

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 15, 2023
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:03p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, John Schilawski, Dennis Combs, John Purdie, and Chad Waltz. Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss. Councilman John Schilawski offered the opening prayer.

OLD BUSINESS

Tracy Road Improvements and Related Funding

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin introduces Joe Tierney from GRW who is doing a road study for us as well as work on the UV System Upgrades for the WWTP. Mr. Tierney has prepared a Study Update for Council on the Tracy Road improvements with various possibilities that he'd like to present to the Council for consideration.

Joe Tierney from GRW speaks regarding the various options on the Study Update before the Council. Option 1 is the most costly, at \$6,820,000, and includes 59 parcels for right-of-way acquisition as well as utility relocation costs. This option would improve a 1-mile section of Tracy Road from US31 to Proctor Park. Option 2 is \$5,730,000 and includes 55 parcels for right-of-way acquisition and has reduced utility relocation costs. This option would improve approximately 2/3 of a mile section of Tracy Road beginning at US31.

Multiple variables were discussed including the utility relocations, of which some would be paid by the utilities in existing rights-of-way. Funding options were discussed including the option to pay back dues to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO) to have an active member status, as they have a program in which they select certain improvements to fund. Tracy Road is considered part of the IMPO's master plan and could potentially be chosen as a funded project.

Council President Perrin expressed the importance of adding a right turn-lane on Tracy Road at US31 and that if we can't include that in this project, he's not willing to do it. The traffic gets backed up there significantly during rush hour. Various options regarding a right turn-lane were discussed. Council President Perrin also asks if we should go ahead and send notices now to potentially-affected homeowners. PW Supt McCauslin says that as we move forward there will be opportunities for the public to share their opinions, ask questions, and voice their concerns. A lot of things at this point are changeable. We're in the beginning stages and there are a lot of options we can work with. PW Supt McCauslin states that what he's asking for tonight is the approval to go ahead with paying the back dues to the IMPO so we can see if we will be approved for their funding. He offers that he'll gladly take the \$6,600 out of his MVH budget. Attorney Robbins notes, after glancing online, that he sees multiple projects in Johnson County that have been funded with IMPO money so it's worth trying, as there are not many funding options available.

Councilman Combs moves to approve spending \$6,600 to become an active member of the IMPO and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

NEW BUSINESS

Elimination of Cumulative Bridge Fund

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin presents a letter he received in the mail recently stating that the County is doing away with their Cumulative Bridge Fund. This leaves the Town responsible for all inspections, maintenance, and related costs on the 2 bridges that we have in Town. PW Supt. McCauslin further explains that we might have the option to enter into an Inter-Local Agreement with the County to provide a funding match which would save us some money. With this information being new, he hasn't yet looked into cost estimates and other funding sources but plans to do so.

ARP Money

Council President Perrin talked to Police Chief Joe regarding the department head wish lists for spending the ARP money. He informs Council that they will need to review the lists from the department heads and decide what the Town will do with the money. He suggests having a meeting similar to what we do during budget preparation where each department head shares their wish lists and gives explanations for their purchase requests.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss refers to and presents documentation regarding the assistance program. Attorney Robbins explains that other municipalities are participating and there is no reason for New Whiteland not to participate as well. It's a way for the Town to recoup some of the money for the utilities that they might not otherwise receive. He further explains that there is a requirement that within 3 days after the money is received, the services are restored. We cannot do that since the water utility is through Indiana American Water. Sewer services are never disconnected. Attorney Robbins states he does not want us to be contractually obligated to do something we're not able to do. He suggests the Council approve the Town's participation in the program and authorize Council President Perrin on behalf of the Town to execute the Memo of Understanding, that the Town only provides the sewer portion of the utility. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the program and authorize Council President Perrin to execute the Memo of Understanding and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Reimbursement for Homeowner

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss notes that Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock sent an email on January 23, 2023 explaining a plumbing issue a homeowner had that was the result of the Manhole Rehabilitation Project. He asked in his email that the Town pay the \$300 plumbing invoice for the homeowner and stated that Culy Contracting took full responsibility for the issue and will reimburse the Town the \$300. Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss asks permission of the Council to go ahead and pay the homeowner the \$300. Councilman Combs moves to approve payment and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Community Clean-Up Day

Councilman Waltz asks if we got with Whiteland on securing trash bins for Community Clean-Up Day. GFL is willing to assist with Community Clean-Up Day but not be a central drop-off location. There has been communication with Whiteland about potential dates. Discussion ensues about what types of items we can offer for people to recycle.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2023-02

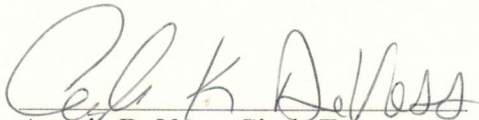
An Ordinance to Reestablish a Cumulative Capital Development Fund
Attorney Robbins presents the ordinance as an introduction only. This ordinance re-establishes the Cumulative Capital Development Fund and there will be a public hearing at our next meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 where the ordinance can be considered. We need to routinely re-establish this fund to be sure and maintain the maximum rate.

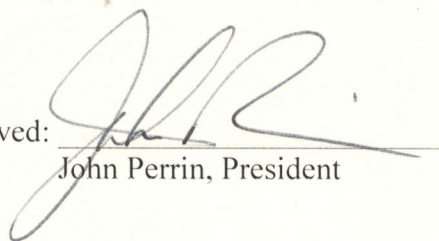
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President