

TOWN OF ADVANCE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: TOWN HALL

March 8, 2021

7:00 PM

112 N. Main – P. O. Box 67 Advance, IN 46102 Phone: (765) 676-6611 – Fax (765) 676-6696

Email: [advanceCT@townofadvance.com](mailto:advanceCT@townofadvance.com)

Council Members: Melody Fry, Dale Thompson, Amanda Lyles and Jim Caldwell

Clerk Treasurer – Shari Johnson

Marshal: Brad Thomas

**Attendees:** Council Members: President Fry, Amanda Lyles, Dale Thompson and Jim Caldwell

Marshal: Brad Thomas

Clerk-Treasurer: Shari Johnson

Others in attendance by Zoom: Gary Ladd, Jeff Hopper. In person – Dan Bewley, Ed Charleton, Lisa Henry, Jeff Hopper and Keith Cromwell

**President Fry called to order the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Rules of Order**

**Gary Ladd – Ladd Engineering:**

Mr. Ladd reported in the month of February electrical work was done and due to weather was a little slow. All the panels are mounted, and wires and conduit done and will shut plant down to transfer over. Graves is on site this week and the water main work will begin today.

Mr. Hopper advised he would take the hydrant down the next day and valves have been ordered. Work is still ahead of schedule and work will begin on Division B – The Lift Station.

Mr. Ladd presented wish list items to the Council with 7 items totalling \$77,310.94.

Item #8 – Would be adding a transfer switch with a generator receptacle at the main lift station for \$31,324.00. Mr. Ladd stated he felt this cost was high, and requested Graves provide a breakdown of charges and is having his electrical engineer review.

Item #9 – Transfer switch installation at the main lift station which would cost \$88, 422.00.

Mr. Ladd stated the total cost \$165,733.00 for all on the list. The budget for the current time without lateral defects, leaves \$148,284.00. Other charges could present themselves as the project progresses.

Councilman Caldwell stated that he would like to see a motion made to get everything working properly.

CT Johnson stated that the sewer utility is still operating in a deficit, so that will drive the deficit further down and hold off making decisions this early in the project due to unknowns.

Mr. Ladd explained the generator.

Councilman Caldwell questioned if they do not get done now, when will they get done?

CT Johnson questioned if Nathan Reed verified the laterals were ok and that there was a binder of work done.

CT also stated that there was not a large amount built up in the cash reserve. Councilman Caldwell stated # 1-7 needed to be done now and the town could borrow from the electric.

Councilman Thompson stated that there has not been fencing around the stations. He also stated that the blower cost is only \$1500.00, and labor would be two to three hours. On #3 the charge is way over for what is being done as well as the fencing. President Fry stated for two fences at \$17,000 was expensive and the town has never had fencing.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ladd stated if the town wanted to elicit quotes, and he would have to present to SRF. President Fry stated the cost of the fences was high.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve the change order and have items 2, 6, and 7 for \$47,343.55. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve change order #3 in the amount of \$2196.62. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Councilwoman Lyles made a motion to approve the invoices and payment from SRF for Ladd Engineering of \$2012.00 and Graves Construction for \$185,058.00 and OCRA funds released for \$128,599.56 to Graves Construction for a total of \$315,669.56. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.**

**Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes for January 25, 2021 meeting and the regular meeting minutes for February 8, 2021. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.**

**Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve claims for March 8, 2021 in the amount of \$185,508.71 and claims for February 19, 2021 in the amount of \$41,707.57. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.**

**Park: Dan Bewley Presented –**

Dirt for the RC track will be delivered the next week and electrical work needs to be done. The board is working on a log logo for the RC park and the name of the park is the "Arc Park." A rules sign needs to be posted.

A third track is being made.

Poles need to be placed. CT Johnson stated she would check with the deputy if a work order had been placed. The board is working on getting more camera quotes.

The Park clean up day is set for April 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and a rain date is the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. The board wants to serve free food for those who come to help.

Board is working with Smith's Trash on a dumpster.

A race schedule has been made from May 15<sup>th</sup> through October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hoosier Racers wants to take over the skate park. The park board hopes to have a kick-off day at the beginning of May.

