**July 19, 2016**

The Trail Creek Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 211 Rainbow Trail, Trail Creek, Indiana.

Council President, Warren Schacht, led us with the Pledge of Allegiance, via conference call.

**Special Guest**: Senator Jim Arnold joined our meeting to discuss some of the discussions going on down state. He stated that 841 bills crossed Governor Pence's desk and 216 were signed. He also spoke briefly about the LOIT (Local Option Income Tax) Distribution that can be used in full or 75% for street improvement projects. He asked Ms. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer if the Town of Trail Creek has received theirs, Ms. Denham responded by saying "Yes the Town of Trail Creek received $27,000.00". (TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS). He spoke about the INDOT Cross Matching Grant that could tie in with that special LOIT Distribution. Ms. Denham, Clerk –Treasurer indicated that she was able to attend that seminar for the grant. However, an approved INDOT Asset Management Plan would need to be done. INDOT indicated that LTAP (Indiana Local Technical Assistance Program) has an approved template. Ms. Denham is working with council to get this approved for next year.

Mr. Arnold spoke about ISTEP, House Bill 1395 (Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress) a program created from the No Child Left Behind Act, will no longer be done in 2017. The state decided to abandon the program, because it was inefficient and lacked many important ideals for testing our students. Statewide testing will still be done, however we must find a more progressive way. Lastly, Senator Arnold spoke of his decision to not be re elected and instead to retire. Mr. Schacht, Council President thanked Mr. Arnold for his time and dedication to this district and the state of Indiana.

**Minutes** A motion was made by Mr. Bayler to approve the meeting minutes from the June 21, 2016 written; motion was seconded by Mr. Studtman, and was then unanimously carried.

**Approval Of Fund** Mr. Silcox made a motion to accept the June 2016 Fund report; the motion was seconded by Mrs. Heath and was then unanimously carried.

**Approval of Claims** A motion was made by Mrs. Heath to pay bills in the amount of $100,104.36 (ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS AND THIRTY SIX CENTS) the motion was seconded by Mr. Bayler and was then unanimously carried.

**Correspondence:** Ms. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer read aloud a certified letter received from Ms. Betty Novak at 609 Pinetree discussing concerns regarding the possibility to dead limb trees at Pritz Park. Mr. Bruder, Street Commissioner had already had the

opportunity to pick up some of the sticks, limbs and branches from the property and will get some estimates to the dead limb the park. Ms. Denham will also contact Ms. Novak and let her know that the letter was read as correspondence and that council has given the street commissioner permission to find estimates to dead limb Pritz Park.

**Department Reports:**

**MS4**: Ms. Kate Doyle, MS4 Coordinator in attendance. She presented council with a memo from the board of directors for the LaPorte County MS4, that states that at their meeting on July 12, 2016 they voted to comply with the FLSA requirement and adjust the coordinators salary. ( See attached memo)

**Attorney**: Attorney Bill Herrbach in attendance. He reported on some of the property concerns:

110 Harding: Follow up letter sent on bringing property into compliance.

235 Harding: Follow up letter sent on bringing property into compliance

1910 Coolspring: This property may be in need of being demolished due to the condition of the property. Currently the resident owes the town $ 19,986.62 in refuse. This amount includes penalties. Marshal Dick indicated that there is currently a lock box on the door, and a sticker for property management on the door from Chase Morgan. Also, he stated that someone has been cutting the grass. Ms. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer stated that she tried to contract Chase Morgan to find out some information but they stated they did not have the property on file. Mr. Bill Herrbach will follow up and try to find out more information.

308 Edgemoor: Follow up letter sent to bring property to compliance.

Mr. Schacht, Council President asked that Marshal Dick keep an eye on the property to find out who is cutting grass and any more information we can find out regarding the property at 1910 Coolspring.

**Engineer:** Mr. Doyle in attendance. He indicated that there will be two special meetings scheduled for the 2017 Street Improvement Project. Sealed bids will be accepted up until 10:00 am on July 29, 2016 , then they will be opened at 10:00 am The bid awards or rejections will be held on August 02, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the town hall.

