NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL

MAY 2, 2017

5:00 pm

Town Council President, John Perrin, began the meeting at 5:00 pm. Members present were John Perrin, Scott Alspach, Frank Vaughn, Mike Rogier and John Schilawski. Attorney, Lee Robbins was also present. Clerk-Treasurer, Maribeth Alspach is in Washington D.C. with the Lugar Series.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said along with a prayer from Scott Alspach.

**HARDSHIPS/ADJUSTMENTS**:

None.

**MINUTES**:

John Schilawski motioned to accept the minutes to the previous meeting. Frank Vaughn seconded the motion. Vote was 5 affirmative.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**:

Scott Alspach motioned to approve the fund report. Frank Vaughn seconded the motion. Vote was 5 affirmative.

**OLD BUSINESS**:

Street Light Request on Hilltop Farms Blvd

PW Superintendent, Wendell Johnson, states that he sent the quotes from REMC to the Town Council via e-mail. Frank Vaughn states that he does not want to pay $3,000.00 for them to bore under the street. It will look better if they stay on the same side of the street. The Council directed Wendell to get the fiberglass light. Wendell states that the engineer will tell him once the light is approved. John Schilawski motioned to get a street light for Hilltop Farms Blvd, and place it on the south side of the street. Mike Rogier seconded the motion. Vote was 5 affirmative.

**REHAB OF LIFT STATION**

John Perrin asks Wendell how long it will take to rehab the lift station? Wendell replied, five days at the most. Town Manager of Whiteland, Norm Gabehart was present. It is estimated that 18,000 gallons a day will be by passed.

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The Council members had a letter from Norm Gabehart to Wendell Johnson on the cost. They discussed the letter that gives two options for The Town of New Whiteland to pay the Town of Whiteland. Frank Vaughn motioned to pay $8.23 per 1,000 gallons. This will be metered. Mike Rogier seconded the motion. Vote was 5 affirmative.

**BLINKING LIGHT**

Wendell Johnson states that a blinking light was installed today on the “Do not block intersection” sign located at Tracy Road and Sweetbriar Avenue.

It has to charge for 24 hours, so it won’t be working until tomorrow.

Wendell is requesting a blinking light on the stop sign at Mooreland Drive and Whiteland Road. These blinking lights cost $90.00 a piece. John Perrin states that Wendell can use his discretion on other stop signs in the Town that he feels needs one of these blinking lights. Wendell will coordinate with Police Chief, Joe Rynerson.

**CONFINED SPACE TRAINING**

Mike Rogier asked about the Confined Space training. Wendell states he has set up class for this month. Wendell also reports that he just received the paint today for striping on Sawmill Road. It will be done by next week.

**JOHNSON COUNTY LIBRARY**

Lisa Litner, Director of the Johnson County Library and Tiffany Wilson, Branch Manager of the Clark Pleasant branch were in attendance. Lisa Litner gave a presentation on the story walk trails and an overview of what they are doing. She reports that 920,000 items were checked out of the library and 75,000 items were downloaded.

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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Dave Wampler who resides at 244 Crestwood and is a New Whiteland firefighter asks the Town Council what is the future of the Fire Department? What direction are they going?

John Perrin states that Dave Currin is the interim Fire Chief. This has been communicated to Mr. Currin and he is currently on vacation. Dave Wampler asks why have a special meeting and not involve the Fire Department? And why was $25,000 taken out of the fire departments budget. John Perrin states that the $25,000.00 was taken out of the Town’s budget. John Perrin states that Dave Wampler has only heard one side, he needs to hear the other side. John Perrin also states that when the Fire Department wanted a new vehicle, there was no money appropriated to have radios. But you had to have those radios. They were the only radios that will work. The Town found a way to get some radios in a short period of time. John states that Dave Wampler was not at those meetings when the radios were discussed. They felt under the gun to get those radios. The Town Council has to do what is in the best interest for the Town.

John Perrin continued to state that Derek Wilson wants a new pickup truck in case the current one breaks down. And he will need a new fire truck when the current one needs replaced. John Perrin states that he wants the Fire Department head to come and ask the Town Council. John is tired of doing everyone else’s homework. John Perrin made one phone call and saved the Town $600.00. The law requires the Town to get three quotes.

