

Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 9, 2003

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, June 9, 2003 for a Regular Council Meeting in the Town Hall meeting room, 131 N. Wayne Street, in accordance with the rules of this Town Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Council Members, Chod Boxell, Bill Cartwright, Harold Jones and Ron Neff; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Darrel Bice, Larry Poulson and Steve Donnelly; Others, Herald Press Reporter, Warren Weekly Reporter, David Scheib, Andy Jockheck and Jack Trosper.

President Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m..

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 27th were approved as submitted.

Local citizens from the area of Jefferson and College Streets, Trosper and Jockheck, were present to file complaints related to lack of enforcement of Town Code. Specific complaints related to parking of a semi-truck at 110 College Street, lack of upkeep of an unimproved alley, and an abandoned vehicle. Council advised the complaints would be addressed. Marshal Donnelly reported that the truck situation had been addressed as far as local ordinance was concerned and as long as the truck was parked legally, no local citation could be given. As for the abandoned vehicle, Donnelly reported that if the vehicle is operative, even though not tagged, it is not considered abandoned. However, more research would be done as to that situation. As for accumulation of trash and tires, local nuisance violations would be issued.

Scheib, president of the Park Advisory Board, reported that landscaping had been completed, planting of flowers, and that maintenance steps were being taken. A pamphlet developed by the Park Board will be distributed at the Salamonie Summer Festival as was done at the Art's Festival. In regard to developing a plan for additional playground equipment, R&C Fencing was being contacted for literature and price information. A recommendation of the Advisory Board to the Council was that the next upgrade of the large pavilion should include siding instead of painting and perhaps consideration of enclosing the pavilion. The siding portion has been included in the business plan for park upgrades within the next five years. The next meeting of the Advisory Park Board will be July 14th.

Bice and Poulson reported that the Electric Distribution upgrade project was nearing completion. Jones submitted an invoice in the amount of \$92,679 due to the contractor for the project, T&B Inc. and moved approval of the invoice. Seconded by Boxell, the motion was approved. To cover project costs, following discussion, Boxell moved, seconded by Neff to transfer \$100,000 from the Electric Reserve Fund to the Electric Cash Operating Fund. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bice reported that the wastewater separation project was in the restoration phase with street patching and sidewalk repairs being done. Some lawn restoration has started and will continue. A start-up run and test of the blowers at the sewer plant has tentatively been scheduled for July indicating that that portion of the project also remains on schedule. Following discussion, Jones moved, seconded by Cartwright, to replace a sewer line on Hendricks Street from Jefferson to Adams that remains a problem due to substantial root intrusion at the cost of \$26,478.12 with the cost to be added to the Town portion of the wastewater separation project. The motion was approved.

Jones reported that an additional meeting was being scheduled to discuss further the sewer and water connection fees with representatives of the United Methodist Memorial Home.

Jones reported that word had been received from the Huntington County Tourism office that a grant of \$1000 toward the cost of additional entrance signs to the Town had been approved. Update of quotes will be requested from Sign Source in that the original quotes were received in October of 2002.

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Discussed was a Mutual Aid Agreement from the Wells County Commissioners and Emergency Management Director. The agreement would allow for FEMA/SEMA reimbursement to the Town of Warren/ Fire Department in cases of disaster, loss, or injury incurred while responding to a mutual aid request. As part of the discussion, Boxell requested a clear definition of the Wells County territory expected to be covered if the agreement is in effect as Warren already supplies mutual aid to some Wells County townships. Decision was delayed to the next regular meeting of Council, pending receipt of that information.

The "Our Town" Committee has scheduled the 2004 Art's Festival for May 15th. Council concurred that the success of the project by that committee of Council was positive and that the Festival would once again receive support of the Council.

By consensus, Council approved submission of the detour route and request for State Road closing to INDOT for the Salamonie Summer Festival by the Festival Committee. Following discussion, Neff moved, seconded by Cartwright, that \$250 be donated to the Festival for the annual fireworks display. The motion was approved. President Jones reviewed a list of maintenance items to be completed prior to the Festival including painting of hydrants, benches, and parking and pedestrian markings. Jones also requested that the patriotic banners and flags be in place for Flag Day, June 14th, and remain in place until after the Festival. By consensus, Council approved a request from Lilly Nutter, Chairman of the Festival Flower Show, for use of the Annex July 3, 4, 5.

Discussion was held concerning benefits of continued membership in the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Partnership at the cost of \$400. Most efforts of the group are centered on federal lobbying. Morrison and Bice offered recommendation that the membership not be renewed due to the sewer separation project as the Town should be removed from the listing of CSO communities within the next months. Council concurred with the recommendation.

Morrison submitted documents from USDA-Rural Development related to a grant program available for purchase of a fire vehicle. Morrison, Tim Ford, and Bob Deal of USDA-RD had met to discuss the program which offered a 35% grant not to exceed \$50,000. Documentation submitted by Ford showed cost of purchase to be \$51,000 for a Light Brush Vehicle (Grass Buggy) which had been recommended be replaced in the near future as shown in the Town financial plan. The match portion of the purchase would be \$33,150 with each unit to pay one half the cost. Ford reported that Township Trustee Jim Howell had voiced approval of the project. As part of the discussion, Boxell requested information on possible sale of the current vehicle, once equipment is removed, with Ford stating sale could be in the \$3000-7000 range. Neff moved, seconded by Cartwright, to approve submission of a grant application to USDA-RD for the purchase of a Grass Buggy with a purchase price not to exceed \$51,000.. The motion was approved unanimously. A Public Hearing was scheduled for June 23 at 6:30 p.m..

Jones reviewed information from Huntington County Tourism requesting approval of a proposed bicycle route for a twice annual two day 110 On/Off Road Bicycle Challenge. A test run is to be conducted in September of 2003 or April of 2004. Approval was given by consensus with a request to be made for further information regarding marking of the proposed route and possible inclusion of Nancy Street from First to Jones to make the Knight Civic Center grounds available as a resting area.

Discussion was held on replacement of the public restroom doors at Town Hall. Neff and members requested that Bice check in to another type of door, less heavy, and perhaps made of fiberglass. Bice is to report back to Council.

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The next quarterly meeting of W.H.A.R.M.M. is to be held in Warren on July 21st. Morrison reported that Attorney DeLaney would be discussing possible update procedures to be used for amending personnel policies, Charlie Pride from the State Board of Accounts would be present if possible, State Legislators had been invited, and the Department of Commerce would be represented. The format was approved by consensus with the event to be held at the Knight Civic Center with Gordon Bendall Branham McNeely and DeLaney offering to cover cost of the Brats and with Attorney Bendall to be Chef.

Reviewed was an information brochure from the DNR concerning the Community and Urban Forestry Program grant program. Discussion centered on a need to inventory and to continue replacement of aging trees as much had been done in Tower Park over the past five years and that the electric and sewer projects had resulted in tree removals with plans to replant by the spring of 2004. Morrison stated that an information packet had been requested from the DNR that would supply further information concerning the program.

Neff reported that the Warren Area Chamber had scheduled trimming of the downtown trees to be completed by Festival. Jockheck, co-president of Chamber, also reported that sponsorship for the rodeo was less than in past years but the first ever evening rodeo planning was in full gear. Neff and Jockheck reported that the Chamber had ordered the 2003 Christmas Lighting improvements and that the lighting would be delivered in June.

Morrison submitted the May financial report. State Board of Accounts annual training sessions will be held June 17-19. Keystone Consulting would be scheduling the utility software update within 6-8 weeks and had recommended that the office be closed for training due to the detail. The utility program cannot be run concurrently so the system will be switched to the new program upon completion of training. The State Board of Local Government Finance has scheduled the initial 2004 budget meeting for July 14 at 1:45 p.m..

Bice updated various utility/street projects. Also reported was that paperwork to complete the registration of the compost pile to comply with requirements for release of IDEM grant funds had been submitted to Steven Boggs of IDEM. Phone notification had been given by Boggs that approval had been given and the rest of the grant monies would be forthcoming.

Ford submitted the monthly Fire Department Activity Report.

Marshal Donnelly submitted the monthly activity report. Also submitted was a request to apply for COPS, federal funds, to cover overtime hours related to homeland security. At twenty overtime hours per week, the total project cost would be \$26,049 with the Town share to be \$6512. Following discussion, decision was delayed pending further review of the program.

Following discussion, Boxell moved, seconded by Cartwright, to approve a Contracting Services Agreement with AEP for the electric pole inspection and tagging project as previously approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

Announcements were as follows:

June 23	Council Meeting
June 10	7:00 a.m., HCUED, Northstar Noon, WALDC, Annex 7:00 p.m., "Our Town", Annex
June 17-19	SBA School

Neff moved, seconded by Boxell, approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers as follows:

Electric	201,203-249	\$124,981.15
Water	201,202,204-238	\$13,846.61
Wastewater	48,150-181	\$299,639.93
Sanitation	8,9	\$3825.00
General	230-274	\$50,477.84

The motion was approved unanimously.
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General discussion was held.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted _____ Clerk-Treasurer
Marilyn Morrison

Approved by Town Council:

As _____ President
Harold Jones

As _____ Member
Bill Cartwright

As _____ Member
Ron Neff

As _____ Member
Chod Boxell