

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
APRIL 5, 2023
MEETING MINUTES**

Town Council Vice President John Schilawski opened the meeting at 5:00p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Schilawski, Dennis Combs, John Purdie, and Chad Waltz (arrived at 5:05pm). Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss. Councilman John Schilawski offered the opening prayer. Council President Perrin was absent.

MINUTES

Councilman Purdie moves to approve the minutes of the March 1st meeting and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the April 5, 2023 Fund Report and Docket for ratification and/or approval. Councilman Combs moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Wishlists

Fire Chief Curin refers to the LUCAS automatic CPR device that was on his wish list. He states that the only option is to order directly from the manufacturer. Third party purchases will not be supported by their warranties. \$25,000 includes the warranty and related accessories. Chief Curin presents pictures and documentation to Council. Attorney Robbins explains it is an exception to the purchase policy, which requires three quotes, if someone is not able to get three. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the purchase of the LUCAS device with ARP funds. Councilman Combs seconds the motion - **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Fire Chief Curin refers to an earlier email regarding purchasing new radios. He states that he only has one quote because it is an Indiana state price, which is one of the purchase policy exceptions. The cost is more expensive than the original quote he received a few months ago. The model in that quote was discontinued April 1st. If they chose to purchase the discontinued model there will be no support going forward. Chief Curin states that he realizes the price increase will cut into his other wish list items. These radios are also compatible and comparable to what other local departments are using. After the recent tornadoes which resulted in using Station 11 as a command center, it became evident that using compatible radios is extremely important. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the purchase of the radios as described in the paperwork presented, using ARP funds. Councilman Purdie seconds the motion - **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Police Chief Rynerson gives an update on his ARP wish list requests. He has received some bids. However, email in the entire police department has been down for two weeks. The domain name expired and they are working on resolving this. He needed to get Maribeth involved. Domains are purchased for twenty years at a time. He can get inter-office emails. However, he cannot send or receive emails from vendors. Chief Rynerson will update Council once his email is up and working again.

Public Works Superintendent McCauslin states that he has received quotes on his ARP wish list items. However, the quotes came back a lot higher than anticipated. He will give another update at a future time.

Auxiliary Program for NWFD

Fire Chief Curin refers to previous discussions about having an Auxiliary program at the New Whiteland Fire Department. Auxiliary members would be volunteers in the community, retired firefighters, etc., who could be called upon to handle various needs at the Fire Department. Auxiliary members would not respond to emergencies or be approved to ride on equipment. Attorney Robbins

explains to Council that our Fire Department is a volunteer Fire Department already. This is just a matter of including other volunteers for support. No formal action needs to be taken by Council except to communicate their support of the program. Council communicates unanimous support of the Auxiliary program.

Utility Superintendent Gillock states that the Community Clean-Up Day scheduled in conjunction with Whiteland for Saturday, April 15, 2023 has been postponed due to the recent tornadoes. He will inform Council when they can reschedule the event.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Regarding Disaster Relief

Attorney Robbins presents Resolution 2023-01 which would officially allow Town of New Whiteland employees to assist the Town of Whiteland while on the clock for New Whiteland, with any assistance they might need after the tornadoes. The Town of New Whiteland already allows in their personnel policy for an employee to volunteer while on the clock, not to exceed 500 hours in a calendar year, and with council approval, as long as they're not doing something opposed by the policy: promoting religion, a political candidate, or something other than the normal functions of a governmental agency. This Resolution will be retroactive to March 31, 2023. Councilman Combs moves to approve Resolution 2023-01 and is seconded by Councilman Waltz - **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Police Department K9 Presentation

