

**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL  
AUGUST 3, 2022  
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 Perrin, John Schilawski, Chad Waltz, and John Purdie. Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins, Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss and Administrator Maribeth Alspach. Councilman John Schilawski offered the opening prayer. Councilman Dennis Combs was absent.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the July 27<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for approval for August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Culpepper Merriweather Circus

Administrator Alspach presents that we've sold 19 tickets so far. The circus company assured that's normal and that most ticket sales will occur the week of the event. The advance clown is coming Friday morning and will visit Break-O-Day school at 8:45am to greet children. She will go to KORN Country and do a live interview. Also the Daily Journal is running a story. We will be ordering yard signs to go in various places around town.

Phone Monitoring/Recording

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock presents that Metronet has 4 different tiers

Plan	Cost	Length of Storage	Type of Recording
Basic	\$10/month	30 days	Only on-demand
Standard	\$12/month	90 days	On-demand & automatic
Premium	\$20/month	12 months	On-demand & automatic
Unlimited	\$35/month	Unlimited	On-demand & automatic

Utility Superintendent Gillock explains that the cost is for all lines put together, not per line. Gillock asks Attorney Robbins about the legality on the recording/storage side – how long do we have to keep stored phone recordings, etc. Attorney Robbins explains that he will have to look into it more because by recording phone calls we are creating public records. Council President Perrin asks if someone from Metronet could come to a future meeting and answer questions about this service. Council takes this under review and will revisit at a future meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Plan Commission Appointment

Council President Perrin shares that Chris Gonfiantini has expressed an interest in serving on the Plan Commission. Councilman Schilawski said Mr. Gonfiantini helped him do the assessment on Tot Park and became involved. One more person is still needed on the Plan commission. Councilman Waltz moves to appoint Mr. Gonfiantini to the Plan Commission and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 4 affirmative.**



#### Shelter House at Tot Park

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin presents three quotes which will be the last large piece to be installed at Tot Park. Attorney Robbins notes that there are two quotes for an octagon shelter house and the third is identical to the one in East Park. Superintendent McCauslin states that he likes the idea and thought process behind the octagon shelter house and for esthetics. His recommendation would be for the Sinclair Recreation quote which is \$51,500. However he feels the Town can do the install on the project which would reduce the price by \$20,000. This purchase was planned for in the 2022 budget and currently the parks appropriation has \$88,000 left over. Councilman Schilawski likes the idea of an octagon shelter house. Superintendent McCauslin stated that this will help increase property values in the area by 5-15% for those bordering the park and for the whole subdivision. He can have Sinclair Recreation re-submit the quote without the installation piece which would make Sinclair Recreation the lowest quote. Councilman Purdie asked about concrete and Superintendent McCauslin explains that we would need to contract out the concrete separately no matter which quote we go with. Councilman Schilawski moves to accept the Sinclair Recreation quote minus installation cost and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

#### Generator for Town Hall

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin presents that he originally had looked into generators for the Fire Department for the 2022 budget season. The Fire Department was going to be a command center in case of a natural disaster however due to the proximity to East Park and the flood plain, it is not a viable location. He started looking at the Town Hall as a command center where there is currently no backup power. The quotes he received are for a generator for the Town Hall. If the Town Council chooses to do this he would request using ARPA funds because the amount is outside the dollar amount he budgeted for. Council discussed the three quotes and options for electrical needs and changes at the Town Hall to accommodate a generator. Councilman Purdie asked about the life span of the generators. Councilman Waltz asks if we could get a grant to cover the cost and Superintendent McCauslin explains that if we apply for both at the same time we would only get one or the other. Attorney Robbins asks if there is a way for the Fire Department doors to open manually. Councilman Waltz moves to accept the quote from MacAllister using ARPA funds and is seconded by Councilman Purdie. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

#### Playground Equipment from Whiteland Schools

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin presents that he has been in contact with Sam at Whiteland Schools and received confirmation yesterday that 7 pieces of playground equipment will be declared surplus and is ours when it's ready to pick up. This equipment is planned to be installed at West Park and will complete all five parks having playground equipment. Superintendent McCauslin has done some research and found a company that will remove and relocate the playground equipment for \$63,500. It would be half a million to purchase equipment like this new. Superintendent McCauslin suggests poured in place for the playground. Council asks about the cost and Superintendent McCauslin explains there are various factors that affect the cost: the specific use zones, the layout (West Park is spread into two areas), and square footage determined from an aerial picture. Superintendent McCauslin states he has funds in the 2022 properties department budget to assist in paying for the removal and relocation. He would add the poured in place to the 2023 budget.



