

Minutes of Regular Meeting, September 8, 2003

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, September 8, 2003 for a Regular Council Meeting in the Town Hall meeting room, Assembly Hall, 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 and Dennis Spitler; Others, Herald Press Reporter, Warren Weekly Reporter, David Scheib, Huntington County Commissioners, Sigma Phi Gamma representatives.

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

George Schul, President of the Huntington County Commissioners, outlined the current policy and procedure for county wide animal control and introduced Lori Hendrickson, animal control officer. Discussed were county ordinances currently in place defining animal control, the county budget for animal control, and the availability of the animal control officer. Also present were commissioners Jerry Helvie and Richard Brubaker.

Sandy Eichhorn, representing Sigma Phi Gamma, with Beth Ostermeyer and Tara Corporal, informed Council that the sorority did not want to continue to contract with the Town for provision of concessions at Tower Park due to a declining number of available members. Being requested from Council was that Sigma Phi be given direction as to what to do with the building and the equipment, owned by the sorority. Council members, by consensus, agreed to move forward in locating a local not-for-profit which might be interested, stating that building options would be determined by needs of the next concessionaires. Selling of equipment and the building would be the responsibility of Sigma Phi. Morrison reported that a local group had indicated interest and would be meeting within the week to consider the issue. Sigma Phi members were thanked for the many years, over forty, of serving Tower Park and the number of volunteer hours which had been provided.

David Scheib, Park Board President, reported that October 13th would be the last regularly scheduled meeting for 2003 and would be held to review items listed for maintenance and improvement during the planned September 26th walk-through of Tower Park. Girvin Tree Service of Markle had not contacted anyone on the Board concerning tree trimming and Scheib requested that Girvin's be contacted again. Also to be determined at the October 13th meeting will be recommendation to the Council for purchase of additional playground equipment.

A Special Meeting has been scheduled for September 15th at 6:00 pm with Spectrum Engineering to review the electric distribution project and the pole inspection/tagging project.

Amended draft copies of notification letters and specifications to be mailed to residents regarding connection to the new sanitary sewer lines were reviewed and approved by consensus of Council. The notifications are to be mailed on September 10th with publication in the Warren Weekly on the same date. Bice reviewed the punch list of items to be finished before the A-2 Project could be considered complete pointing out some additional items to be added. Council members requested a thorough review of the project as to restoration and correction of some continuing problems.

Bice reported replacement doors for the public restrooms had been ordered but had not arrived. Council members requested that they be placed as soon as possible.

Bice reported the braces and support columns for the Centennial Antenna project had been completed and initial steps had been taken for construction of the control building by Centennial. No date has been given for completion of the project.

Council reviewed a quote of \$2242 from Thompson Fire and Safety for replacement of outdated units and additional fire extinguishers for all Town departments. Following discussion, Jones moved, seconded by Boxell, acceptance of the quote. The motion was approved unanimously.

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Reviewed was written correspondence from Engineer Jim Lauer, Schnelker Engineering, recommending that the Town not approve a request from Indiana Corrugated to accept contaminated waste as contamination levels would exceed controls established in Town Code. That recommendation was based on testing by Hoosier Microbiological Laboratories establishing concentration levels of contaminants. Further stated was that even if the contaminants were removed through additional processing, the resulting sludge would be ruled 'hazardous waste' and would require special permitting for disposal. Cartwright moved, seconded by Boxell, acceptance of the engineer's recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ordinances 2003-3, 4, and 5 were submitted for consideration of adoption. The ordinances relate to salary and benefits for elected and appointed officials, utility employees, and law enforcement employees. Boxell moved, seconded by Neff, adoption of Ordinances 2003- 3, 4, and 5. The motion was approved unanimously.

Morrison submitted Resolution 3-2003, a resolution reducing appropriation amounts in the 2003 Municipal Budgets within non-tax funds and cumulative funds to meet requirements of the 2004 municipal budget. Boxell moved, seconded by Neff, approval of Resolution 3-2003. The motion was approved.

