**NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

**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 Schilawski, Scott Alspach, Mike Rogier, Frank Vaughn and John Perrin. Also present were Attorney Lee Robbins and Clerk-Treasurer Maribeth Alspach. Councilman Schilawski offered the opening prayer.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the September 5th meeting and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**HARDSHIPS / ADJUSTMENTS**

C. Ward, 1026 Ashland had an issue with a water softener. The problem has been repaired and a copy of the receipt is presented. Council approves two (2) month credit in the amount of $207.10.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents copies of the September 19th Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Rogier moves to approve and ratify both reports and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mandatory Training

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states that earlier this year the council mandated a minimum of 16 hours of training per year for all employees. She is asking that the number of hours required be reduced for the office staff at the town hall and police department. They will schedule AED and first aid training as well as dealing with irate customers and active shooter training. Councilman Rogier makes a motion that the office staff personnel for the town hall and police department only be required to have a minimum of 4 hours of training per year. Councilman Vaughn seconds the motion. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Automated Gate for Waste Water Treatment Plant

Interim Superintendent McCauslin has been gathering quotes and when talking to one of the electricians today was told that the hydraulic gates like those installed at Atterbury would work better. McCauslin would like to table this until he gets cost information on that gate. Councilman Rogier asks if the hydraulic gate could be manually operated in a power outage. McCauslin states it can – there is a lever that would be pulled allowing the employees to manually operate the gate.

Certificate of Deposit

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents a memo with interest rates from four (4) different banks. We have a CD that will mature on October 3rd that she would like to reinvest. The rates provided are subject to change and she will check back with the banks to confirm rates on October 3rd prior to that night’s meeting. She has rates for various terms from 1 year to 5 years. She will need the council to authorize the amount to reinvest and the term at the next meeting. Council asks Supt. McCauslin to bring cost estimates for the projects that have been discussed at our parks so that they can determine how much money can be reinvested. Councilman Schilawski states that he wants to reinvest the full amount and Attorney Robbins states with such low interest rates it might be better to reinvest at a higher interest rate and take out a short term loan if necessary until the next CD matures to finance the parks projects. McCauslin will bring cost estimates to the next meeting.

Town Council

Page Two

9-19-17

Parks Department

Interim Superintendent McCauslin recommends resurfacing the basketball courts at both East and Tot Parks and installing new goals. East Park would also need the fence to be painted. McCauslin will bring 3 quotes to the October 3rd meeting. Councilman Schilawski would like to see swings installed in East Park also.

Council directs Attorney Robbins to find out the status of the vacant lot at 1114 Ashland. Council may have some interest in acquiring that lot to create a one way drive through Tot Park which will allow for limited parking inside the park and for the police to patrol through the park.

One Stop Auto Repair

Councilman Alspach states that in February this business was put on notice that they were in violation of our zoning ordinance. After speaking with Councilman Perrin they were given 6 months to remove all of the vehicles and junk being stored behind their building. The business owner had stated they were moving and would be moved out within 6 months. It has been 7 months the property is as bad as it was in February and Alspach witnessed a car carrier unloading more vehicles earlier this month. Councilman Alspach and Vaughn want citations to be issued. Councilman Perrin states he will contact the owner tomorrow and advise him that the property needs to come into compliance immediately. Attorney Robbins states that Perrin can advise them that tickets will be issued within a day or two. If the property is in full compliance before the ticket is due the ticket could be waived. Tickets can be written daily as long as the property is in violation. Unplated or inoperable vehicles are in violation of our junk car / nuisance ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Repair Parts for Country Gate Playground

Interim Superintendent McCauslin presents a quote to repair the playground equipment at the Country Gate Park. Total cost with shipping is $3,147.95 and the company requires a 50% deposit with the order. McCauslin is asking for approval to purchase the repair parts and authorization for the 50% deposit. Councilman Vaughn approves deposit in the amount of $1,573.98 and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 5 affirmative.** Once ordered delivery will be 3 – 4 weeks. Council authorizes full amount of payment to be taken from the Rainy Day Fund.

Drainage Issue in Raintree

Council President Perrin states that he met with resident Terry Spencer to discuss a drainage issue impacting Edgewood, Brentwood and Woodridge Court. Spencer states there were no flooding issues prior to Hilltop Farms being developed. In a heavy rain event the water from Hilltop Farms flows across the concrete drainage swale and spills onto Edgewood. The overflow pipe for the retention pond in Hilltop Farms is an 18” pipe that ties into Raintree and which in turn ties into the main line on Mooreland near West Park. Spencer adds that in a heavy rain event several of the homes on Brentwood and Woodridge Court cannot get in or out of their driveways. Councilman Rogier asks if the overflow pipe could be blocked. Supt. McCauslin states that once this was brought to his attention employees took the jet machine over and checked. A large piece of firewood was removed from the pipe. McCauslin is getting prices for a wire cover for the pipe to prevent things from getting into it. President Perrin states more investigation will be done on the drainage.

Councilman Perrin adds that Spencer had asked what our storm water fees were being spent on. Perrin has print outs of the repairs made to storm sewers over the last few years and offers to let Spencer look at them. Spencer states that isn’t necessary and leaves.

Councilman Schilawski leaves the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Town Council

Page Three

9-19-17

Trails Project at Clark Pleasant Schools

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach emailed the council a copy of a proposed trail around the CPCSC properties in Whiteland and a cost estimate. CPCSC Superintendent Dr. Spray has requested that a representative of New Whiteland attend tonight’s school board meeting to hear the Town of

Whiteland’s presentation and see if we would be interested in participating in the project. President Perrin will attend the meeting to gather more information.

Request for Cell Phone

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach states that we have a request from employee C. Yates to purchase one of the old cell phones owned by the town. Alspach has 2 in her office and the Public Works and Police Departments have some as well. Council is fine with allowing Yates to have one of the used phones

but ask that a list of the phones from all of the departments be presented as surplus so that they can be disposed of. Council suggests that Public Works and the Police Departments keep 2 – 3 phones as spares. Suggestion is made that any remaining phones be given to a women’s shelter. Councilman Rogier provides a phone number for Turning Point. An ordinance will be prepared and presented at the next meeting.

EPN Tickets

Councilman Vaughn states that the property at 1017 Ashland has had trash piled out front for more than 3 weeks. Several other properties are mentioned and councilmembers are tired of the lack of enforcement of these violations. Pictures and comments have been posted on Facebook about properties in violation and nothing seems to be being done. There are televisions sitting out at the curbs for weeks. The trash company will not pick up electronics yet no tickets appear to be issued. Council directs Attorney Robbins to contact Police Chief Rynerson and advise him that the lack of enforcement will no longer be tolerated. Robbins can offer to meet with the police officers and review the nuisance ordinance if they would like him to. Councilmen Vaughn and Alspach have discussed the council’s concerns about the number of properties in violation with Chief Rynerson on a couple of occasions since the Family Fun Day Parade in August but are disappointed in the Police Department’s lack of response to the problem.

**LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS**

Resolution 2017-04

Attorney Robbins reads and explains the Resolution expressing interest in purchasing land and appointing appraisers. This is for the empty lot at 550 Tracy Road. The resolution also appoints Attorney Robbins as the purchasing agent for the limited purpose of ordering and receiving appraisals. President Perrin states that he had a call from the realtor asking if we were still interested in the property and explaining that they had a couple of other interested parties. Perrin recommends withdrawing the resolution and would rather see someone else purchase and develop it and the town receive the property taxes. Councilman Rogier would like to pass the ordinance in the event that there is no other buyer. Perrin says the realtor is supposed to call him tomorrow. Attorney Robbins states if the resolution is passed tonight the appraisers will have 30 days to complete the appraisals and submit their reports. If the council takes action tonight Attorney Robbins will wait to hear from President Perrin before notifying the appraisers. Perrin will tell the realtor that we are no longer interested since he has other parties wanting to purchase and develop the lot. If the realtor was bluffing and there are no other interested parties we can move forward. Councilman Vaughn moves to adopt Resolution 2017-04 and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

Ordinance 2017-10

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents the ordinance declaring certain items surplus and of no value and allowing for them to be disposed of on final reading. Councilman Alspach moves to adopt Ordinance 2017-10 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Rogier. **Vote 4 affirmative.** Councilman

Town Council

Page Four

9-19-17

Rogier states that he would be interested in purchasing a couple of the manhole lids if McCauslin can get the scrap metal price per lid.

Ordinance 2017-11

Clerk-Treasurer Alspach presents and explains the transfer ordinance on final reading. Councilman Vaughn moves to adopt Ordinance 2017-11 on final reading and is seconded by Councilman Alspach. **Vote 4 affirmative.**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

None.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Maribeth Alspach, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John Perrin, Council President