

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 5th, 2022  
6:30 pm

**PRESENT:** President Newburn, Councilman Mayo, Councilman Oehmen, Councilman LaFoone, Councilman Cook, Clerk/Treasurer Ebert

**GUESTS:** Charles Mack, Charles Jonas, Attorney Shoffner, Gabrielle & Andrew from Commonwealth, Fred Matuszak, Justin Higerson, James Mandon and Dwayne Tate.

Call To Order:

President Newburn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

Roll Call:

President Newburn-Here, Councilman Oehmen-Here, Councilman Cook-Here, Councilman Mayo-Here, Councilman LaFoone-Here. A quorum is present.

Correspondence

Mediacom-ACP provides a discount for customer's internet bill from \$30-\$75/month if a customer lives on qualifying Tribal Lands.

Appointment Needed

President Newburn nominated Philip LaFoone for the Personnel Committee to replace Dave Berger.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve the minutes of May 5, 2022 Regular Meeting. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Minutes were approved as presented.

Officer's Reports

- Plan Commission – No Report
- BZA – No Report
- Traffic Commission – No Report
- Park Board – President Newburn reports a meeting will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He also reported that there will be a delay on the replacement of the bridge due to cost.
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner – Fred reports 2 driveways, 1 accessory building, 1 Deck, 1 Pool, and 1 Electrical Upgrade. Totaling \$230.00.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee – No Report
- Facilities Coordinator – CT Ebert reported that Right of Way rented out Suite "H" from the 25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 with a revenue to the town of \$375.00
- NIRPC – CT Ebert attended the Full Commissions meeting held on 4/21/22.
- Other –LaPorte County had to do a recertification on their 2021 pay 2022 net assessed value on April 27, 2022. Our 1782 Notice had to be amended, but our budget is still intact and are still getting our maximum levy.
- House Enrolled Act 1002 –Legislation passed this so the town will no longer have to pay their quarterly Utility Receipt Tax (URT). However the savings to the town should go back to the consumer with an estimated decrease of 1.46%. Bakertilly has offered services to either do a brief calculation to determine our rates or to do a Water rate Study. Discussion was held by the Town Council then requesting to table this for one month. CT Ebert will contact Bakertilly for answers to their additional questions.

Charles Mack was present. He requested approval from the council to purchase an inspection and an installation of the mixer either using Practical Inspections or Dixon Engineering & Inspections Services. The Council gave him approval not to exceed \$5,000. Charles Mack also gave an update on the Striping of the pavement. We picked up a few extra white lines and two handicap signs from what the original quote said.

Old Business

- Commonwealth – Andrew presented the completed water loss and Validation audit. He reported that our results were better than he had ever seen with all his clients combined. That out of 100%, we only lost 6.7 % of unaccounted water loss. He provided Chuck Mack with some action items. A draft of the PER is in final review so once completed a copy will be given to Charles Mack to review in the next week or so.
- Speedway-Attorney Shoffner reports that he could not find a standard code for a green belt. He contacted the Health Department and our contact would be Missy Felton at 219-326-6808 if we wanted to pursue that way. Chuck Mack suggests that Fred Matuszak should send a formal letter to Speedway listing our complaint. Attorney Shoffner also suggested that our first course of action should be to have an employee of the town to take photos, videos of the dumpster and trash debris on several occasions.
- US Highway #30- Attorney Shoffner reported on the issue of implementing truck traffic restrictions on the stretch of US Highway 30 that we are welcome to contact INDOT at-1-855-463-6848 and make a formal request, but the Town may not place its own signs for restrictions in lieu of this process.

New Business

- Community Crossing –James Mandon provided us with a memo stating that we received our Community Crossing Grant, but the material increased substantially such as \$90 for the Binder and \$105 for Surface. If we accept this contract, our local match would increase to \$78,810 (40%) which is not what we budgeted for. Discussion was held whether to deny or accept and reapply in June. Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook to deny this grant and reapply in June.
- R6-2022-Resolution to Transfer within General Fund. CT Ebert reported that there was a need to transfer \$3,000 dollars to take care of a negative appropriation. Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook. Vote was taken. All Ayes.
- R7-2022 –Lease Agreement of 114 South Main Street, Suite “J”. Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman Cook. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Financial Report and Claims Approval

Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman LaFoone to approve the claims as presented. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Any Other Business to come before the Council

None

Public Comment

Dwayne Tate spoke on behalf of the Cass Fire Department regarding their Fundraiser on 5/9/2022.

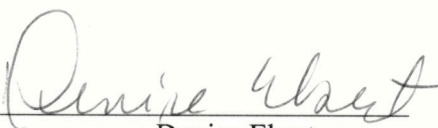
Chuck Jonas discussed whether or not to discontinue Fluoride in the Water. Motion by Councilman Oehmen; Second by Councilman Cook to discontinue Fluoride in the Water.

Adjournment

President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.  
Motion by Councilman Cook; Second by Councilman Mayo. A vote was taken.  
All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm

ATTEST:

  
Denise Ebert  
Clerk-Treasurer

