

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 7, 2022
MEETING MINUTES**

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

MINUTES

Councilman Purdie moves to approve the minutes of the August 3rd meeting and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

2023 BUDGET HEARING

Administrator Alspach prepared packets to present. Each Department Head submitted proposed budgets which have been reworked. She is asking them to pass the budget on the first reading. A Budget Workshop is planned for Monday at 5pm. Each Councilmember can talk to each Department Head at that time and they can make revisions at that time and make a final pass at October's meeting. We need to take action this evening and put this on the Agenda for the October meeting. Councilman Combs moves to adopt the proposed 2023 budget on first reading and is seconded by Councilman Purdie; **Vote 3 affirmative.** This will be placed on the October 5th agenda for final approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Culpepper Merriweather Circus

Administrator Alspach sent a recap of the Circus after the event. It went very well. We sold 935 out of 1000 tickets. We didn't hear any complaints about the rain and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Administrator Alspach thanked the various departments for their help both the day before and during the event. She also expressed appreciation to Citizens Bank, First Financial Bank, and the Sweet Scoops Market for selling tickets. We appreciate the community support. The Culpepper Merriweather Circus will be back in our area in two years. They only come to this particular area every two years.

PILOT Program Update

Attorney Robbins gives a brief overview of the PILOT program. A Storm Water project was paid for with Town money. We were moving along expecting to finance that project but as we got closer to a decision, the Council decided to use our own money because we would save a lot of money in related costs due to financing (lawyers and other charges, interest, etc.). This reduced the cost of the project by a significant amount. We were able to fund the Storm Water project without any delay or extra cost. In order to do this, the utility would need to raise rates. Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock shares that he has three quotes from companies who do rate studies. The cheapest proposal is \$5,000. However, he also presents a spreadsheet where he came up with his own rates based on a lot of research and analysis. This would save the Town the cost of doing a rate study. There is some discussion as to why the utility needs to pay the Town back. Attorney Robbins explains that the utility essentially

borrowed money from the Town instead of taking out a loan and incurring the extra expense of that. Administrator Alspach explains that had the Town gone that direction, there would have been a rate increase already and it would have been a much larger rate increase than what we will have by paying the Town back. Attorney Robbins further explains that the Council can decide to start this now, and it wouldn't go into effect until January. Or, they can make any number of decisions such as having the utility pay it all back, or have the Town and utility split it in various ways. Councilman Schilawski says he is uncomfortable making such a big decision when two of the members aren't present and suggests we move this decision to the next meeting.

Brownstone Subdivision Maintenance Bonds

Attorney Lee Robbins presents Maintenance Bonds to the Town Council. It is the Town Council's job to move to accept dedication of improvements: finished streets, sidewalks, and signage. He reminds that we discussed this before but now we're farther along in the process. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the Maintenance Bonds and authorize Council President John Perrin to execute them on behalf of the Town and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

Update on Roads

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin gives an update on recent roadwork and describes an issue that has arisen as of today. Where Winthrop meets with Windemere there is a portion of road that is not part of the current project. The intent was to crack seal. However, the original road and overlay causes water to pond at that intersection. Superintendent McCauslin is asking tonight if the Town Council would approve him to mill an overlay outside of the scope of the project. All Star Paving will honor their current unit pricing. He estimates it could be \$25,000 to do so. This will bring everything back in and allow proper flow of water to storm drains and alleviate a safety issue. This area is also near an ADA ramp and he is concerned when it freezes in the winter. Superintendent McCauslin doesn't have anything in writing yet as all this happened today. He currently has money in his budget between Local Road & Streets and MVH Restricted. Councilman Schilawski notes that he'd like the job to be done right and for a project like this the \$25,000 doesn't raise a lot of concerns. Attorney Robbins says we need the signed documentation to approve it and Superintendent McCauslin says he will get that tomorrow. Attorney Robbins suggests moving to authorize Superintendent McCauslin to sign the change order so this can get done. Councilman Combs moves to approve this expense with the understanding McCauslin will get all necessary paperwork first and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief Vacancy

Administrator Alspach states that we have received a resignation from Fire Chief Dale Saucier. Dave Curin has stepped in as Interim Fire Chief. We have received 3 applications and resumes which were not solicited and Dave Curin is also interested in filling the vacancy. Administrator Alspach asked Council, do we advertise, go with the applications we have, interview Dave Curin, etc.? How do we handle the vacancy? Dave Curin was second in command and that's why he became the Interim Fire Chief. Attorney Robbins states that we need to ratify and approve Dave Curin as Interim Fire Chief. There is discussion about Dave Curin's current pay, the previous Fire Chief Dale Saucier's pay, and what they should pay

Dave Curin at the moment. Councilman Schilawski says that in the absence of two Councilmembers he makes the recommendation to continue with the Interim tag and hold a separate discussion about pay when more Councilmembers are present. It was decided to add this discussion to the Budget Hearing coming up since all Councilmembers will be present and we will be advertising the meeting. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Dave Curin as Interim Fire Chief and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

Administrative Assistant Vacancy

Lee Robbins speaks for Police Chief Joe Rynerson. Chief Rynerson had asked if there was a policy where they cannot start a position for less than \$40,000. He is wanting to hire the new Administrative Assistant at \$38,000 with the understanding that they have six months to complete the necessary and required IDEX training. Upon completion of the training the salary would bump up to \$40,000. Chief Rynerson would like Council approval so that he can confidently make a job offer to someone. Councilman Purdie moves to approve a starting salary of \$38,000 for the Administrative Assistant to be increased to \$40,000 upon completion of IDEX training within six months of hire and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

Fuel at Wastewater Plant

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin shares that the Police Department and Fire Department have been using the fuel at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in order to save money on fuel expenses. They have been using paper logs to track usage. However, that has become complicated to keep track of and figure in time for invoices coming in, sometimes on a weekly basis. Superintendent McCauslin suggests a couple of different options:

\$10,161	\$7,700
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• includes key fobs for each vehicle• will track consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• does not use a key fob but requires a password instead• can break down by driver or by department

Superintendent McCauslin recommends the \$7,700 option. Administrator Alspach asks about security, who has access to the plant, etc, and access if someone is no longer employed. Superintendent McCauslin says he can quickly and easily change passwords. This will be a great way to have consistency in properly paying for the amounts consumed by each department. Councilman Schilawski says there is a similar system at the school transportation department. Councilman Combs moves to approve the purchase of the \$7,700 gas-monitoring system and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Ordinance 2022-12

An Ordinance to Transfer Funds

Administrator Alspach presents Ordinance 2022-12 and asks that we hold off until the next meeting because we also have Resolution 2022-03 tonight which will affect some of the Appropriation numbers used in this Transfer Ordinance.

Resolution 2022-03

A Resolution Reducing the 2022 Budget

Administrator Alspach presents Resolution 2022-03 which reduces the 2022 budget to help fund the 2023 budget. There is about 100,000 that we're reducing in total. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Resolution 2022-03 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

Resolution 2022-04

A Resolution Authorizing Electronic Fund Transfers

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents that it has come to her attention that we are required to have an ordinance or resolution for EFT payments and has Resolution 2022-04 for review and consideration. Councilman Purdie moves to approve Resolution 2022-04 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 3 affirmative.**

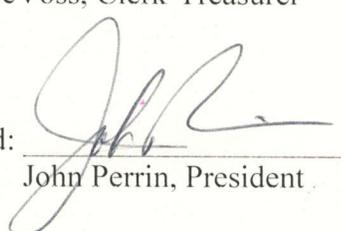
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 

John Perrin, President