Two quotes were obtained for paving of the parking lot and the board is waiting on a third quote from Young and Sons. Baumgartner's quote was #39,977.00 and Triangle Asphalt with a quote of \$49,850.00.

CT Johnson stated that Ken's Foods wanted to partner with the park on cleanup and to reach out to Amy Hemmerle to contact Ken's.

The park also wants a chain link fence placed with a drop link fence for mowing.

The park board is working on a grant from Subaru.

A silver truck drove through the park and up onto the shelter.

**Request to Speak – Ed Charleton (WAM) –**

WAM is opened on Mondays for grades 7-12 and Wednesdays for grades K-6 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. and the Health Department and school recommended having the ages separated.

The attic has been insulated and the pulldown staircase was installed. Mr. Bucy will install each attic screen and vent fan when the weather is warmer.

The spring project is placing a swing set on the grass lot behind the town building with landscape timbers and pea gravel. Mr. Charleton requested where the Council would like the set placed. Line locates would need to be done to make sure equipment is not placed on any lines. The Council was ok with placement.

Lastly, Mr. Charleton stated that the wood fire escape needs to be stained and treated. CT Johnson stated that needed to be done and that the town could purchase the stain for the staircase. Councilman Thompson concurred.

Discussion ensued.

CT Johnson stated that the bike rack needed to be painted. Councilman Caldwell suggested a powder coat be put on by Batts.

President Fry questioned if WAM was accepting lids and Mr. Charleton advised no. Discussion on the town collecting these lids. CT Johnson questioned what kind of lids were collected and President Fry advised medication lids.

**UMAC – President Fry read report:**

For February, total gallons pumped was 724,000 and billed consumption was 622,409 for a loss of 101,591 gallons. The valve was installed at the water plant as well a reset on the well switch. New meter heads were installed. The NPDES Permit renewal needs a signature from President Fry and needs to be mailed to IDEM due April 1, 2021. The annual DNR water withdrawal report has been completed and submitted.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve President Fry to sign the NPDES Permit Application. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**IMPA Commissioner’s Report – Councilman Caldwell:**

Councilman Caldwell discussed the issues in Texas with electrical power. The maximum paid in Indiana would be \$1,000.00 a megawatt. We have in Indiana a diverse network of power sources.

**Hopper Excavating – Jeff Hopper:**

Work completed in February was line locates, intersections salted, plowing, meters read, septic pumping, checked frozen pipes and a hanging wire. Utilities were turned back on.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion for Hopper Excavating to purchase valves and accessories and to isolate issues at the sewer plant for \$1,900.00. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Mr. Bewley interjected that the Park needed the water turned on by April 17<sup>th</sup>, and CT Johnson stated she could place a work order to have it turned on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

**IMPA – President Fry read report:**

For February, one service request was completed: Meter inspection. No poles were replaced and there were no outages.

CT Johnson stated that she received a \$21,210.00 invoice from Anixter and wanted to verify it was due before paying it.

Councilman Thompson made a motion for President Fry to sign the AMI Infrastructure Agreement and there would be no cost for installation. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Fire – Councilman Caldwell read report:**

For the month of February, the fire department had 11 EMS, 3 MVAs, 3 Fire and 2 Public Assists.

Councilman Caldwell stated that the tornado sirens will be tested on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Police – Marshall Brad Thomas:**

M. Thomas stated for February two more reserves were sworn in and outfitted at Greencastle.

Also, M. Thomas stated he spoke with the Major Stevenson stated the requirements were changed that the sworn in police has a year before they need to attend training and the sheriff's department will conduct their own training and Advance would participate.

The Reserves for the town are Shaun Hitch, John Demaree, Dan Bewley and Sam Pershal.

Marshall stated those hired were an EMT or paramedic. Councilman Caldwell stated Mr. Demaree was not.

There was an individual who attended a training stating he was hired with Advance, and he was in fact not.

Marshall Thomas presented an ammunition quote in the amount of \$2584.89 that would be available in 9 months. He stated he needed ammunition to conduct training. CT Johnson questioned if ammo would be tax exempt. Councilwoman Lyles made a motion to approve the quote of \$2584.89 for ammunition. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion ensued regarding training.

