

## **Town of Pines Meeting**

### **April 7, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:30 PM. This meeting was held virtually via ZOOM. Until further notice the Town Meetings will be held virtually. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. This will be held virtually.

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

### **MINUTES**

The Minutes from the March 3, 2021 meeting were reviewed with the correction. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Janice, seconded by James. Carried 2-0.

### **CLERK TREASURER**

The Clerk Treasurer has gotten a reply from Kurt Ott regarding a debit/credit card for Town purchase needs, so employees are not paying out of pocket anymore. Porter Bank should be able to provide the Town with a Debit Card for their account. Janice makes a motion for getting the Town a debit card from Porter Bank, James seconds this. Carried 2-0. Council requests the information required for usage limits once we get this card.

Phil now has a new laptop; his laptop was not able to suit his needs any longer. He has the same laptop as Vicki and James. Due to this being needed with the changes caused by COVID 19 this is planned to be requested to be reimbursed once the information is available from the state regarding the American Rescue Plan. Shelby is still waiting for more information on reimbursement filings.

The Town has received multiple complains regarding Alex's dogs on 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. He has 3 German Shepherds that he lets roam free. One call was from David Joyner, he was approached by the dogs running loose and encountering them while walking with his dog. He was fearful of an altercation occurring. A woman also sent in a letter to council/ the BZA and in the letter makes statement of fear of Safety with Alex's dogs being loose. Shelby and Janice also almost hit one of his dogs as it was running in the street on 2<sup>nd</sup> Place while they were driving. Shelby points out that Porter County does have a leash law and suggests that someone from Council speaks with Alex as a courtesy of the Town. Residents with complaints have been advised to call Animal Control or Porter Country Sheriff's.

Shelby asks advice of Council regarding Phyllis DeMota sending a Facebook Message to the Town regarding some matter that no one is sure of involving Cathy Murray and then a message about no one ever answering her. Shelby has not spoken to her at any time and is unsure of what this is regarding. She does make a statement that ordinances are not being followed and the Newmann property status. James states that he and/or Peter Dyslin will reach out to Phyllis and see if they can find out what the Town can do to help with her requests. Shelby will let her know they will be in contact.

James asks about an email from Amy regarding the double tracks. He will try to forward this to Shelby again so she can try to get in contact with her.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

No Information. Rob is out.

## **STREET DEPARTMENT**

Rob replaced several stop and street signs last month; we need to replace 2 additional stop signs in which I will get on order. Will order the quantity that entails a cost reduction. We need to replace a few street signs therefore will order them as well.

Rob has begun to pick up leaves and brush.

Rob is having cataract surgery on his right eye probably at the end of the month so he will not be able to lift anything over 5 lbs until healing is complete. He may need to have the other eye done later.

Kent Verhage has offered to help with the town duties in which we investigate if needed as there is insurance issues, etc.

Mike Watkins is furthering his career and is available to help in emergency only cases therefore we need to look for an additional Street Dept. employee.

Cathi Murray called Vicki regarding Alex Firov's 3 dogs running loose in his yard. I did stop at his house and told him of the complaint, and he indicated he plans on building a closed in pen. Vicki is in the process of attaining more information before proceeding.

Rob is aware that the ground is beginning to thaw and will get to the Pines Park sign as soon as possible.

Vicki also shared with Council that there is a delay in the listing of CCMG awarding. Once this is available, we will move forward with planning and the required letters.

## **BUILDING AND ZONING**

There is a BZA meeting scheduled for May 6, 2021. This meeting will be at 6:30 PM. This will be an open meeting for public comments. We will still be limited to 20 people in town hall at one time as well as ALL other COVID Precautions. This means masks are REQUIRED to enter the town hall, 6 feet social distancing, and no more than 20 people total in the building. We also were requested to have an alternate for one of our BZA members by petitioner's the lawyer. They feels there could be a conflict of interest. That being said, I give my recommendation for Peter Dyslin for the alternate. The deadline for Public Comments to be submitted to the Clerk Treasurer's office is as of Monday May 3, 2021 by 12:00 AM MIDNIGHT. This means they must be submitted by SUNDAY Night at midnight.

Nipsco is still working in town on double track project here are some links for more info and timelines on the work. The place to bookmark to watch for weekly (or so) project updates is: [www.doubletrack-nwi.com/construction/nextsteps](http://www.doubletrack-nwi.com/construction/nextsteps). If you or others in town want to receive email updates, they can go to the project homepage at [www.doubletrack-nwi.com](http://www.doubletrack-nwi.com) and in the upper right corner, click the link to sign up for project updates.

There was a building permit for Rosalie Marschke at 4473 West Dunes Highway. A new electrical service will be installed in her garage. The contractor is McCormick Electrical Services, 606 E Center St, North Liberty, IN 46554.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

James is still trying to contact Reith Riley with other town needs. The dry well has been handled. Now the Town is trying to find out information about continuing the street on Connecticut Ave. James is waiting for Rob to heal so they can get together and review these matters.

James reminds everyone the BZA meeting is May 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There is a nomination for an alternate for the BZA considering current events. The nominee is Peter Dyslin, who has lived in the town for multiple years and a background in construction. James asks for a Motion to accept Peter Dyslin as the BZA Alternate. Janice makes a motion, James seconds this. Carried 2-0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Newmann was at the meeting but was not able to connect their audio. James makes a statement to Newman to contact him or Phil as he was having issues with the connection.

Art Garcia comments that he has emailed James regarding EPA and NIPSCO's Michigan City Station and its removal of coal ash. He is concerned about the wording of the litigation that he read. James states he will investigate this and reach out to the lawyer if needed.

### **CLAIMS**

Janice makes a motion to pay the claims, James seconds the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

*As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M*

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James Prast, President

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Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer