

Town of Pines Meeting

August 2, 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, September 6, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.

James led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were James Prast, Janice Lowe, and Philip Orlando. Vicki Kuzio joined virtually a few minutes late.

MINUTES

Janice presents July Meeting Minutes. There are no questions from Council. Janice makes a motion to accept minutes, James Seconds. Janice votes Yes, James votes yes. Carried 2-0.

REPULIC SERVICES – Jim Metros

Jim Metros speaks on behalf of Republic Services regarding a pricing increase and amendment to the contract between the Town of Pines and Republic. That increase is about a 5% increase per year. This was brought up at a previous meeting. Council had agreed to these new prices then as well. There is no discussion and council has no further comment or question.

CLERK TREASURER

Shelby brings up a request from Rob for new tires on the 2015 Truck before winter as this is one of the main trucks used to plow smaller areas. Janice makes a motion to buy tires for the truck, James seconds this motion. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

There is a resident on Highway 12 next to Pines Church requesting water access and having some questions. Council will reach out to him and the water department about the questions.

Shelby states that she has some confusion on the Budget she has a meeting with Wayne to sort this out, as she has a few questions. She requests to move the Public Hearing to September 6th at 6 PM and the Adoption Hearing to September 20th at 6 PM. This allows time for any additional issues or questions or Wayne or council if needed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had 36 Calls.

Not many updates so far for this month. The Fire Department is averaging 5 men per call.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Vicki is looking for prices on woodchips/mulch for the parks. She has 2 companies and she is waiting to hear from one still. Shelby presents the quote for Watsons tree services for \$8950 for mulch for both parks. Janice asks how often we mulch the parks. Rob says every 4 to 5 years as the mulch breaks down.

Shelby asks about if anyone knows what we would need to potentially switch the parks from mulch to turf as previously discussed.

Janice requests that we go forward with mulching both parks not just one. James suggests to just go with Watson since Vicki is having problems with contacting Smalls. Janice makes a motion to accept mulch for both parks, James seconds this. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes.

Shelby has a request for street department to attend to the alleyways that need trimmed as they do the streets. Rob says he is making his way that way.

BUILDING AND ZONING

Phil has spoken to the attorney about the unaddressed property on Railroad with trailers on it. The attorney stated that he will get back on this and be in contact within the month.

Shawn is working with Civic Plus for the code book. Civic Plus asks for any ordinances since 2018.

The attorney has also reviewed abandoned vehicles issues. The Town can ticket vehicles on town property or a non owner's car on someone's property.

2702 2750 W dunes have each gotten notices about the state of the yard and of occupancy of the Polebarn. A child was taken from this structure by DCFS and they have reached out to Phil regarding this.

2802 also is trying to be contacted due to the ongoing issues of no water no power and occupancy rights.

Homes that need attention/ are abandoned are 1530 Central Ave, 4311 W Dunes, 1630 Maple Street, 1604 Idaho and Florida on Nipsco Properties, 1620 Columbia Ave, 1530 Central Ave, 2914 W Dunes. These will each receive a notice regarding the state of their properties.

The Attorney does not recommend a restriction on Solar Panels, it has not worked out well for other towns and is not advised by him.

We have received a quote finally for our bathroom work for ADA compliance in the Town Hall. Marv Construction, Geckler, and another company. Only person to get back with Phil was Marv. Marv's estimate is of \$7382 for the work on the Town Hall Bathroom. Janice makes a motion to accept Marv's bid, Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki Votes yes, James votes yes, Carried 3-0. We also have a quote from him regarding the Man Door that needs replaced on the garage that is for \$975 with matching 2 tone paint. Council wants the door to match. Council approves this as well no votes needed due to pricing. Phil is told to move forward with both jobs.

OLD BUSINESS

Vicki is having problems with getting in touch with Porter County about the Narcan. She asks if Loukia is able to assist her at all. Vicki will get in contact with Loukia, as she agreed to help Vicki.

The road work is beginning. It will start on Pine and go West to the other side of the town to the roads that were scheduled to be worked on this fall.

EPA has a violation for the Wet Lands. This is for the work going on at the Patinos. They have been sent a notice already by the EPA.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shelby presents an online question for the repaving. The streets are Maine, Pine, Colorado, South Birch that will have roadwork this year.

Kent Verhage at 1709 Birch Street. Kent asks about the water construction and repaving. He voices concerns that the water department will interfere with the new roads placed. The council states that the two companies are working together on this. They are still working on some repairs from the water department side. But the work should not affect the other.

David Newmann brings up the water lines. He suggests to keep on them about any personal land damage and they will make it right. He has had good luck with working with them in this manner.

Mr Wompler asks about Railroad. They will be grading and chip and seal it. This will hopefully allow for resumed mail services.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the July 2023 Claims, Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes. Vicki votes yes. James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer