

CT Copy

TOWN OF ADVANCE

MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: ADVANCE TOWN HALL

November 13, 2019

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: Matt Johnson, Melody Fry, Dale Thompson, and Jim Caldwell

Clerk Treasurer – Shari Johnson

Marshal: Brad Thomas

**Attendees:** Council Members: President Johnson, Melody Fry, Dale Thompson and Jim Caldwell

Marshal: Brad Thomas

Clerk-Treasurer: Shari Johnson

Others in attendance: Dan Bewley, Jeff Hopper, Nancy Hopper, Joe Watts, Lisa Henry, Matt Bowen, Lindsay Hurless, Jason Hurless, Rick Jones, Telena Jones, Keith Cromwell, Kathy Frederick, Bill Stombaugh, Jeanie Stombaugh, Shannon McLeod and Amy Nooning.

President Johnson called to order the Council Meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Rules of Order

President Johnson suspended the Council Meeting and opened the Public Hearing for the WWTP.

Shannon McLeod, grant administrator with PPR, is a federal grant writer. The town is seeking funding sources for the WWTP. In 2014, IDEM found issues with the WW Plant. Ms. McLeod discussed issues such as pumps and backups occurring. IDEM stated issues must be addressed. Town in 2014 was approved by SRF to receive funds. Nothing was done in 2014 and the plant has increasingly gotten worse and IDEM pressured more.

Ms. McLeod stated that there are two lift stations and need work such as control panels and other issues corrected.

The main lift station will have a wet-weather well installed to assist with increased flow and weather. An interconnection will be installed between lift stations and main plant, as well as an equalization station. Many structural issues will be corrected. Ms. McLeod requested questions. Mr. Hopper questioned the lines and Ms. McLeod read from the engineer's report.

The cost of the upgrades to the plant will cost \$1,484,000. The town has researched all avenues of revenue. SRF has committed to the Town a forgivable loan of \$675,000. A \$700,000 Grant is being pursued from OCRA, leaving \$109,000 to be financed. The increase if the grant is received would be approximately \$5.00 -\$8.00. If we do not get the grant, the Town will look at a potential \$38.00 increase.

The question was asked, "Once there is an increase will it ever go away?" Ms. McLeod stated that the increase would be on there for future needs. CT Johnson stated that funds would be placed in depreciation/replacement funds so when items break, the money would be there.

No questions were presented.

Councilman Caldwell stated if the rates were raised by \$30.00, the town would become a ghost town. CT Johnson stated that the residents who live here can't afford to subsidize the costs.

Councilman Thompson stated that the state was forcing the Town to do this.

Councilwoman Fry stated letters of support would help.

Discussion ensued regarding overruns. If BIDS high, we would need to borrow more funds. If really high over estimates, then BIDS would be refused and re-bid. That bridge would be crossed when we get to it, stated Ms. McLeod.

Discussion ensued.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilwoman Fry seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

President Johnson re-opened the Council meeting.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to authorize the Town Council President, Matt Johnson, to sign all applicable forms and submit the application for the OCRA grant on the Town's behalf. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilwoman Fry made a motion to approve the Resolution to Authorize the Application Submission Contingent on the Match Commitment. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilwoman Fry made a motion to approve the Public Appeal Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2019. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilwoman Fry made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the October 7, 2019 meeting. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Police – Marshal Thomas:**

M. Thomas stated there were 19 runs in October.

The previous night there was a drunk driver who went off road and driver had to be tracked in town. (This report was re-delivered in November).

There were 4 run-aways. There was 1 trespass, a motor check and vehicle damage. There were suspicious vehicles in the park. Dogs were removed by trailer on Main Street.

The quantity of runs has decreased and the severity has decreased. M. Thomas read the October 2017 report and showed the difference in runs.

M. Thomas stated when SR 75 opens up, traffic will be interesting. Councilman Caldwell asked if the speed signs could be obtained again.

The part-time deputy has had inquiries and had issues with background checks. M. Thomas stated the part-time rate we pay isn't high enough. M. Thomas discussed a potential deputy hire. There are issues with pensions hiring sheriff's deputies. M. Thomas wants to hire a seasoned police officer.

President Johnson questioned the timeframe for a reserve. M. Thomas stated Mr. Maye, sworn in reserve, after swearing in received disability from military and didn't know if he was able to perform all duties due to disabilities and needed to be cleared by a doctor. M. Thomas stated the town doesn't want to be sued later down the road.

Discussion ensued.

President Johnson questioned if an ad needed to be run and Legal Counsel Nooning advised no. CT Johnson stated that her office had a folder full of applications.

Discussion ensued about having fire and EMS brought on and could reciprocate in training.

Code enforcement was tabled.

CT Johnson stated she was still in need of job descriptions.

**Clerk-Treasurer – Shari Johnson:**

No comments were presented on Fund or appropriation reports. CT stated the water was finally in a positive cash flow. P. Johnson stated the water was in a negative since this Council has been in office. CT also stated much has been paid towards the WWTP process and those will be factored out when the funds are received for the project.

The adjustments for October were tabled.

Legal Counsel is reviewing ICs.

CT Johnson stated her office is shopping for new computers.

The document purge was successful and many boxes gone through. CT explained the purge/document retention and closing dates of the office to purge.

