

October 21, 2014

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana.

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

Minutes A correction to the meeting minutes under public comments Jerraly Stark was incorrectly spelt, correction was made. A motion was made by Mrs. Heath to approve the meeting minutes from the August 19, 2014 as written; motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox, and was then unanimously carried.

Approval Of Fund A motion was made by Mr. Silcox to approve the fund reports for both August 2014 and September 2014 by Mr. Silcox, motion was seconded by Mr. Studtman and was then unanimously carried.

Approval of Claims Mr. Studtman, asked about an invoice from Long Beach, Ms. Denham indicated that is the charge for last year's salt. Mr. Studtman then directed his question to Mr. Bruder, Street Commissioner regarding the availability of salt this year. Mr. Bruder stated that the salt has already been ordered for 2014. Mr. Studtman made a motion to approve the fund report in the amount of \$83,350.33 (EIGHTY THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND THIRTY THREE CENTS) motion was seconded by Mrs. Heath and then was unanimously carried. A motion was also made to approve the invoice supplied by Doyle and Associates in the amount of \$ 4,461.25, by Mr. Studtman, motion was seconded by Mrs. Heath and was then unanimously carried.

Correspondence None

Special Guest: Pat Koehler, with St. Stanislaus Church in attendance to discuss next year's 5k race in Trail Creek. The proposed date will be June 06, 2015. Marshal Steve Dick will get with Pat Koehler regarding street closures and the possibility more signs for example "caution" and "race in progress" signs. Council accepted the date and is looking forward to involving the community.

Dustin Waters, with Truck City finance department, in attendance to discuss the potential purchase of one possibly two new Street Dump Trucks. Mr. Waters prepared a spreadsheet for council showing purchases. Mr. Studtman, Council Member indicated that he would like to see more than one bid, perhaps three in total. Mr. Bruder, Street Commissioner stated that with the type of truck the town needs, it will be very difficult to get more bids due to the specifications we need. After a lengthy discussion with council, it was decided that the street commissioner, Jeff Bruder would try to receive 3 more bids with the same specifications to compare, prior to any decisions being made on a purchase.

Department Reports:

MS4: Ms. Kate Doyle in attendance. She indicated that the MS4 program will be audited again in 2015. Reggie Brown, regional coordinator will be doing a walk through particularly of the maintenance building. Enbridge will be done by the second week in October. Also, she had a discussion at the MS4 meeting today, that the president not only being the president of the board but also being the enforcement officer. In the event that Rick Brown is not there, there is someone in place. There was some discussion to name an enforcement officer in each one of the entities. For Trail Creek, were so small, but is up for discussion. Auditor's office in LaPorte is being investigated or audited by the Internal Revenue Service, so Rick had to open up his files this week. Rick does get some complaints on inspections that are not only residential but as well as commercial. Due to the type of properties and rule 13 being done by acreage, it is recommended that the ordinance should say this; this was tabled for next month.

Attorney: Bill Herrbach in attendance. He prepared some forms for variances for the zoning board and to the clerk's office. Perhaps the board should get a copy of those to look over.

Engineer Mr. Doyle in attendance. On the 8th of September, Mr. Bayler, council member and I met with Sharon a representative of NIRPC in regards to the classifications of streets in Trail Creek. We went over the town map, and found that the principle arterial roads are Michigan Blvd and Highway 20. The minor arterial roads are Johnson Road and Coolspring Avenue. Major collectors are Welnetz, Greenwood, Menke and Roeske north of Coolspring. Minor collectors are Roeske south between Welnetz and Highway 20 and Black oak between Welnetz and Whippoorwill and the rest are just residential streets. I think that matches up to the good of our zoning, Mr. Doyle commented.

Tomorrow evening at the Michigan City High School and 6:00 p.m. is a meeting regarding the improvements on Highway 20, it is a public meeting for affected property owners. Plans are available at the library at 400 north and Johnson Road. There are no recent changes to the plans. We are still getting the increased pipes in volume. He indicated that he received an email yesterday morning from the highway department, they would like to have a meeting prior to this meeting. He spoke with Jim Arnold about this if council thinks that he should attend, he will. Mr. Studtman asked Mr. Doyle if he felt that it was his opinion that what is proposed is still not sufficient enough drainage. Mr. Doyle stated, that is correct. Mr. Schacht, Council President indicated that he would be attending the meeting at the high school.

In accepting the bid from D&M last week, Mr. Doyle indicated that he would get some more proposals for the other contract divisions. He apologized, as he did not have those, however he spoke with some contractors and they have expressed interest. He

will work on this. Also, he has asked D&M for insurance information and has not received this as of yet for the approved contract division.

Jeff Studtman asked how late in the year can we start this job. Mr. Doyle stated depends on if we include the asphalt, but you could go up until November 1st.

The Black Oak project should start in the next 10 days, Mr. Doyle asked if council would like for Doyle and Associates to provide a resident inspector on this project. Council agreed that Doyle and Associates should provide a resident inspector for this job.

Street Department: Jeff Bruder, Street Commissioner in attendance and getting ready for leave pick up. He indicated that the last pick up for sticks, limbs, and branches will be around September 29, 2014 thru October 3, 2014. Leaf pick up will start October 20th and run through November 26th depending on the weather. Mr. Studtman asked if the equipment seems to be in good shape. Mr. Bruder said, yes for now. Also, the striping of Johnson Road will be on September 20, 2014 which is a Thursday and is also weather permitting. He will get in touch with Roadsafte to get a better timeline. Will get with the police department to help divert some traffic off Johnson Road if need be.