Morrison submitted Resolution 4-2003, a resolution reducing appropriation amounts within the 2003 General and Motor Vehicle Highway Funds. Morrison reported that Greg Guerretaz, financial consultant, had recommended that Council could handle tax funds, as no 2003 or 2004 tax figures are available, by two methods. One, to approve the 2003 appropriation reductions as Council had considered when developing the 2004 budget and two, to make no reductions and wait for tax information. Either method could require an emergency meeting upon receiving budget approval from the state in the 1782 notification process as tax implications would not be known until then. Following further discussion, Cartwright moved, seconded by Boxell, to approve Resolution 4-2003. The motion was approved unanimously.

As introduced on August 25th, Ordinance 2003-6, a Municipal Budget for 2004 was submitted for consideration of adoption. Cartwright moved, seconded by Neff, adoption of Ordinance 2003-6. The motion was approved unanimously.

Morrison reported that the chassis for the grass buggy had been delivered and requested approval of payment of \$11,509.12 to Crain Ford as the Town's portion of the cost. Boxell moved, seconded by Cartwright, approval of payment. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Jones submitted a letter requesting removal of sanitation charge for a property at 125 S. Nancy. Following discussion, Jones moved, seconded by Boxell, to decline the request as no alternative method of trash removal was indicated and as the property was in need of clean-up. The motion was approved unanimously.

Morrison submitted a written report from an IACT sponsored "Community Image" Workshop and reported that the information received had been forwarded to Brady Smekens, Chairperson of the "Our Town" Committee.

Morrison submitted the August financial report. Requested was that the Clerk's Office be closed on October 9th to allow employees to attend the annual computer software workshop conducted by Keystone Consulting. Council concurred with the request.

Bice reported that quotes had not been received for repair of the John Deere road grader although an inspection had been completed. Also reported was that clutch and brakes on one of the dump trucks were in need of repair. Council members requested that two quotes be obtained. Bice requested permission for Bice, Lee Poulson, and Booher to attend a September 25th workshop in Huntington which would provide five CEU hours for each and for Bice and Booher to attend a September 26th workshop in Kendallville, also providing CEU hours. Council, by consensus, approved Poulson and Booher for September 25th attendance and Bice and Booher for the September 26th workshop.

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Council, by consensus, set the schedule for Leaf Vacuuming with Friday, September 19th as the first official day with notice to be published in the Warren Weekly. The guidelines will remain the same.

Bice submitted a letter to be sent to IDEM officials to update the time-line for the wastewater projects. Council concurred with the content of the letter.

Approved by consensus and upon recommendation from Bice was renewal of membership in the Indiana Rural Water Association at the annual cost of \$140.

Reviewed was notification from DNR to the Warren Fire Department that a grant had been received to cover one-half cost of a skid unit. Morrison reported that Fire Chief Ford, not present at the meeting, had indicated a meeting was to be held with DNR officials regarding the possibility of other uses of the grant monies as the skid unit was included in the Rural Development Grant.

Reviewed was a letter from the property owner at 508 E. Railroad requesting action from the Town on drainage issues in the area. As the problem was not created by a Town project but by actions of an adjacent property owner, by consensus, Council directed that a letter be prepared in response stating those facts. In addition, it is to be noted that Town officials had worked to provide information to alleviate the problem.

Reviewed were presentations by the Huntington County Commissioners at this meeting and Huntington County Humane Shelter at a prior meeting regarding animal control. Following discussion, Jones moved, seconded by Cartwright that animal control remain with the County Program. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reviewed was an invoice to a resident at 111 S. Hendricks Street which Warren Service and Supply had submitted to Council for payment. Jones moved that the invoice in the amount of \$761.07 be paid. There was no second and Jones withdrew the motion. Following review of the situation by Bice and discussion of the procedures leading to the invoice, by unanimous consent of Council, payment of the invoice was denied.

Jones moved, seconded by Neff, payment of Accounts Payable Vouchers as follows:

Electric	349-375	\$108,846.50
Water	330-365	\$ 14,070.57
Wastewater	249-282	\$144,768.43
Sanitation	14	\$ 3,192.00
General	395-444	\$ 72,295.97

The motion was approved unanimously.

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