**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**September 15, 2015**

**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 Scott Alspach, Mike Rogier, John Perrin, John Schilawski and Joe Noonan. Also present were Attorney Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach. Councilman Noonan offered the opening prayer. Town Manager Spencer was absent.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the September 1st meeting and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

J. Girdler, 602 Melrose had a leaking toilet which has been repaired. A receipt is presented for the repairs. Council approves credit of $261.60.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Alspach moves to approve and ratify both and is seconded by Councilman Noonan. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**2016 BUDGET HEARING**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents the summary sheets for the proposed 2016 budget. Council was provided with full packets in August. There have been two (2) reductions: $11,000 from Police Contractual Services and $5,200 from Town Solid Waste Removal. Councilman Schilawski states that three (3) large purchases have been identified as the first cuts that will be made if necessary because of circuit breakers. Those cuts are the fire department pick-up truck, the playground equipment and the fee for updating the Zoning Ordinance. He asks where the other increases are in the proposed budget. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states a small portion would be in raises and asks if the council wants her to reprint the budget packets and deliver them to their homes tomorrow. They say yes. Laurie Morrison, 432 Melrose asks if the police officers are getting raises. President Perrin states a small raise has been proposed for all full time employees. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach explains that if the council passes the 2016 budget on first reading tonight they can still amend or revise it before final passage on October 6th. Councilman Rogier moves to adopt the 2016 budget on first reading and is seconded by Councilman Noonan. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

401 Mooreland Drive

Attorney Robbins states the elevation survey certificate will not satisfy Mutual Savings Bank as it does not remove that corner of the building from the FEMA flood plain on the map. They are requesting a LOMA (letter of map amendment) from FEMA. Eric Prime, the attorney for Habitat has stated that Lisa Jones with Mutual Savings has told them that with the letter of map amendment from FEMA they will release Habitat from the flood insurance requirement. Mike Huter will do the field work and the elevation survey and certification and prepare the LOMA application and submit it for a not to exceed amount of $1,000.00. This is a $200.00 increase over what had previously been approved. Councilman Rogier asks how long it will take to get the application filed and a response from FEMA. Attorney

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Robbins estimates that once FEMA has the application we should have a response within a couple of months. Habitat does not want to close without the LOMA and probably any other prospective buyer would require this as well. Huter has ordered GPS equipment and is waiting on it to be delivered. Application should be filed within 3 weeks and then we will have to wait for FEMA’s response – this will delay closing by about 90 days probably be after the first of the year. Councilman Rogier moves to authorize the NTE fee of $1,000.00 and the submission of the LOMA request. Councilman Schilawski seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

2016 Trash & Recycling

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach confirmed with the Town of Whiteland earlier today that they awarded their contract to Republic. Council directs Attorney Robbins to prepare the contract documents for Councilman Perrin’s signature.

Police Vehicle

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states the vehicle has been ordered and is being financed by Home Bank. Councilman Perrin asks about the Ford Financing and Alspach explains the day Marshal Stephenson checked on the financing was the last day to order a 2015 car for guaranteed delivery this year so she authorized the order. Council wants either Stephenson or Town Manager Spencer to get more information on Ford financing before any more vehicles are purchased.

Greater Whiteland Community Day

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach and Town Manager Spencer attended the last meeting. We will have one of the new police cars and a fire vehicle on display in the Whiteland Town Hall parking lot alongside Whiteland’s vehicles. We need volunteers to help with the food – people to help grill and serve hotdogs. Councilmen Schilawski, Noonan and Alspach will help. Fire Chief Wilson is also trying to get volunteers. We will also have a Proctor Park booth on site. The next meeting is the 21st.

Concession Stand / Street Garage

PW Supt. Johnson states the concession stand has been demolished. Lee Weddle has expressed an interest in demolishing the old street garage for the materials. Wendell is waiting for confirmation from him and when he plans to do so. Attorney Robbins will prepare a waiver for him to sign to release us from liability while he is doing the demolition. He also recommends checking with our insurance agent to be sure they don’t have any concerns or requirements for this.

Street Overlay

Attorney Robbins states the work done by E & B has a one year warranty. Town Manager Spencer was going to contact E & B to get the work finished / corrected. The other work that was mentioned on Pine Court needs concrete repair not overlay. PW Supt. Johnson states his employees will be making those repairs.

WWTP Storage Building

PW Supt. Johnson states construction has started on the new building.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

Dance Party

A request has been made to host a dance party at Proctor Park on Sunday, October 4th from 1 -5 p.m. for a Clark-Pleasant student who has had some serious health issues. The organizers are requesting access for electricity to have a DJ and are estimating 50 or more junior high aged attendees. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach was told invitations will be word of mouth or on Facebook and is concerned about parking and traffic issues. She requested that one of the organizers attend tonight to answer questions but they were both unavailable and are not residents. Council states that Proctor Park will not work but would allow the event to be held in East Park near or on the basketball courts. Organizers would have to coordinate everything with Marshal Stephenson and PW Supt. Johnson well in advance of the event. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach will notify them tomorrow.

Police Department

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states she believes 80+ applications were received for the Administrative Clerk position and the 8 finalists were interviewed this afternoon.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Transfer Memo

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach reads and explains the Transfer Memo. Motion to approve by Councilman Alspach with second by Councilman Noonan. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Laurie Morrison, 432 Melrose Drive presents copies of Police Code of Ethics from PoliceCrimes.com to all councilmen. President Perrin asks if she has been provided with everything she has requested and she says that she has. He then asks if she has anything new to discuss and she wants to read the handout. Perrin states if she has any new requests for public records she can make those through Attorney Robbins.

Pat Wilkerson, 64 Hilltop Farms Blvd. has several questions about easements around the retention ponds in their neighborhood, who owns the land, who has the right to access the ponds, and who is liable if someone drowns. Attorney Robbins states that information should be found in the Declaration of Covenants and on the Plat maps. Neither he nor the Town Council can interpret those things for her or the Homeowners Association. She also asks about sidewalks and street lights among other things. She adds they are having an HOA meeting to elect new officers and try to get some of these issues resolved. She asks about getting a Ward map and is told she can pick one up in the town hall. The map is also posted on the town’s website.

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