The runs in town for February was 12 runs, 3 being traffic stops, a reckless driver, and others were regarding residents in town.

Councilman Caldwell questioned code enforcement. M. Thomas considered doing a raffle again.

Councilwoman Lyles stated that now that the weather is getting warmer, the kids play in the streets and enforcement needs to happen before a child gets injured and now that the town has more reserves, they could patrol.

M. Thomas stated he wants all his reserves to have a community project.

M. Thomas stated he completed 14 hours of on-line training because he missed doing classes in December due to COVID. He stated he needed to register the reserves in the academy. CT

Johnson stated that the training increases every year. Councilman Caldwell stated that all the agencies are asking for the same information. CT Johnson interjected that Gateway was supposed to be a portal for information, but she is still required to do multiple reports.

**Clerk-Treasurer – Shari Johnson:**

CT Johnson explained the moving and renumbering of funds to the Council. Many funds have zeros, and she hopes these will be cleaned up next year. She stated that now there is \$1.2 million in the bank.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the adjustments for January in the amount of \$2462.47. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. President Fry voted aye. Councilman Caldwell abstained for AVFD adjustment.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve adjustments for February in the amount of \$-258.94. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. President Fry votes aye. Councilman Caldwell abstained from AVFD adjustment.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to amend fund ordinance to 2021-02. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve warrant on check number 12285 for \$1.00 to be receipted back into the electric fund.

CT Johnson explained the process to council that any checks over 2 years old are to be approved to be receipted back into the funds it was paid out of.

Due to the sale of the utility building to IMPA in February, CT Johnson requested that the rent payment for February of \$1,000.00 be waived in lieu of the sale. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilman Thompson approved the difference of the LHI quote to install carpeting for \$10,300.00. Councilwoman Lyles seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

CT Johnson stated that there is a safe in the former police office that was bolted to the floor that needs to be removed before the new flooring can be installed. She also questioned M. Thomas if he wanted to keep the office equipment that was in the offices and he stated yes.

CT Johnson requested the town hire someone to clean the town hall every two weeks. The Council stated that someone could be hired after the town hall improvements were done.

With the sale of the utility building an Ordinance needs to be drafted stating what the funds can be used for. Councilman Caldwell stated to use the funds for infrastructure of the town. Councilman Thompson stated the town could use a storage shed and that the generators should be protected. Discussion of a shed ensued. Keith Cromwell stated that the Connex Box should not have been placed at the sewer plant and Councilman Thompson concurred.

CT Johnson stated that a portion of the funds could be used to reduce the sewer deficit. CT Johnson questioned would the Council like for her to use the initial cash reserve balance of \$28,777.00 to the sewer operating to reduce the deficit.

Discussion of a housing development coming to town ensued. Concerns were raised if our current sewage system could accommodate. Councilman Caldwell stated that he would discuss with Gary Ladd.

**Old Business:**

Discussion ensued regarding Century Link not paying pole attachment invoices. Councilman Caldwell advised to have legal counsel contact regarding non-payment.

Jon Query at HWC presented a quote to draft the town's Sewer Use Ordinance of \$3,700.00 and Ladd Engineering presented a quote of \$5,450.00. Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve HWC's quote of \$3,700.00. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Discussion of a housing development coming to town ensued. Concerns were raised if our current sewage system could accommodate. Councilman Caldwell stated that he would discuss with Gary Ladd. Councilman Thompson stated he did not want to sell anything unless someone builds on the site.

President Fry stated the town needed to build a new town hall. Councilman Caldwell concurred. CT Johnson stated a recreational area could be added and rented out to create revenue for the town.

**New Business:**

**Billing Disputes:**

Councilman Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Caldwell seconded. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 20:56.

X

Clerk Treasurer

X

President

The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2021 at (19:00) 7:00 p.m. at the James L. Caldwell Fire Department, 106 E. Wall St., Advance, IN. (if the county returns in an orange status, the TC Meeting will be held by Zoom and Council will meet at 112 N. Main Street).