Scott Alspach states that the Town Council asked Derek Wilson for a 5 year plan. He gave it to the Council but never budgeted for the things on this 5 year plan.

John Perrin states that when the pickup truck was purchased, the slide out and camper shell was not budgeted. The Town had to take it out of other appropriations in the budget.

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Frank Vaughn states that we must compare prices and do it all up front. The Town Council is responsible for spending the tax payer’s money. The Town has a limited amount of money as property taxes have been lowered through the years. Frank states that the Council will sit down with Dave Currin and see how we can get there and what is best for the Town.

Attorney, Lee Robbins states that we have to follow the bidding requirement. John Perrin states that they must have three quotes. Frank Vaughn states that you can’t do it any other way.

Dave Wampler asked why hasn’t Derek Wilson been contacted after one week of resigning? Frank Vaughn responded, that the way Derek resigned was shocking. Frank also did not like the tone of Dave Currin’s e-mail today. Dave Currin asked when he could sit down with the Town Council and work this out. Frank Vaughn stated that the resignation was immediate and abrupt. No notice was given and that in itself makes a statement. Dave Wampler asks again why Derek was not notified of a meeting.

John Schilawski states that the meeting was not abrupt, we have guidelines to follow. Derek could have had a conversation with the Town Council. Timing and the way it was done was shocking.

Dave Wampler asks where is the future of the Fire Department going? He feels like they are always hitting a brick wall. Mike Rogier states that the brick wall you are referring to is not the Town Council, it is the law. Frank Vaughn states that Derek’s resignation letter pretty much stated, I’m done. I’m leaving and he sounded frustrated. Derek should have approached it differently.

John Perrin states that Derek Wilson has done a good job. Mike Rogier states that the Town Council did not ask for his resignation. Dave Wampler states that the firefighters are disgruntled but its business as usual. Frank Vaughn states there could have been better communication between Derek and the Town Council.

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**PROCTOR PARK**:

Jason Cole who resides at 2010 Cedar Lane, Apt 8 in Franklin, Indiana states that he is a fisherman and he loves to fish. He loves Proctor Park and personally knew Joey Proctor. He states that the park has gone downhill. He goes there more than once a week, every week. He is concerned about the trash, bugs, dead fish and

that the portable toilet’s door does not lock, it doesn’t even close. He does not feel safe for his son to use the portable toilet unless he is right there to supervise.

Mr. Cole states that there seems to be a lack of care for the park. It is degrading to the veterans. He doesn’t even want to take his son there anymore. Mr. Cole has caught seven pound fish before at Proctor Park. Now the fish that he catches are about one and a half pounds. Proctor Park is not a fun place to go to anymore.

John Perrin states that the Town is in the process of having Jones Fishery come and do an inspection of the pond. John also states that the portable toilet is donated by someone and they will make the owner aware of the door problem.

John Perrin agrees that vandalism is destroying the park. The Town is working on security cameras, and are addressing a lot of Mr. Cole’s concerns. John also states that Proctor Park has been built with donations not tax money. There is probably a quarter of a million dollars in that park. The Town keeps hitting the same people up for donations. Frank Vaughn states how the Proctor Park committee has dwindled to maybe 6-7 people. Frank Vaughn said to let Jones Fishery come in and tell the Town what we need to do. There are a lot of changes we need to make. John Schilawski asks Wendell what the maintenance schedule is for the park. Wendell states it is mowed weekly.

Jason Cole states that he keeps an eye out for that park and is willing to help in anyway he can. It was also mentioned that the ditch that runs along side of Proctor Park belongs to the county. The ditch causes there to be a lot of bugs.

Fire Marshal, Jim Nungester, resides at 83 Hilltop Farms Blvd. He is here tonight from the officer’s side. He asked if the new Fire Chief will be hired from within the Fire Department or from outside the department? Frank Vaughn replied that

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there has been no discussion, therefore no one can answer that question. They will have to have a meeting. There is no planned direction at this point.

Mr. Nungester states that Dave Currin will be coming back from vacation Sunday night. Then he will be in Chicago on Monday and return to Johnson County Monday night. Frank Vaughn states that they will work it out based on Dave Currin’s input.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Yates, Utility Clerk

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

 John Perrin, Council President