

## **Town of Pines Meeting**

### **April 5, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:30 PM. This meeting was a regular Council Meeting held at the Town Hall. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.

James led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were James Prast, Janice Lowe, Vicki Kuzio, and Shelby Mashburn.

### **MINUTES**

Shelby presents 2 sets of Minutes. The first Minute is from the the Regular Meeting for Town Council For March 2023. Janice makes a motion to accept the minutes, Vicki Seconds. Janice Votes yes, Vicki Votes Yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

The second set of Minutes is for the CCMG Meeting for March 2023. There are no corrections. Janice makes a motion to accept, Vicki seconds. Janice votes yes. Vicki votes yes. James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

### **CLERK TREASURER**

The Fridge has been delivered and the door has been adjusted resolving the ADA Compliance issue. The Floor was damaged by Lowes Delivery Crew. Shelby and Phil are working to get this repaired and repair costs refunded to the Town by Lowes due to damages on delivery.

Shelby shared with Council the information she has received so far regarding the upcoming work with the Water Department. Currently we are underbid. They are expecting to complete this in July. We do need to contact Matt/Chris regarding the section of Pine Street near the Church as there is supposed to be work done by both companies.

We did decide to use Reith Riley for the upcoming CCMG work they had the lower bid, this was accepted in March by the Town Council.

We will be doing a spring cleanup in May. The dates are May 19 & May 26. Flyers will be sent out this month. Shelby will also send out the Porter County Recycling flyer with these mailings. Branches will need to go out as directed in one of these 2 pickups. There will be no additional STICK pickup at this time. Leaf pickup will resume when weather permits for May.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Fire Department had 22 calls.

3 guys have taken their testing/classes. They continue to improve on their training and education. Next month 8 members will be having the Firefighter 2 class.

The Fire Department is not yet sure what will happen to their base location.

### **STREET DEPARTMENT**

Tammy asks about the NIPSCO property. Council has no answer at this time, as Phil is out.

Street Department will begin leaf pickup in May weather permitting.

Vicki called INDOT about semis on highway 12 with J Braking and noise issues. They informed her that it would be up to a code enforcement officer and that the Town would need an ordinance. Shelby offers to look at the ordinance for Beverly Shores as she thinks they have a noise ordinance.

Vicki brings up concerns with a few drains that are throughout the Town backing up and overflowing. The drains need cleaning but are very deep and we will need to find someone to be able to do this for us. This is not a safe job for our laborer's to do.

Vicki brings up needing to have a tree/ stump removed. She has spoken to Johns, and they estimate \$1200 for this job. No one else has helped or responded to her inquiry. James suggests we ask them to do any trees at once to save on cost. Janice makes a motion to approve the tree removal and cost. Vicki seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

Shelby asks about getting a generator for emergency issues with the Town Hall. Vicki replies that nothing was ever found out for this. Shelby said she will get information for everyone by next meeting.

### **BUILDING AND ZONING**

Phil is out and Shelby presents information for him.

4426 Highway 12 had a permit with Home Interior Repair Incorporated for fascia and soffit.

2756 Highway 12 had a permit with Arnett Construction for a roof repair.

675 Railroad Ave had a permit with Lion Builders for a new garage.

3985 West Highway 12 had a permit with Pines Bank for insulation and siding.

3985 Highway 20 had a permit for Virks Mart Inc. for fire damage repair roof and electrical work.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

James asks about the garbage containers and trash issues. Shelby states that she has requested all bins that needed replaced by Republic. Phil has been working with the home with issues with garbage.

There is a company that builds shipping container homes. He would like to bring a presentation to a town meeting to see if it is something that we would allow him to place a home somewhere within the Town. We have not gotten more information from him yet, but will let anyone know when we find out more information.

Shelby has been contacted by a Resident again concerning Alex's German Shepards living on 2<sup>nd</sup> place. He is working with Animal Control and Porter County already. He has sent photos and a video to the town phone. He is very concerned due to the aggressive nature of these dogs. Shelby offers to reach out to animal control for council regarding this issue.

James brings up the cell tower adding on Dish to the Tower on Florida. Phil had not issued them a permit last anyone had heard. They still have not done the work.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1709 Birch Street Loukia Verhage thanks Council for all they do. She offers the town foam to try and help the echo in the hall. She also brings up concerns about 1 non town resident using the Pines Garbage bin each week fully filling it with bags of garbage. The bin has been broken as well. Shelby will call for a replacement can. They also asked about the cell tower by the pines park . Council has decided to not change this tower or its contract James is just waiting for a response from the company to tell them no. They also bring up Patino Property on Main. Janice states that they have begun the fencing work. Phil has been working hard with them on the last year. Kathy suggests using the property maintenance ordinance.

Someone asks about the Code book. We should hopefully have this by June. Shelby has not heard anything more about this past that last update.

A resident voices concern over the NIPSCO homes. They are open and have Racoons and possibly other animals going in and out of the building through exterior holes.

A resident asks for a percentage of savings vs a listing of numbers just so it is easier for people to understand. He also asks about branches. He voices that the Town needs a chipper. The Town is already trying to work on this and find out what we can afford to do and if we will outsource, rent, or buy one.

Another resident voices concern on the NIPSCO Properties as well being an eyesore. The Town is trying to work with them to handle the property appropriately.

### **CLAIMS**

Janice makes a motion to pay the March 2023 Claims, Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes. Vicki votes yes. James votes yes. Carried -0.

*As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M*

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James Prast, President

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Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer