

NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL

July 7, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, Scott Alspach, Frank Vaughn and Mike Rogier. Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach. Councilman Vaughn offered the opening prayer. Councilman John Schilawski was absent.

MINUTES

Councilman Vaughn moves to approve the minutes of the June 16th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the Fund Report and Docket for approval for July 7th. Councilman Rogier moves to approve and ratify all reports and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Storm Water Project Bid Update

Mary Atkins with Wessler Engineers, presents the bid tabulation and evaluation information for this project. Atkins states that the bid has been reviewed by both her office and our attorney and is found to be responsive. Only one (1) bid was received from King's Trucking and Excavating in the amount of \$594,764.00. Atkins returns the original bid but states they have included a copy of the bid bond but are retaining the original. Atkins is asking that the council authorize Wessler Engineering to submit the bid documents to the SRF for review and approval. Once the SRF approves the bid documents and awards the necessary financing we would be ready to issue the notice to proceed to King's Trucking. Councilman Vaughn moves to accept King's Trucking's bid subject to its submission to the SRF and the SRF awarding funding for the project as well as approving the award of the contract. Councilman Rogier seconds the motion. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

SRF Project Easement

Attorney Robbins explains that an easement is needed on the property behind the New Whiteland Baptist Church for the Storm Water project. Attorney Robbins has been working with the pastor of the church, Jeff Sanders, to obtain the easement. The church is wanting to sell an eight (8) acre parcel behind their building for a single-family home. The church and the potential purchaser of the eight acres would donate the easement in exchange for the town waiving the requirement that they connect to our sewer system and be allowed to install a septic system. Approval for a septic system comes from the County not New Whiteland and the property owner would be responsible for obtaining all approvals, permits and costs associated with the septic system. Councilman Alspach moves to approve the waiver in exchange for the easement with the conditions discussed. Councilman Vaughn seconds the motion. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Attorney Robbins will notify Pastor Sanders. Mary Atkins states that we will need the recorded easement before SRF will award financing for this project.

Resident Notification Request

Mary Atkins states that Duke Energy is asking that the town notify any residents whose property will be affected by the project advising them that if utilities need to be moved various contractors will need to access their property. Council approves.

Disconnects

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states the Governor's Order suspending disconnects has been extended until August 14th. As of today, we have 207 accounts that are 60 days delinquent, 33 accounts that are 90 days delinquent and 36 accounts that are 120 or more days delinquent totaling \$28,731.08. We have been encouraging residents to make whatever payments they can throughout the pandemic reminding them that they will be responsible for the unpaid balance when the restrictions are lifted. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach asks that the council adopt a policy that would allow a payment arrangement to be established in the office when disconnects resume for only the arrears balances accrued during the suspension of disconnects. If disconnects resume in August payment arrangements would only be offered on the delinquent balances on the August bills. Discussion continues on if our software can calculate payment plans. The Governor is suggesting allowing customers up to 6 months to pay any accumulated unpaid balances. Clerk-Treasurer Alspach will contact Keystone to see if they are working on a program for payment plans since so many municipalities will be affected. We would like bills to show current month's balance plus COVID-19 arrearage payment as well as the total delinquent balance if possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Security / Intercom System

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states a system similar to those used at the schools was installed at the town hall today and will be installed at the police department tomorrow. This will allow the ladies in the offices to communicate with people at the entrance without having to leave their offices. If the person needs to come inside the building, they will be able to grant them access from their desks. Four new desk top computers and a laptop computer are being installed this week with cameras and microphones for participation in ZOOM meetings, webinars and other virtual training. Reimbursement requests for these items will be filed with the IFA through the CARES Act.

Best Way Complaint

Councilman Perrin states he was contacted by a resident complaining that Best Way is leaving trash scattered in some areas when they empty the totes some of the trash / recycling misses the truck or blows out. Perrin has contacted Best Way to make them aware of the complaint / concern.

Compliance Officer

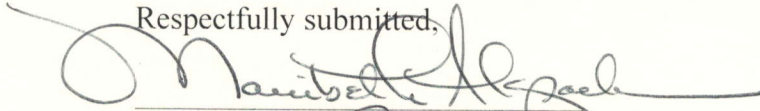
There is some discussion about adding additional responsibilities to this position. No decision was made. This will be discussed and considered as we prepare the 2021 budget.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

None.

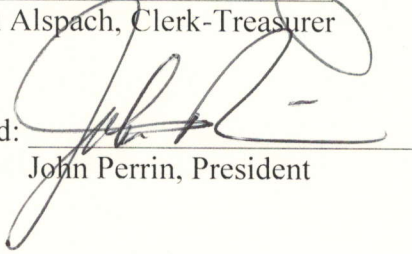
Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:



John Perrin, President