#### Christmas Display Expansion

Public Works Superintendent Duane McCauslin refers to a catalog he has with Christmas Décor items that we could have on a 3-year lease. He picked out 7 additional displays to add to last year's Christmas Tree display. The cost is \$2,000 per year for the 3-year lease. We do not have to stay with the same pieces each year. Attorney Robbins has looked at the lease agreement and has some recommended changes. Superintendent McCauslin states that they install, tear down, and store items for the 3 years. Take down is sometime after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilman Waltz moves to approve the 3-year lease for the Christmas Décor and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski, contingent on Attorney Robbins' approval after contract revisions. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

#### Budget Update

Administrator Alspach reports that the DGLF says the budget is fundable. However if we spend everything we planned on this year and next year we will be dipping into reserves by \$921,138. We have done a lot of Parks work, which has been expensive. Administrator Alspach recommends that we look at the rest of our 2022 budget and cut some things out and pare down the 2023 budget. Councilman Purdie asked if we could use the ARPA funds to replace any of the vehicles so we're not using tax dollars. Superintendent McCauslin has been looking at trimming capital expenditures, using ARPA funds where he can, etc. He says there will be some money left at the end of the year in MVH because of street work. We didn't get the full Community Crossing Grant so the match will be less than he originally thought. Administrator Alspach states that she plans to meet with Department Heads again to see what can be trimmed. She says that we're supposed to pass our budget at the September meeting and do the final budget at the October meeting. Councilman Purdie asked if we had dipped into cash reserves before. He explains there's a difference between dipping into reserves for capital expenses that last beyond a year versus simply to operate. He adds that we should consider using ARPA funds where we can.

#### Letter from Office of the Attorney General

Administrator Alspach presents that prior Councilman Scott Alspach received a letter in the mail regarding Opioid Settlements from Attorney General Todd Rokita's office. She states that we will have a settlement and it will be broken down into annual payments for the next 18 years. New Whiteland will get \$11,000 in unrestricted and restricted payments. Administrator Alspach has emailed Todd Caldwell with the SBOA. The SBOA will be setting up a new fund but didn't know that the AG was getting ready to start making distributions. The SBOA will come up with a fund number and let people know about qualified uses for the money. We will start drawing payments this year.

#### LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

None

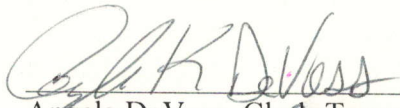
#### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

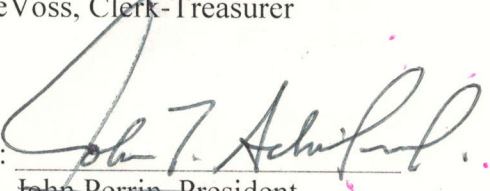
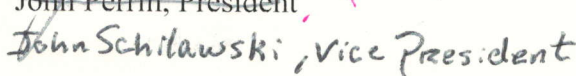
Delores Roberson, 9 Tilmor Drive, has lived here 25 years and half of that time she has been cutting the grass in the street. She asks when that will get addressed. She refers to recent plumbing issues. The plumbing is cast iron which has turned to clay. She understands that

she is responsible for it and that it goes into the street. Ms. Robinson is concerned that other neighbors have this problem too and won't have the means to repair the plumbing issues. She says that grass grows up through the cracks and has been an ongoing issue for half the time they've lived on the court. Council President Perrin states that one problem is the way the state has changed the way the Community Crossing Grant is done. They used to go through and identify which streets to do. However, they came up with a formula where each street receives a grade and we're required to start at a certain level. Council President Perrin says his street is in poor repair and doesn't qualify yet per the new system. He doesn't have any say on it even though he's on the Council. Superintendent McCauslin says they have applied for that segment to be redone for the last 2 years and got denied both times. Discussion between Ms. Robinson and Council regarding what will happen if and when multiple neighbors need to redo their sewer lines and the road is torn up and needs to be replaced. Ms. Robinson indicates it would seem cheaper if everyone did it at once. However she's concerned because most neighbors probably can't afford it. Council President shares that when his sewer line was redone, whatever was torn up, the homeowner has to put back, even if it connects into the middle of the street. Utility Superintendent Gillock adds that this cul-de-sac wraps to the right and their main is on the opposite side of the cul-de-sac. Council President Perrin asks if when they ran a camera through it if the line was bad all the way through; their house is newer than others. Superintendent Gillock recommends another option, such as New Flo Indy, who can do something that prevents you from having to dig up the road. They will go through and clean out the line and blow a fiberglass liner in it. It's a structural fix and there are multiple companies that do this.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12p.m. by John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Angela De Voss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:   
John Perrin, President  
  
John Schilawski, Vice President