

May 21, 2013

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana.

Council President, Warren Schacht, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes A motion was made by Mrs. Heath to approve the meeting minutes from April 16, 2013, as written, motion was seconded by Mr. Studtman.

Approval of Fund Mr. Bayler moved to approve the Fund Report, and Mr. Studtman seconded the motion and then it was unanimously carried.

Approval of Payment of Bills: Mr. Studtman moved to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$133, 424.05 (ONE HUNDRED THIRTY THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR DOLLARS AND FIVE CENTS), motion was seconded by Mr. Bayler.

Correspondence Ms. Denham; Clerk Treasurer read aloud some correspondence received from Ms. Katrina Kibby/Wegiel regarding the Trail Creek Police Department ride along program for students involved in the criminal justice program at Brown Mackie College. Ms. Kibby/ Wegiel wanted to express her thanks to the Trail Creek Police Department for offering the program.

Department Reports:

MS4: Ms. Katie Doyle in attendance and provided council with a 2013 LaPorte County MS4 Organizational Funding Process Chart. Trail Creek will be responsible for the three percent (3%) , for 2013 totaling \$ 2,085.00, however, Katie also provided a rough draft of 2014 where as the town of Trail Creek will pay two percent (2%) which totals \$ 1,390.00 as the contribution.

Attorney: Mr. Herrbach in attendance. He indicated that he had an inquiry regarding a possible "No parking on the front yard grass ordinance". Mr. Herrbach spoke extensively regarding this type of parking ordinance and what it would entail. His recommendations are that we do go ahead and create an ordinance. It was then decided by council that Mr. Herrbach to go ahead and draft this for the next meeting in June 2013.

Mr. Studtman, Council Member asked Bill about the vacant homes in our area and how the town goes about condemning the homes that are left abandoned and falling apart. Bill indicated that the homeowner by law must be sent a letter regarding the condition of the home with the request to make the necessary repairs. A meeting is scheduled with the homeowner and council to come up with a plan on how to proceed. If the homeowner can't or won't make the necessary repairs then council will have to make the decision on how to proceed.

Mr. Studtman brought to light, 110 Harding and its condition. It was then discussed that we should pursue three bids for demolition. Mr. Studtman then indicated that there appears to be many other vacant homes. He will get some address to the town hall to be added to the already created list. Because of these homes being abandoned, the condition of the property is deteriorating and grass

gets longer than what the ordinance specifies. Council decided that a list should be created by the Trail Creek Police Department of the properties that are in violation of the grass ordinance.

Engineer: Mr. Doyle in attendance to discuss the pump station that was installed in 2012 under contract division B. He indicated that it is not working properly. Some research has been done to find the problem, pumps pulled and it was found that the alternator is working properly. However, there is still an unexplainable twenty percent differential. Mr. Doyle stated that he would be getting together with D&M to put in time meters which would cost the town \$450.00 - \$600.00 a piece for the meters. Mr. Schacht, Council President asked John if these pumps were warranted. Mr. Doyle responded by saying yes, however a technician from Flow- Technics, Inc. did an assessment of the pumps on May 15, 2013. The technician found that the pumps, float operation and alternators were all "OK". However, Mr. Doyle still finds this to be unacceptable and wishes to get estimates for new meters. Mr. Studtman, Council Member expressed some concern and would like to take the opportunity to review the pumps himself prior to an authorization to replace the meters. Mr. Studtman is to follow up with council and John Doyle after his assessment has been complete.

Mr. Doyle spoke briefly about the Hwy 20 project. The scope of the project has been reduced. Because of the reduction and change of scope to the project this may affect some access to Evergreen Plaza; also at this point there are no signals in the program for Pinetree and Roeske. Mr. Doyle asked about compiling the crash reports that occurred for the last ten years at that intersection. The Marshal stated that he could look into it, that he wasn't sure how far back the system would allow him to go.

Street Department: Brian Kubath, Street Commissioner in attendance and spoke about the scraping of the Elgin Street Sweeper. This has been done and the town received back \$1660.20 including a \$200.00 towing fee. Also, He is looking into some estimates on two new signs for the Town Hall and the Police Station. Baseball signs were ordered from Weber Design and completed.

Estimates provided for the generator. A motion was made by Mrs. Heath to allow Mr. Kubath to purchase the generator from Current Electric in the amount of approximately \$ 21,000.0, motion was seconded by Mr. Bayler and was then unanimously carried. The generator will be paid for through both the Riverboat and Capital Outlay fund.

Also, new picnic tables were discussed. Brian suggested going through Penn Products, because of the quality. He would like to get around ten tables and they should be handicap assessable.

It was commented that there are some overhanging trees at Pritz Park and that perhaps the Street Department could look at this. Brian indicated that he would take a look.

NIRPC: No Report

Park Department: No Report; Mr. Silcox not in attendance.

Building Inspector: Steve Thomas in attendance. Steve talked about the potential of changing the fencing height from six foot privacy to eight foot privacy due to the "mound system" being mandatory for sewers. He stated that since the mound system was put into place a six foot privacy

fence then becomes a four foot. After some discussion it was noted that this subject would be taken under advisement to be discussed at a later date.

Planning and Zoning: No Report, there has been no scheduled meeting.

Police Department: Marshal Klosinski in attendance and reports that April has been a slow month. Just that Eric Lisoski, deputy will be back from the academy and on duty the 1st week of July

Old Business:

- Street Improvement Projects 2013; Mr Doyle stated that July 2013 would be a safe deadline to line up any projects that the town would like to have done for this year.
 1. Greenwood / Avondale (see public comment)
 2. Greenwood / Sarah Jo; Mr. Herman Lehman 2702 Greenwood expressed some concern of some old work that was done and has now over time bears a resemblance to a speed bump that when driven over by large trucks shakes his house. He expressed concern as to any damage being caused to his house because of this. Mr. Doyle stated there would be two options; shave down the bump or take out a ten foot section and replace. Perhaps incorporating with another project to save on the cost.
- Park Board; A motion was made by Mrs. Heath to appointment Mr. Ron Nagle back to the Park Board, motion was seconded by Mr. Bayler and then was unanimously carried.

New Business:

- Fence Height; see above under Building Inspector.

Public Comment: Herman Lehman; 2702 Greenwood (comment in Old Business)

Clerk-Treasurer's Comment: none

Council Comment Jennifer Health commented about the upcoming Memorial Day Service to be held on Monday, May 27, 2013 at Nelson Park. Guest Speakers include State Representative Jim Arnold. The rain location would be at the town hall. Also, June 8th is the St. Stan's 5k walk/run here in Trail Creek with an 8:00 a.m. start at Nelson Park. For more information, contact the town hall or St. Stan's Church.

There being no further business, Mr. Studtman moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Mrs. Heath and was then unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
Warren Schacht, Council President

ATTEST: _____
Joshleen M. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer
June 18, 2013