

Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 23, 2003

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, June 23, 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, Ron Neff, Bill Cartwright, and Harold Jones; Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Dennis Spitler, Larry Poulson, Others, Warren Weekly Reporter, Herald Press Reporter, and Tim Ford.

President Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced the opening of a public hearing regarding application to USDA-RD for grant funds toward purchase of a light brush vehicle for use by the Warren/Salamonie Township Fire Department. Requesting comment and hearing none, the public hearing was closed at 6:35 p.m..

Minutes of the Regular and Special Meetings of June 9 were approved as submitted.

Poulson reported that the electric distribution project remained on track and is nearing completion. The pole inspection and tagging project is also underway.

President Jones read notification from Schnelker Engineering that the June 24th Wastewater Project meeting would also be a Pre-Final Inspection meeting for the separation portion of the project. The financial part of the meeting is to be held at 9:30 a.m. with the Pre-Final and progress portion of the meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m.. By consensus of Council, Neff was given authority to sign documents as necessary and as recommended by Schnelker's to complete the pre-final inspection. Discussed was a maintenance contract offered by McAllister Equipment for a generator being installed in the new sewer plant. Decision was postponed pending further information from Bice, Utility Manager.

President Jones reported that he, Attorney Kevin Dogan, Financial Consultant Greg Guerrettaz, and Morrison had met on this date with representatives of the United Methodist Memorial Home for discussion related to water and sewer connections into the municipal system for the Dogwood Villa Glen development area. As initial agreement was reached, an Agreement/Contract will be prepared by Attorney Dogan for consideration at a yet to be scheduled Special Meeting. Additional documents to meet statutory requirements will be drafted as necessary for Town Council consideration, if the Contract is approved by the UMM Home and Town Council. Further review of supporting ordinances and possible amendments to clarify will also be developed by Attorney Dogan for Council review.

Following review of information supplied by Fire Chief Ford that the mutual aid agreement proposed by the Wells County Commissioners and Emergency Management Agency would cover primarily the townships of Liberty, Chester, and Jackson and information from Ford that Salamonie Township Trustee Howell had also been supplied the information and had indicated agreement, Jones moved, seconded by Boxell, to approve the Mutual Aid Contract. The motion was approved unanimously. The contract would provide FEMA reimbursement in case of disaster.

In an update on preparing for the Salamonie Summer Festival, Jones reported for Bice stating that painting projects were being completed. Banners and flags are in place. A schedule of baseball games at Tower Park was submitted as Council had approved use of the Park for the three day tournament.

Morrison submitted a copy of payment in the amount of \$5,625 from IDEM as final reimbursement of a grant for fifty percent of the cost of a leaf vacuum. Payment was delayed due to registration requirements with the State Agency of the compost pile.

Jones also reported that Bice had contacted Brudney Construction, contractors for the water treatment plant, for suggestions related to replacement of public restroom doors. Bice had not yet contacted the company recommended by Brudney.

Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 23, 2003 continued

Morrison reviewed for members a copy of a DNR Community and Urban Forestry grant application that had been requested and received from that agency. The grant must be submitted by November 6 with the project to be completed by 2005. However, several steps would be necessary to qualify for the grant monies. Council concurred with a recommendation from Morrison that Ruth Herring, Master Gardener and member of the Park Board, be contacted for input on the procedure.

President Jones reminded that Warren will host the quarterly meeting of W.H.A.R.M.M. on July 21st. Morrison indicated that Charley Pride of the State Board of Accounts had notified that he would be in attendance. In addition to those previously indicating they would be attending, Matt Greller, Executive Director of IACT, Senator Dillon and Representative Leonard have also indicated they will be in attendance. Invitations will be mailed the first week of July.

President Jones reviewed a letter from the Town Council of Poneto requesting use of the mosquito spraying unit for two to three times. Agreement, as included in the letter, was that Poneto would cover all related costs including labor, mileage, and spray. Attached was the required proof of insurance. Neff moved, seconded by Cartwright, that the unit be made available to Poneto. The motion was approved.

Council reviewed correspondence from the law office of Gordon Bendall Branham McNeely & Delaney regarding establishment of a firm website and a request for approval from the Town Council to include the Town of Warren in the client listing. Approval was given by consensus of Council.

Morrison reminded that the first meeting with the Board of Local Government Finance has been scheduled for July 14th and that Form 1 of the budget is to be completed prior to that meeting. Morrison recommended that Special Meetings be scheduled for July 7 and July 8 to work on the budget to allow time for completion of the forms. Council concurred. Morrison reported on the recent State Board of Accounts (SBA) School and Clerk's Conference. Workshops were conducted by the SBA as well as the Board of Local Government Finance, Indiana Department of Revenue, Internal Revenue Service, and others. Submitted for Council review was the annual summary of sewer usage in the I-69 development area. Based on the current rate schedule and average usage, the area will provide annual revenue of \$32,573.82.

Fire Chief Ford reported that the REO antique fire engine would be available for Council use in the Festival parade. Ford also indicated that the firemen's association would probably be available for street cleaning prior to festival set-up.

Morrison submitted a report from Marshal Donnelly indicating that thirteen abandoned vehicles had been tagged for removal. Seven had been removed by owners, two had been towed under authority of the Town Marshal, and four are pending as the seventy two hour notice time had not ended. Morrison also reported that she had submitted a request to Marshal Donnelly to inspect the property at 633 E. Third Street as reports had been received of rodents at the abandoned house. After investigation, the Huntington County Health Department was notified and a request for inspection by that agency has been made. Property owners are also being notified of failure to maintain properties, as in mowing of lawns. Following discussion related to a previous request from Marshal Donnelly concerning application for a COPS grant to fund overtime related to homeland security measures, Boxell moved, seconded by Neff, that the request not be approved due to budget impact. The motion was approved unanimously. Assistant Marshal Spitler reported that juvenile issues had increased as is usual during summer months but that no particular problems had arisen of this date.

Morrison reported that David Scheib, President of the Park Advisory Board, had obtained a video tape of playground equipment offered through R&C Fencing. Council members can view the tape at Town Hall or pick it up for viewing at their convenience.

Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 23, 2003 continued

Announcements were as follows:

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| July 14, 28 | Council Meetings |
| July 3-6 | Salamonie Summer Festival |
| July 14 | Budget Meeting, BLGF |
| July 15 | Budget Workshop, Plymouth |

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

Marilyn Morrison Clerk-
Treasurer

Approved by Town Council:

By _____ President
Harold Jones

By _____ Member
Bill Cartwright

By _____ Member
Ron Neff

By _____ Member
Chod Boxell