

**Minutes of the Trail Creek Town Council Meeting for:
February 19, 2008**

(A complete transcript is available in the Clerk's office on tape # 332)

The regular meeting of the Trail Creek Town Council was held on Tuesday, February 19th, 2008 at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana. Council members present were: Council President Pro-Tem John Bayler, Councilman Jamie Baldwin, Councilman Jeff Studtman and Clerk/Treasurer Anne Dobbs. Council President Ron Lombard was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

Clerk/Treasurer Anne M. Dobbs swore in Councilman Jeff Studtman for the year 2008.

Following presentation of the minutes of the regular Council meeting on January 22nd, Councilman Jamie Baldwin moved for approval. Councilman Warren Schacht seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Clerk/Treasurer Anne Dobbs gave a verbal report on the status of the finances regarding the Town. Interest rates on CD's continue to fall. Councilman Warren Schacht moved to approve the Treasurer's report and Councilman Jeff Studtman seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Claims -Claims against the town in the amount of SIXTY ONE THOUSAND SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS and 43/100 (\$61,075.43) were presented. Councilman Jamie Baldwin moved for payment, Councilman Jeff Studtman seconded. The vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was received from Mayor Oberlie to Officer Gary Kinney commending him for the work he did regarding the apprehension of burglary suspects in January 2008.

REPORTS:

ATTORNEY: Attorney William Herrbach stated that the Town of Trail Creek can expect to pay a significant increase in the bids regarding the refuse contracts. Attorney Herrbach suggested that the Town contact the refuse companies well in advance regarding the contracts for 2009 and 2010.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Not in attendance.

ENGINEER: Kate Doyle relayed a message from Engineer John Doyle requesting that the Council start thinking about projects that they would like to see on a list for this year.

Chief Deputy Cindy Kautz stated that she had received a letter from Engineer Doyle regarding resident Anthony Levendoski, who resides on Johnson Road. He owns a piece of property along Trail Creek behind other residences which is unusable. The LaPorte County Assessor has his property listed at residential property and he feels that since there is no access to it and that whenever it floods this property is underwater, he is asking that we notify the County that this is a non-buildable property. Engineer Doyle examined the property and drafted a letter to the County. He wanted the Council's permission to release the letter to Mr. Levendoski. Councilman Jamie Baldwin moved for approval. Councilman Jeff Studtman seconded and the vote was unanimous.

MS4: Kate Doyle had nothing new to report except the meeting date had been changed.

PARK DEPARTMENT: Nothing to report.

PLANNING AND ZONING: Nothing new. Clerk Dobbs requested the Council to consider a meeting with the Planning and Zoning Board so changes can be addressed regarding building permits, roofing, siding, etc. The Town is losing a lot of revenue by not asking for additional permits for roofing, siding, etc.

PLUMBING INSPECTOR: Not in attendance.

POLICE DEPT: Marshal Todd Klosinski spoke regarding vehicle identification number checks. He stated that there is a State statute which says that the Trail Creek Police Department can charge up to FIVE DOLLARS (\$5.00) for each Vin check which is done by his department. Many of the calls they receive are from non-residents as the word has gotten out that the

Trail Creek Police Department does not charge for this service. It was suggested that the fee be waived for residents and that non-residents be charged for this service. Attorney Herrbach suggested that an ordinance be established for this and at the same time the issues regarding building permits be addressed.

STREET DEPARTMENT: Street Commissioner Brian Kubath was not able to attend. We had a few residents unhappy with snow removal but on the whole everyone has been very happy.

NIRPC: Council President Ron Lombard was not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Workshops have been tabled till April 2008 meeting.
2. Contracts need to be signed.
3. Fireworks Ordinance was voted on. Council President Pro-Tem John Bayler moved for approval and Councilman Warren Schacht seconded and the vote was unanimous. Clerk Dobbs asked Attorney Herrbach if this Ordinance needs to be published in its entirety, he stated "Yes".
4. Outdoor Hydronic Heater Ordinance will also be tabled until April 2008.
5. A special meeting will be held next month to discuss the Employee Handbook.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Liability insurance is due in April and Clerk Dobbs will be meeting with Bob Lindenmeyer. He will be getting quotes from two other companies.
2. Computer program: Chief Deputy Cindy Kautz is researching payroll programs. She has asked three (3) different companies to give her quotes regarding the program. She only received a response from two of the companies. The only one based in the State of Indiana was Keystone, which is also our refuse billing program. Keystone is also familiar with the reports needed by the State Board of Accounts. After you purchase the program there is also a maintenance fee every year. The cost of this program will be \$2,750.00, which includes: cost of program, two days of on-site training, this years annual maintenance fee and licensing program.
3. Levendowski (addressed earlier)
4. Workmen's Compensation: An individual inquired if the Town is required to have a Workmen's Comp. policy to cover the tree companies working in the Town. The Town is not responsible for this policy, it is the individual tree companies responsibility.
5. Special Meeting at 5:30 regarding lease of the baseball parks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comments: Complaint by Bruno Uryga regarding someone who drug branches through his yard. He was advised that it was a NIPSCO subsidiary. He had also heard on the radio that codes are going to be enforced in the city of Michigan City and that there were going to be a lot of unhappy people. He stated that he tried to enforce the codes in Trail Creek while he was plumbing inspector.

Council Comments: Councilman Warren Schacht is concerned about the meeting on Friday as they have nothing to review prior to the meeting. Attorney Herrbach stated that he just received a proposal from Chris Willoughby and he will provide a copy to the Council prior to the Friday meeting.

Clerk's Comments: Clerk Dobbs stated that she is feeling much better and is spending more time in the office.

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

Attest: _____
Anne M. Dobbs, Clerk-Treasurer