

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
June 1st, 2023
6:30 pm

PRESENT: Councilman Newburn, Councilman Cook, Councilman LaFoone, Councilman Mayo, Clerk/Treasurer Ebert & Attorney Shoffner.

ABSENT: Councilman Oehmen

GUESTS: Chuck Jonas, Fred Matuszak, Chuck Mack, Brad Ebert, Dwayne Tate, Fran Tibbot and Marlene Mitzner.

Call To Order:

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

Roll Call:

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

Appointments Needed

- None

Correspondence

- None

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Councilman LaFoone; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve the minutes of May 10th, 2023 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 reported that they will not be able to meet at their regular meeting time in June, but will on the following Monday being June 19th 2023.
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner – Fred Matuszak reported 4 Fences, 1 Deck, 1 Pool and 1 Sign Variance totaling \$130.00.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee –Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that she will be setting up a date to have a meeting to discuss the 2024 Salary Ordinance with Chuck Jonas, Philip LaFoone and Brody Shoffner. A day time meeting would be best for everyone.
- Facilities Coordinator – No Report
- NIRPC –No Report.
- Other –Clerk Treasurer Ebert reported that she will be having DataMine update our website since it's had the same design for the past 10 years. She also said that the software is no longer compatible for them to work with. The one time cost would be \$1,750.00 and a once a year maintenance payment for \$250.00. She also asked for the

Council approval for them to change our domain email address to heighten security purposes for \$24.00 per box managed email. The council approved.

- Clerk Treasurer Ebert let it be known that Indot sent an invitation for June 5th and 6th to discuss the ProPel US 30 West study for anyone that is interested.

Public Works

- Chuck Mack reported the following:
 - Rieth-Riley finished the paving project with no issues. James Mandon has approved the billing but have not received their invoice yet, but was around \$9,000 less than the original quote because we didn't have to use that much binder.
 - Performed Tree Trimming in the town. 4 trees were cut down along with some trimming on requested trees along with 12 stumps which some were left over from the last time. Now working on the restoration and cleanup process from that.
 - 17 Manhole were rehabbed and done and under budget.
 - Casey's-During the Dewatering process, a bit was put through the 8-inch sewer main, about 13 ft. deep. Still trying to mitigate that. Hopefully the wells will be in tomorrow and D&M will come to complete the job. Casey's are claiming that the line was not marked, therefore not their responsibility. Mack responded that we are not there yet. We are in need of a qualifying company (D&M) that can come in and take care of this problem. The manhole has sunk about 12 inches due to the fact that they have been dewatering for three months. Legal representation might be needed down the road if payment is not made by them. Councilman Cook stated that when they dropped the manhole 12 inches, they pinched and crimped both lines which is not our problem. Therefore, we will raise the manhole and bring it back to elevation, supply the pipe where they say it needs fixed. Once that is fixed, there will be no more boring until that bill is paid in full. Chuck Mack needs this project done and we can worry about the finances after the fact.
 - Purchased a new mower for \$15,000 but did not trade in the Spartan.
 - The PER from Commonwealth is completed. Copies will be given electronically and also through the mail.
 - Spoke with Clerk Treasurer Ebert about needing to purchase a town truck since the last one was bought in 2008. Chuck Jonas needs about \$3,000 dollars' worth of work on the transmission of his vehicle. Something to think about in the near future. Starting to nickel and dime on the car expenses.
 - Need to order another garage door as the top panel of theirs fell inside the garage.

New Business

- Motion by Councilman LaFoone; Second by Councilman Mayo to approve Resolution R3-2023 –A Resolution of the Town of Wanatah of Indiana adopting the LaPorte County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. With the understanding that they would correct the error on page 69 that said the “Town of Decatur” instead of the “Town of Wanatah”. Fran Tibbot said that she would take care of this and reissue us an updated version of this Resolution.

Unfinished Business

- Marlene Mitzner addressed the council about the 100 year celebration for the Library and all that is being done to promote that special day. She showed pictures of the stencil that will be going on the front window –“Books in a Basket” since that is how the Library started. She asked for permission to paint the lobby and she was given the approval by the Facilities Coordinator to paint it white.
- No decision has been made yet on vacating Nick Reyes easement per Chuck Mack.
- The Walnut Tree by the Caboose has been trimmed and cut back leaving no room for any type of rodent to have access to the inside of the Caboose and destroy its contents.
- Motion by Councilman LaFoone; Second by Councilman Cook to approve the 2024-2025 Cass-Clinton Fire Department Contract. Attorney Shoffner explained paragraph 11 about the Fire Department is to receive Fire-Run insurance coverage for any fire call it answers

within the Town of Wanatah. However an Ordinance would be needed before that could happen. Attorney Shoffner stated that he could draft up that Ordinance.

Financial Report and Claims Approval

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

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- None

Public Comment

- None


Adjournment

President Newburn asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Councilman Mayo; Second by Councilman Cook. A vote was taken.
All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm

ATTEST:



Denise Ebert
Clerk-Treasurer