Contract Divisions:

Contract "A": Welnetz Road / Yankee Road

Contract "B": Yanke Road –Welnetz Road to Coolspring Avenue

Contact "C": Dogwood Drive – Welnetz Road to Red Oak Drive

Council and Mr. John Doyle had a lengthy conversation regarding which projects was priority. Mr. Doyle indicated that the Roeske Ave project will be quite costly. However, he stated that if council so chooses they can do Contract Division "B" and "C" and any monies left over can be reallocated for next year's budgets. Council Member, Jeff Studtman asked John if the Roeske project can be split up into two sections, doing half this year and half next year. Mr. Doyle stated that we don't currently have it set up that way, but if that's what council would like to do then we can do something like that. Ms. Heath, Council Vice President asked if we could go for the INDOT Cross Matching Grant? Ms. Denham explained that we would need an Asset Management Plan in place, as indicated last month. Ms. Denham, went on to say at this point because we don't have this asset management plan in place we will be unable to apply for the grant this year, however INDOT stated they will continue this program next year.

**Street Department:** Mr. Jeff Bruder, Street Commissioner not in attendance.

**NIRPC:** Council Member and NIRPC Representative, John Bayler brought with him maps called PED, PEDAL , PADDLE from the Greenways & Blueways. This map shows reccemended bike routes as well as beaches, train stations, parks and other important recreational areas in the region to enjoy. Ms. Denham will keep the maps at the town hall for residents to grab if they would like.

**Park Department:** Park Liaison and Council Member Scott Silcox stated that a Park Board Meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the town hall. There was a short discussion regarding the possibility that Trail Creek Sports for Youth may be withdrawing their contract. Council asked that perhaps Mr. Jeremy Kienitz, Superintendant of Michigan City's Park Department may be able to attend the meeting if Michigan City is interested in taking over the league.

**Building Inspector:** No Report

**Planning and Zoning:** No report

**Police Department:** Marshal Dick in attendance. Marshal Dick spoke of the municipal sign and the progress of. The sign is being made by Steindler Signs and will be approximately $ 3,357.00 installed. He also spoke about the Trail Creek Police Department Remodel Project. The town will need an addendum once plans are approved and an ad for contractors is approved by Mr. John Doyle, Town Engineer and Mr. Bill Herrbach, Town Attorney

**Old Business:**

- MCSI Contract: After review of the contract by Mr. Herrbach, Ms. Heath made a motion to sign the contract for the collections of the refuse, motion was seconded by Mr. Bayler and was then unanimously carried.

**New Business:** LOIT Ordinance # 2-2016. A motion was made by Mr. Studtman to approve ordinance # 2-2016 to create fund #257 for the Special LOIT Distribution, motion was seconded by Ms. Heath and was then unanimously carried.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Jerraly Stark, 2109 Red Oak in attendance to discuss her concerns on a vacant property located at 509 Greentree, she wanted to let the town know that there is a sticker on the front door with the property management information on there. Ms. Denham confirmed that we were aware of that. She also spoke of the firework ordinance and that she feels residents are allowed to let off fireworks a lot, Ms. Bruder, Administrative Assistant gave Ms. Stark a copy of the firework ordinance so that she could see all of the outlined dates that residents were allowed to set off fireworks.

**Clerk-Treasurer's Comment**: Ms. Denham, Clerk Treasurer stated that State Board of Accounts is still doing our audit. It is very timely since our auditor Kristin Campbell has other field assignments she has been called out to do. Ms. Denham stated that hopefully the audit will be completed by the end of August 2016.

**Council Comment:** There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Studtman to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm; motion was seconded by Mr. Silcox and was then unanimously carried.

**APPROVED:**

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**Warren Schacht, Council President**
**Jennifer Heath, Council Vice President**

**ATTEST**: _____
**Joshleen M. Denham, Clerk-Treasurer**
**August 16, 2016**