Bough thanks the council for listening to her concerns.

Chief Rynerson presents copies of a letter he received to the council. The letter was written by Judge Lance Hamner commending our officers on their Probable Cause Affidavits. Rynerson is proud of our officers and wanted to share this information with the full council. Each officer will be given a copy of this commendation letter.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Story Hour Request

Whitney Woody, with the Clark Pleasant Branch of the Johnson County Library presents a proposal for the 2017 Summer Learning Program “Programs in the Park”. She is proposing three (3) sessions, with two (2) being held at Country Gate Park and one (1) at Proctor Park. The sessions are 2 hours long and there will be one in June, July and August. Each session will have family activities, crafts, and a library staff member will read books to those in attendance. The library will provide all materials and will advertise each session. Council approves.

Signage

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach met with Kevin Walls about the proposed sign for Tracy Road for the businesses in our complex. Our share of the sign would be $150 / month for 5 years which includes maintenance and electricity as well as insurance. Council would like to pay in full rather than pay interest and asks if a full payment of $7,882.50 would be acceptable. Council approves spending $7,882.50 from Rainy Day if Mr. Walls approves one-time payment.

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents two (2) quotes for “Welcome to New Whiteland signs”. Metro Printed Products has proposed a 34” x 31” sign on a decorative post at a cost of $1,750 each which includes installation. It does not include delivery charges which were estimated at $200 per sign.

Christy’s Design & Sign presented 4 designs and the selected sign is 36” x 48” on a decorative post at a cost of $640.00 per sign which includes installation. There is no delivery charge as the signs are made in their shop in Greenwood. Council wants to replace the existing signs with the new design. Councilman Alspach moves to order six (6) of the new signs and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Sidewalk Repair Order

Attorney Robbins distributes a Repair Order for the sidewalk belonging to the property at 350 Tracy Road. Council asks that a letter be drafted requesting that the property owner repair or replace the broken sidewalk prior to issuing the Repair Order. Attorney Robbins and PW Supt. Johnson will write specs for sidewalks in New Whiteland so that the property owner knows exactly how the repair must be made.

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Workmen’s Comp Insurance Update

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states that all Department Heads and Councilman Vaughn met with Green-Owens agent Jim Wise and IPEP risk management director Pete Isom yesterday. A Safety Committee has been formed and will meet monthly. Minutes and monthly training logs will be filed with IPEP. Our experience mod was dropped from 1.25 to 0.94 which caused a reduction in premium of over $10,000.00.

JCCF Letter of Inquiry

A Letter of Inquiry was submitted last week to the Johnson County Community Foundation asking that we be allowed to submit a grant application to purchase AEDs. We should know at the end of this week if we will be allowed to submit a grant application.

Police and Fire Radios

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach spoke with Representative Burton yesterday. He is still working on this issue, he is sending a letter to the Governor to make him aware of this problem. He has also been talking to Verizon about their ability to design a radio and a frequency that could be used in lieu of Motorola’s radio and pricing.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Restocking Ponds

Councilman Perrin presents information on a company that can assess our ponds to determine how to better manage and maintain the fish population for a fee of $170.00. Council is interested in having the ponds at Proctor Park and Country Gate assessed. Councilman Perrin will contact the company to see if they could attend a future council meeting to share more information.

Flag Pole Lighting

Councilman Vaughn states that he had asked PW Supt. Johnson to get quotes for new lighting for all of the flags in Proctor Park as well as at the Town Hall and WWTP. Johnson has provided one (1) quote from Kinder Electric for $4,270.00 which would include labor and materials to install fourteen (14) LED light fixtures that would do 40’ spotlighting and carry a 5 year warranty. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach asks is these are in ground or above ground, water and vandal resistant. Johnson states they are above ground and that if the kids throw rocks and break the lens they are not water or vandal resistant. Council asks for at least two (2) more quotes.

Salt

PW Supt. Johnson states that he committed to purchase 300 tons of salt this year.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2017-02

Attorney Robbins emailed all councilmen a comparison from the original ordinance and the one presented at the last meeting. Councilman Rogier moves to adopt Ordinance 2017-02 on first reading and is seconded by Councilman Vaughn. **Vote 4 affirmative.** This item will be placed on the March 21st agenda for final consideration.

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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

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

John Perrin, Council President