**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**April 2, 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, Frank Vaughn and John Perrin. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Alspach offered the opening prayer. Councilman Rogier was absent.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Alspach moves to approve the minutes of the March 19th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Vaughn. **Vote 4 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 reports and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Councilman Rogier arrives at 5:04 p.m.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Lisa Baldwin, 1153 Count Turf Court asks about rumors of the town merging with Whiteland. She asks about the boards position on a merger. Council President Perrin states that it was discussed and our council is not in favor of a merger. Perrin adds that no residents have approached any of the councilmen to express an interest in a merger. Ms. Baldwin asks if residents can come to the meetings if they have questions. President Perrin states that they most certainly can.

Police Chief Rynerson introduces Lukas Thorneycroft the newest full-time officer. Thorneycroft has previous experience with two (2) other agencies.

**Johnson County Library 2018 Year in Review**

Lisa Lintner, Director, presents a brief summary of the status of the proposed tax rate increase to build a new, larger Clark Pleasant library branch. The county is considering a new funding option and the decision to approve or deny the request has been delayed until possibly June. In 2018 the libraries saw a 9.9% increase in items borrowed over 2017. A new Story Walk was added in Bargersville, a Beehive was added at the Trafalgar branch and they hosted the first Library on the Prairie Festival. SMART accounts were set up for all Center Grove students and staff to be able to access digital items. The library is currently working to set up the accounts with Clark Pleasant Schools and hope to eventually have all of the schools in the county covered.

**OLD BUSINESS**

NWPD Server Upgrade

Gary Stofer of Sidewinder is not present to present his proposal.

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Corey Passmore and Blake Hunter with Wright PC present and discuss both of their quotes. The original quoted server had 7-8 solid state drives, is a factory ordered machine not self-built and has built in expandability. It is not a video surveillance server like was proposed by the other vendor. Passmore adds videos will never be stored on this server. The revised quote is the same server with 4 gold drives which is an older version of the drives than the solid-state ones in the original quote.

President Perrin asks that no decision be made until the end of the meeting in case Mr. Stofer is running late.

Leaf Machine

Utility Supt. Gillock presented three (3) quotes for a leaf machine at the last meeting.

Best Equipment (Indianapolis) $63,541.65

Brown Equipment (Evansville) $63,542.00

Municipal Equipment (Georgia) $64,505.00

The machine from Best Equipment has a gas engine, includes LED and strobe lights and a scoop type screen to cut down on dust and debris. Supt. Gillock contacted Brown and Municipal to get quotes for a gas machine with the requested lighting and screen. Neither of these companies can supply the machine with a gas engine. Gillock was able to get revised quotes with the strobe lights and screening which only increased their pricing which was already higher than the quote from Best Equipment. Gillock did check with a couple of municipalities that have the gas engine leaf machine and did not get reports of any issues with the gas engine versus a diesel engine. Gillock is recommending purchasing the OBD machine from Best Equipment. Attorney Robbins asks if Best is the only dealer that carries this machine. If another vendor carries the same machine would be interesting to get a price from a second vendor. Councilman Vaughn moves to authorize Utility Supt. Gillock to purchase the machine from Best Equipment if a better price is not found within a day or two. The equipment will be financed with First Financial for 5 years with a 3.49% interest rate. Councilman Rogier seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

1114 Ashland

Attorney Robbins has spoken to the property owner who has expressed an interest in selling the property if, in fact, they own it. Robbins ordered a title search and found that the main mortgage with Wells Fargo has been released, however there is a smaller second mortgage on the property along with a couple of sewer liens that have not been released. Council directs Attorney Robbins to contact the property owner with these findings. If they can satisfy any and all 3rd party debts before or at closing we would be interested in purchasing the property. Attorney Robbins will draft an Ordinance or Resolution to appoint appraisers for the next meeting if the property owner is still interested in selling.

Community Crossing Grant

PW Supt. McCauslin attended the ceremony last Friday to accept or grant in the amount of $898,946.91 for 2019 Street Repairs. This year’s grant is a 75 / 25% match, New Whiteland’s share will be $224,000.00 which has been budgeted. McCauslin and Attorney Robbins are finalizing the specs for the street work and will publish the notice to bidders within the next week.

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Circus

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach has tried to contact several of the sponsoring organizations that hosted the Kelly Miller Circus in March and has not been able to get any responses. She also tried to contact the circus by both telephone and email today to see what if any dates they still had available and has not had any response. Attorney Robbins had shared the name of another circus that had been very successful in another town he represents. She did speak with them and they will not be in Indiana again until 2020. She will report back at the April 16th meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Habitat for Humanity

LeeAnn Wilbur, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Johnson County presents a conditional offer for the property owned by the town on Tracy Road adjacent to the soccer fields. Habitat for Humanity is offering $30,000 for the property and will revise the offer to make the buyer responsible for all necessary title work and surveys. President Perrin explains the property was purchased in 2004 from the school corporation with the intent to build a second fire station there. It was later determined that the size of the property and the proximity to the children and families utilizing the soccer fields was not a good fit for the fire department. They also were recipients of a grant that allowed them to renovate and more than double the size of the existing station alleviating the need for a second station. It was later discussed as a location for a new town hall and police department but building costs took the town in a different direction. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach adds that the property was purchased in 2004 for $30,000 which was paid for with Cum Fire funds. The property has sat vacant for 15 years. The town could recoup the money spent which would go back to Cum Fire and could be used as part of a down payment for the proposed new fire engine. To spend more than what was budgeted for 2019 we would have to file for an additional appropriation. Attorney Robbins states that because Habitat for Humanity is a 501©3 appraisals are not required for this sale.

Ms. Wilbur states that Habitat hopes to divide the property into 2 lots to build 2 future Habitat homes. Attorney Robbins states the property is 255’ square and could possibly be divided into 3 lots. This will require filing for a minor subdivision plat.

Councilman Alspach moves to approve the sale of the property and authorize President Perrin to sign all necessary paperwork once the offer is amended. Councilman Vaughn seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

GovDeals.com

Superintendents Gillock and McCauslin state that the items that were listed on GovDeals.com have done well, exceeding their expectations.

The 2000 F650 sold for $11,450.00 when they were only offered $5,500 as trade-in value.

The 2002 F350 sold for $6,876.00 again exceeding the offered trade-in value.

The New Holland Back Hoe sold for $14,000.00 which met the trade-in value offer.

These items will be picked up within a week.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Ordinance 2019-05

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents the ordinance declaring certain items or equipment surplus and allowing for its disposal. PW Supt. McCauslin identifies each item. Items will be listed

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on GovDeals.com to see if they can be sold. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve Ordinance 2019-05 on first reading and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Councilman Alspach moves to suspend the rules and consider the ordinance on final reading. Councilman Schilawski seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

President Perrin reads Ordinance 2019-05 in title only on final reading. Motion to adopt by Councilman Rogier with second by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**Old Business continued**

President Perrin states that they have received a text from Gary Stofer that he is ill and unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Councilman Schilawski states he feels we need to move forward with this and recommends approving the Wright PC server quote of $7,538.00 with the solid-state drives. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach reminds the council that the police department had also asked to upgrade 3 desktop computers. Corey Passmore states the computers run $900 each and Chief Rynerson would really like to replace 4 this year if possible. Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the server plus 4 new computers at a total cost of $11,138.00 to be paid for with Rainy Day funds. Councilman Rogier seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

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

 John Perrin, Council President