CT stated Cyber Security information was sent to Council to review for the 2020 insurance policy for the town.

In October, there was a USDA audit and we were successful.

Discussion for increases on employees for the 2020 Salary Ordinance ensued.

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to give the marshal and CT a 2% increase and a 5% increase for the deputy clerk.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve the Keystone Software Renewal for 2020 of \$6790.00. Councilwoman Fry seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Councilwoman Fry made a motion to approve Therber, Brock and Associates engagement to do the water rate study for \$4500.00. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

CT stated her recommendation for the amendment to HB 1347. The ordinance will speak to all correspondence sent to both parties; the tenant and the homeowner.

The IMPA tracker will be presented in December for approval.

CT stated Mr. Bucy had not replied about repair on roof that was already approved and if the Council could reach out to him to see why work hasn't been completed.

**UMAC – President Johnson read the report:**

For the month of October usage was 757,000 and billed was 730,564 leaving a difference of 26,436 gallons or a 3% loss. Usage for September was 957,000, billed was 730,980 with a difference of 226,020 for a 24% loss. The flow meter at plant was repaired and inspection went well. Quotes for generator repairs were reviewed.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to approve W.W. Williams quote to repair generators in the amount of \$5444.77. Councilman Caldwell seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Hopper Excavating- Jeff Hopper read the report:**

Leaks were fixed, new tank lids were installed, line locates, leak checks, sewer plant driveway was repaired, and meters were placed.

CT Johnson discussed again that work orders need to be discussed in her office and the contractors cannot direct her to place a work order and it needs to come a council member. Councilman Thompson several times stated if it's an emergency they need to handle. CT Johnson stated multiple times, that she carries the emergency phone now. P. Johnson stated that the CT must be kept in the loop at all times of work and what is going on in the town. No surprises need to be encountered. Keith Cromwell stated if it's an emergency they need to work. CT stated those situations are different but reiterated she has the emergency phone and can be contacted.

Discussion ensued.

**IMPA/ISC – President Johnson read report:**

In the month of October, there were 3 service requests, 4 street lights placements and two repairs. Two meters were replaced. There were 0 poles replaced and 2 outages. One outage was due to Duke and one on Wall Street due to connections.

Councilman Caldwell discussed the commissioner's report and stated IMPA is working on their rating for pursuing bonds. Increases for power will be happening. Duke and IPL are looking at a 15% increase; whereas IMPA will have an .08% increase.

Discussion ensued.

**Park – Dan Bewley:**

The concrete pad has been marked and a scout is still working to lay pad. The restrooms have been cleaned and winterized. At the last meeting the playground equipment repairs from the inspection were discussed and a plan placed. The Rules sign is up. The park is having a contest for naming the racetrack on their facebook page.

Trunk-or-Treat was cancelled due to the weather.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be caroling and a bonfire from 5-7p.m. The winner of name track will be announced at that event. Councilman Caldwell suggested naming the track the Tom Lind memorial. The park board is looking at a barn building. Councilman Caldwell stated if it's in the budget to use the funds. CT stated the Council must approve all park purchases.

Councilwoman Fry stated there were funds to purchase a barn.

The next meeting will be November 25, 2019.

The solid waste grant is still pending.

P. Johnson stated the park sign designation to his mom that he and CT would pay for a new sign and landscaping around the sign.

**Fire – Keith Cromwell:**

For the month of October 2019 the Fire Department had 15 EMS runs, 4 MVAs and 5 Fires.

**Claims:**

Councilman Caldwell made a motion to approve the claims for October 13, 2019 in the amount of \$146,045.81. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

CT stated the amount was higher because of payment of Community Crossings.

**Old Business:**

ITRON agreement is still pending and iCloud were tabled.

Employee Handbook recommendations were tabled.

Century Link contract is tabled. Legal Counsel stated Century Link wanted a flat rate paid out. Inflation should be factored in fees.

The Capital Assets project is still pending.

Councilwoman Fry made a motion to accept Ladd Engineering agreement for the Wells Ditch Project work for \$4900.00. Councilman Thompson seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**New Business:**

Discussion began regarding the town hiring our own building inspector. Councilman Caldwell suggested the town get away from the APC and the county takes too long.

Legal Counsel Noonung stated she would review.

Marshal Thomas stated he had to pay thousands for letters and permits.

Discussions ensued.

**Billing Disputes:**

None requested.

**Request to Speak:**

Lindsay Hurless questioned whether a camera can be posted in the post office. Discussion was it was a federal area. M. Thomas stated if we take to postal inspector we may lose post office. He also stated that audio cannot be placed.

Councilman Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Fry seconded. All in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 20:46.

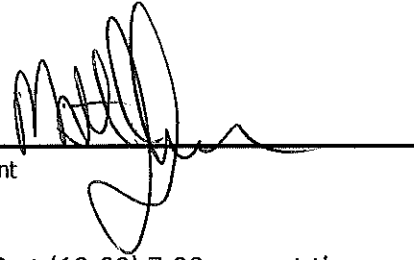
X

Clerk Treasurer



X

President



The next Council meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2019 at (19:00) 7:00 p.m. at the Advance Volunteer Fire Department, 106 E. Wall St., Advance, IN. This is the year-end meeting.