

**Minutes of the Trail Creek Town Council Meeting for:
January 22, 2008**

(A complete transcript is available in the Clerk's office on tape # 331)

The regular meeting of the Trail Creek Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008 at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana. Council members present were: Council President Ron Lombard, Councilman John Bayler, Councilman Jamie Baldwin and Clerk/Treasurer Anne Dobbs. Councilman Jeff Studtman was not present at the meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer Anne M. Dobbs swore in the 2008 Council members Ron Lombard, Jamie Baldwin, John Bayler, and Warren Schacht. Councilman Jeff Studtman will be sworn in at the February 2008 meeting.

Following presentation of the minutes of the regular Council meeting on December 20th, Councilman Jamie Baldwin moved for approval. Councilman John Bayler seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Clerk/Treasurer Anne Dobbs reported that the Town is in good sound financial position. The balance in the checking account in November 2007 was \$238,484.40 and a deposit was done in December of \$100,000.00. Riverboat revenue was \$55,447.00 and the Town also received \$190,000.00 from the LaPorte County Treasurer's Office so a CD did not have to be transferred. The total deposit for the month of December 2007 was \$261,684.06. Checks which cleared the bank were \$65,808.77 and there were outstanding checks of \$30,945.13. The Town of Trail Creek earned \$742.39 interest from the checking account the service charge was \$13.75. On the first day of January the Town received a check in the amount of \$90,000 from Michigan City for their part of the bill for Roeske Avenue. The Town has CD's in the amount of \$111,787.45, \$108,877.33 and \$219,695.60. Councilman Warren Schacht moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Councilman John Bayler seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Claims -Claims against the town in the amount of TWO HUNDRED FORTY ONE THOUSAND SIXTY DOLLARS and 97/100 (\$241,160.97) were presented. Councilman John Bayler moved for payment, Councilman Jamie Baldwin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was received from Dan Tompkins thanking the Council and Cindy Kautz for a special evening.

Correspondence was received from the Department of Government Finance to all fiscal officers from Cheryl Musgrave, Commissioner. All units should consider that their 2007 Budget amounts are in effect until the 2008 budget is certified by the Department of Local Government Finance.

REPORTS:

ATTORNEY: Attorney William Herrbach stated that he has prepared contracts in draft form for the appropriate appointments that the Board has to make. Attorney Herrbach had originally talked to the LaPorte County Commissioners regarding the Hydronic Furnaces. There is a county ordinance which basically requires inspections, etc. and several commissioners indicated that they would be willing to go ahead and contract with the Town of Trail Creek to supervise our furnaces. They will contact the La Porte County Health Department to see what the cost of inspecting a Hydronic furnace will be and he has not heard anything as of yet. The plan is to hold off on the ordinance until we hear from the County. We will probably have to pass an ordinance in the Town comparable to the County, making them the inspection authority.

Councilman Ron Lombard asked Attorney Herrbach if he had heard anything further from Chris Willoughby. He stated that he had not heard from Mr. Willoughby but that he had talked to Jeff Studtman. He will talk to Chris Willoughby as to the status of the baseball program.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Nothing new.

ENGINEER: Engineer John Doyle stated that the new storm systems that were installed near the Town Hall and on Roeske Avenue seem to be working quite well. The water issue behind Evergreen Plaza it was much better than it had been due to what had been done last year. He feels that the Council may think about what they might want to do this year regarding the rest of the system in that area. Attorney Herrbach asked Engineer Doyle if the lots the Bartlett family had given the Town of Trail Creek could be drained so that the town could sell the lots, if they desired. Engineer Doyle stated that for the most part, no. Clerk Dobbs stated that she thought that Street Superintendent Kubath planned on possibly using those lots to dispose of the leaves the Town collects from the residents.

MS4: Kate Doyle reported that Rick Brown, MS4 coordinator, has been asked to sit on the programmer committee that is putting together the first statewide MS4 conference, it will be held on April 3rd, 2008. Each coordinator is able to invite one person from either the county or the city to attend the conference. Kate also passed out an ordinance that had been adopted by LaPorte County Council creating a non-reverting fund and this is for the \$100 plan review fees that retroacts.

PARK DEPARTMENT: Nothing to report.

PLANNING AND ZONING: Nothing new.

PLUMBING INSPECTOR: No inspections.

POLICE DEPT: Marshal Todd Klosinski was not present but asked Clerk Dobbs to tell the Council that Officer Dick has left for the academy, he will be there until May 2008. While Officer Dick was still on duty he had received calls regarding the debris in the ditch behind Evergreen Furniture, he spoke to the manager of the store and the manager stated that he will have the furniture out of the ditch by next Friday. Councilman Schacht asked if the December report would eventually be turned in, Clerk Dobbs stated that if they bring it in she will have it dispersed to the Council members.

STREET DEPARTMENT: Street Commissioner Brian Kubath was not able to attend as he was on vacation but all sticks and branches have been picked up around the Town.

