**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**August 20, 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, Mike Rogier and John Perrin. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Perrin offered the opening prayer. Councilman Frank Vaughn was absent.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the August 6th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents a letter from resident T. Patrick asking to be taken off cash only basis. The resident has made in excess of year of timely payments. Council approves.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for approval for August 20th. Councilman Rogier moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Doug and Donna McKee, 258 Edgewood Drive are asking for some type of assistance with a dead tree issue. Mr. McKee states they have three (3) dead trees in an easement that sits on the edge of their property. Their insurance company has threatened to cancel their insurance if the trees are not removed by October of this year. The McKee’s have spoken with Utility Supt. Gillock and believe that a future storm water project might include removal of these trees. They are asking for a letter from the town for their insurance stating that the trees will be removed within the next several months. President Perrin explains that the design phase for the project has just started, we have no way on knowing if those trees will be removed at this point. Attorney Robbins notes that looking at Beacon it would appear the trees are on the McKee’s property and they would therefore be responsible for the removal. Mr. McKee is not sure where the property line is. Attorney Robbins says they can check the subdivision plat map or contract with a surveyor to get a survey done. Attorney Robbins states that we cannot provide a letter or a promise or prediction of if or when the trees would be removed. Copies of our meeting minutes and the Preliminary Engineering Report for the proposed project are all on our website and the McKee’s could share that information with their insurance company. Mr. McKee believes that Vectren killed the trees when they removed other trees for the gas line last year. Councilman Rogier suggests that they contact a supervisor at Vectren and ask them to come remove the trees.

**BID OPENING**

Public Works Supt. McCauslin states there are fifteen (15) dead trees in West Park that need to be removed. McCauslin prepared specs and sent them to 4-5 contractors. We have received two (2) sealed bids. Each bid should include a bid for removal of the trees and a bid for stump grinding for all fifteen (15) trees as well as a W9.

Attorney Robbins opens the bids.

Trees only Stump Grinding Total

1. Steve’s Tree Service $8,800.00 $1,500.00 $10,300.00

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1. Cox’s Tree Service $11,800.00 $800.00 $12,600.00

Attorney Robbins notes that Cox’s has a highlighted comment on their bid that “they will not be undersold and will do the work for 10% less than the lowest bid”. Steve’s Tree Service did not submit a W9 and they are the low bid. Council rejects all bids and directs PW Supt. McCauslin to reissue specs and requests for bids, W9, Proof of both Liability and Workmen’s Comp insurance and their E-Verify policy. Work must be completed between the signing of the contract and February 1, 2020.

**OLD BUSINESS**

SRF Payment Request

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents Claim #19 for Mitchell & Stark in the amount of $323,478.71. Mark Sullivan with Midwestern Engineers could not be here tonight but has reviewed and approved the claim with Utility Supt. Gillock. Councilman Alspach moves to approve the claim and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

1114 Ashland

Attorney Robbins states that the property owners signed the consent form allowing him to contact the 2nd mortgage holder to find out what it will take to get that released as well. He is waiting for a response.

INDOT Meeting

Council President Perrin attended an INDOT meeting where the proposed J turns were being discussed. The no left turn plan has been upgraded to potentially not allow east and west bound traffic to cross US 31. President Perrin states the project is tentatively scheduled for 2022.

Community Crossing Grant Street Repairs

PW Supt. McCauslin states Milestone should begin the final paving next Monday.

Trails Meeting

PW Supt. McCauslin attended the countywide trails meeting. Proctor Park is a priority for the trails. The trail will connect Worthsville Road along the creek, through Proctor Park to Whiteland Road. McCauslin states they will be requesting a letter of support for the project design to submit to the County Plan Commission. This will not be a letter or commitment for financial support.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2020 Budget Update

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach had shared with the council that adjustments needed to be considered for Local Road and Streets, MVH and General Fund based on her meeting with the Department of Local Government Finance. Alspach believes that the necessary adjustments have been made to both LR &S and MVH thanks to PW Supt. McCauslin. She and the Department Heads are working to identify areas in either the 2019 or 2020 budget that can be reduced in General Fund. She presents copies of all of the department budget requests to the council. Council President Perrin asks all councilmen to review the proposed budgets and have recommended cuts to Clerk-Treasurer Alspach before the 9/3/19 meeting.

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New Employee / Position

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states we received four (4) applications. Council will meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, August 27 at 5:30 p.m. to review the applications.

Councilman Rogier asks if contracting out our mowing would be less expensive that paying part-time employees and providing the equipment. PW Supt. McCauslin does not think so. He believes his part time budget to be around $12,000 for 25 weeks of mowing and does not think we could contract any cheaper but is willing to get quotes if the council wants him to.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

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

John Perrin, Council President