Police Chief Rynerson introduces Officer Cody Robertson who has a presentation on the benefits of having a K9. Officer Robertson was a K9 operator before he came to the NRPD. He shares a slideshow presentation of the various benefits of a K9. The dog is often a psychological deterrent, helps with good public relations, provides a sense of security, in addition to the job they do of tracking people and substances. A K9 can track up to 1/4 mile and a tracking dog can cover a lot more ground in a shorter amount of time than a human. For narcotics, a K9 assists with vehicle searches, open areas, lockers, businesses, etc. The dog can offer probable cause to search. Having a K9 will also allow the Town of New Whiteland to assist other agencies. This helps build better working relationships. Officer Robertson further explains the financial aspect to the Town. His K9 is a 5 1/2-year-old German Shepherd who is already purchased and trained. With the training group he is already in, all training is free for the life of the dog. The K9 insert for his vehicle will be covered through donations. He states that numerous people have reached out and offered help to cover the costs to outfit his vehicle. The Oaklandon vet has offered a 40% discount on the dog's vet bills which should be approximately \$200/year. Insurance would be about the same as adding another officer to the department, and Chief Joe states that would be no more than \$500/year. Reserve Officer Russ Crague, who is a canine handler, is here as well to help answer questions. Councilman Purdie asks how long a K9 works. Officer Crague says he's seen K9s work 10-14 years. Officer Robertson would be the only one handling the dog. However, if someone calls and needs a K9, his dog is ready at a moment's notice. Officer Robertson does a demonstration with four different boxes, one with narcotics in it. He brings the K9 in who accurately detects which box has the narcotics and is rewarded. Officer Robertson explains the process of how a K9 communicates to his handler. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the K9 owned by Officer Robertson to be used for the Town of New Whiteland Police Department once he has a vehicle properly outfitted and is seconded by Councilman Combs - **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Tracy Plaza

Owner of Whit's Inn, Mark Clark, shares handouts with Council and seeks clarification on a couple pieces of business. He mentions difficulty in getting responses from the Town. Item #1: He purchased Tracy Plaza in December 2021. There is a grassy area in the northwest corner of Tracy Plaza that is

identified as Lot 3. Mark Clark asks who is responsible for the building ordinances as he would like to pursue putting something there. He states that he has left messages and dropped paperwork off to Tim Guyer in January and has not received a response. Mr. Clark states that he has a significant amount of money invested in the property. Rentals were leased at 100% within 60 days of purchasing the property. There is a waitlist of businesses who have expressed interest in renting space there. He would like to know if he can build what would be a fourth building on that property in the grassy area designated as Lot 3. Item #2: Mr. Clark distributes paperwork to Council regarding his sign which suffered damage. He has looked at the price of converting the sign to LED and replacing the panels. He asks if he would need a permit to replace the sign? He would also like to replace the part below the sign that doesn't have a face at all with a digital display and asks if this would need approval? Mr. Clark asks Council what he needs to do to move forward on both of these situations. Attorney Robbins says that he will answer some questions regarding ordinances and how to get things moving along. Mr. Clark also asks about the town ordinance regarding outside sales as he would like Chuck Welch, who has various stands in the county, if he could have one in Tracy Plaza. Attorney Robbins replies that he could apply for a variance with the plan commission.

Plan Commission Appointments

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents two Plan Commission appointments. John Perrin's term expired December 2022. Hannah Sholders has contacted the Town expressing interest in being on the Plan Commission. Attorney Robbins states that the Plan Commission is supposed to have three municipal members and four appointments. Hannah Sholders identifies as an Independent and gives political diversity to the Plan Commission which the statute requires. Councilman Purdie moves to appoint both John Perrin and Hannah Sholders to the Plan Commission. Councilman Waltz seconds the motion - **Vote 4 affirmative.**

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS


None

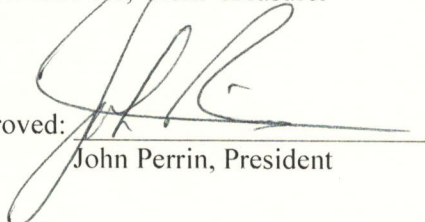
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08pm by Council Vice President John Schilawski.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President