NIRPC: Council President stated that a NIRPC meeting was held this past Thursday for election of officers and reaffirming the executive board vote to have the legislature look at ways to help get the South Shore to Valparaiso, Munster and Lowell. A NIRPC retreat will be held Saturday at Sand Creek.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. One year appointments:
 - a. Attorney William Herrbach
 - b. Building Inspector Steve Thomas
 - c. MS4 Kate Doyle
 - d. Engineer John Doyle
 - e. Electrical Inspector Kirk Burnett
 - f. Marshal Todd Klosinski
 - g. Heating and Air Conditioning Inspector Tom Agorichas
 - h. Street Commissioner Brian Kubath

Councilman John Bayler moved for approval. Councilman Jamie Baldwin seconded and the vote was unanimous.

2. Plumbing Inspector position has two individuals, Paul Foreman and Bruno Uryga, interested in this position. Councilman John Bayler nominated Paul Foreman as Plumbing Inspector, Councilman Jamie Baldwin seconded and the vote was unanimous. The Council thanked Bruno Uryga for his efforts as Plumbing Inspector in 2007.
3. Council appointed Councilman Warren Schacht as Police Liaison. Councilman John Bayler nominated the same and Councilman Jamie Baldwin seconded. The vote was unanimous.
4. Jeff Studtman previously stated that he is stepping down as park liaison and Councilman John Bayler has stated that he would be willing to assume this position. Councilman Jamie Baldwin nominated John Bayler be park liaison, Councilman Warren Schacht seconded and the vote was unanimous.
5. Council appointed Jeff Studtman as the towns' representative to the South Shore Clean Cities. Councilman John Bayler nominated Jeff Studtman as liaison to SSCC, Councilman Warren Schacht seconded, vote was unanimous.
6. Fireworks Ordinance will be tabled until February 2008 to give all Council members a chance to review the same.
7. Outdoor Hydronic Heater Ordinance will also be tabled until February 2008.
8. Copies of contracts were presented from Kate Doyle, John Doyle and William Herrbach. Contracts were also presented from the building inspector, plumbing inspector, electrical inspector and the heating and air conditioning inspectors. The State of Indiana now requests that all these individuals have contracts with the Town of Trail Creek. These contracts were read aloud by Clerk Dobbs. They will be signed after the meeting.

9. Presentation of Building Permit information. Attorney William Herrbach stated that he has talked to Steve Thomas in regards as to what individuals need to know when they apply for building permits from the Town of Trail Creek. It was suggested that this information be presented in a packet as people get their building permits or that it be put in the town newsletter. It will be presented to the Planning and Zoning committee that some changes may need to be made. Clerk Dobbs stated that these changes can be posted on the town's webpage.
10. Christopher Willoughby arrived and stated that Jeff Studtman had requested that he report on the park board meeting. The first meeting of the year was held and elected Robin Kohn as President. It was more of an organizational session; they basically wanted to know what the charges will be for lease of the fields. He feels that he may need to meet with Clerk Dobbs and Attorney Herrbach to review the town code to ascertain what the park boards responsibilities are so that it can run a little more efficiently. Clerk Dobbs said it is very simple as it is not even a full page. He stated that the immediate issue is the baseball program and Council President Ron Lombard interjected that it must be completely separate from the Park Department. Mr. Willoughby stated that they Park Board will be meeting more than normal and that they will be proposing that the baseball league is going to organize and affiliate with Little League International. They have met with numerous people regarding this issue and they feel it will not take more than two (2) weeks to accomplish this. After this has been accomplished the baseball organization will come to the Park Board meeting and propose what they hope to accomplish. They have tried to take significant steps to separate the two entities. Clerk Dobbs reminded Mr. Willoughby that anytime they are going to have a park board meeting a 48 hour notice to the newspaper or notice to the public must be given. Councilman Bayler asked him about the status of the funds from the last fundraiser? He stated that they have the check which was made out to Trail Creek Baseball. He stated that this was not a town event, it was for the baseball league, but they have decided to put those monies with the rest of the funds. Clerk Dobbs stated that the old park department account has been closed. Extensive discussion ensued (see tape #331).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Signing of contracts and presentation of building permit information. See above #'s 8 & 9 in old business.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comments: Bruno Uryga stated that he had 4 to 5 permits that he had done for the Town of Trail Creek and he is requesting one-half (1/2) payment for these.

Melinda Nagle had a concern regarding the development of Pritz Park. She spoke to Engineer Doyle regarding placement of the entrance to the park and the basketball courts which are planned for the park. The Council stated that nothing is definite regarding Pritz Park. Councilman John Bayler has had several individuals contact him regarding a buffer zone around Pritz Park.

Bruno Uryga stated that he had approached the Town Council several years ago about having city sewer on Whippoorwill. He also contacted several people about installing city water and was advised that it is not possible.

Council Comments: Councilman John Bayler stated that he would like to thank the Council and Town for sending himself and Councilman Schacht to IACT boot camp for newly elected officials.

Clerk's Comments: Clerk Dobbs stated that she appreciates the consideration the Council has extended to her during her illness.

There being no further business or comments Councilman Jamie Baldwin moved for adjournment at 8:45 p.m. Councilman Warren Schacht seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Attest: _____
Anne M. Dobbs, Clerk-Treasurer