NIRPC Not in attendance

Park Department: No Report

Building Inspector: Steve Thomas, Building Inspector in attendance. He provided the clerk with some pictures of some properties that are of concern.

- 1910 Coolspring, The property owners are now living in Watertown, NY and owe the town over \$9000.00 in refuse and service liens. Mr. Herrbach asked if the house is in bad condition. Mr. Thomas responded by saying, the house seems to be intact, however I did not get around to the back. Mr. Herrbach stated we would proceed with collection on the refuse. Ms. Denham provided Mr. Herrbach with a phone number and an address. Mr. Herrbach will send a certified letter regarding the refuse.
- 235 Harding; Refuse owed is close to \$3000.00. Mr. Thomas stated that the house should be boarded again. Mr. Herrbach will send a 10 day letter. However, Ms. Denham indicated that she thought the owners were deceased as well as the children with the exception of one sister, and that the sister is working through an attorney.
- 110 Harding; Mr. Herrbach indicated that there has been no more work done on the property. He will send another letter, to begin the next step.

Planning and Zoning: We did have one resident asked for a meeting, Ms. Health spoke with Bill Greene, Zoning President to schedule this meeting.

Police Department: Marshall Dick in attendance. He will defer until the new business portion of the agenda.

Old Business: 110 Harding ; see above under Inspectors Report.

New Business: Baseball Program for 2015 – 2019. Representatives from the Youth Sports of Trail Creek in attendance. They presented the board and attorney with the proposed new lease for the baseball program. This lease will run for four years beginning 2015 and ending 2019, at \$1000.00 per season for the lease of the fields plus an additional \$150.00 per season in concession stand sales. We will be providing the town with the insurance information prior to practice starting next April 2015. Some big issues according to Dave Sonnenberg are the shed; a lumber yard in LaPorte would donate a new shed. Do we need a permit for that? If on a concrete slab, and just being replaced no permit would be needed. However, Steve Thomas indicated that the contractor needs to be registered. Mr. Warren Schacht, Council President stated that when you decide about sponsor signage, lets discuss. Mr. Herrbach asked that they send a proposal on the signs in writing.

Mr. Herrbach indicated that he has reviewed the contract and everything seems good. A suggestion would be that the corporation and council meet in October to discuss concerns of the prior year or other concerns. Also, a provision of the right of either party to terminate the lease within 30 days if need be. Mr. Herrbach will make changes for review. Mrs. Heath made a motion to accept the lease agreement with the proposed changes; Mr. Studtman seconded the motion and was then unanimously carried.

The Marshall wanted to address the issue of parking. During the sign ups, the corporation will have a Google map that will be provided to the person signing up. Steve Dick stated that the police department will work with the corporation to make sure it is taken care of.

Vin Check fee ordinance; Mr. Herrbach stated he prepared an ordinance to obtain a fee for the vin checks. Statute limits us to collecting \$5.00, and must go the Law Enforcement Continuing Education fund. Mr. Studtman made a motion to accept the vin check fee ordinance, motion was seconded by Mrs. Heath and was then unanimously carried.

Driveway Permits: Mr. Doyle would like to have the specifications to provide elevations prior to the permit being issued, an application for the permit perhaps. This can be done through the use of a transit level, to measure elevations. If a resident is doing their own job, this piece of equipment can be rented. He gave an example of a contractor who never did give elevations during the job, which could cause some problems with water flow. Although in this case it was fine there was no problems. Council agreed that this should be the revised process.

Police Applicants: Marshal Steve Dick discussed the fact that officer Ryan Doperalski gave his resignation, last date will be September 25th. Steve would like permission to

hire another officer. The schedule was discussed for coverage. Steve indicated that 24/7 coverage will remain in effect. The academy has a class starting in November, in the event that the candidate council selects will need to get into this class. The advisory committee is also aware of these new events. Council gave their blessing to go ahead and start the hiring process.

Public Comment: None

Clerk-Treasurer's Comment: Ms. Joshleen Denham, Clerk Treasurer indicated that there had been a typo on the Notice to Taxpayers. The date should have been this evening for first public hearing. However, the date is set for September 23, 2014. Council discussed and agreed to meet for a special meeting on September 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to read out loud the budgets off the Notice to Taxpayers form. This meeting will be advertised as well. John Doyle, Town Engineer would also like to have a bid opening for the few proposals to the 2014 Street Improvement Program. Council agreed. Also, Ms. Denham announced that the Trick or Treat will be October 31 which is a Friday but no times as off yet. Marshal Dick stated there will be two officers on duty that night.

One last thing is that the contract for Republic Services is up this year. We will be advertising and receiving sealed bids for this.

Council Comment: Warren Schacht indicated he made contact with Nipsco regarding our street lights, trying to get on this list for the energy saving lights. Hopefully, by next meeting he will have some more information. Mrs. Heath commented that Ron Gaston would like to have a church picnic at Pritz Park and wondered if it could be mowed. Jeff Bruder, Street Commissioner stated he will get this done. Warren Schacht, Council President stated that September 22 is Septic Awareness Week. There are some pamphlets down at the town hall; it is also on the website and facebook. A motion was made by Mr. Studtman to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m., motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox and was then unanimously carried.

APPROVED: _____

Warren Schacht, Council President

ATTEST: _____

Joshleen M. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: October 21, 2014