

Town of Pines Meeting

August 4, 2021

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:30 PM. This meeting was held as an open meeting with restrictions, meeting was shared virtually via ZOOM for residents who are unable to come to the Hall. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. This will be a regular meeting located at the Town Hall, with restrictions. The COVID-19 Town Hall Meeting Restrictions are still in place until further notice; Masks must be worn in the Hall, Six (6) foot social distancing, and maximum occupancy of 20 people.

James led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were James Prast, Vicki Kuzio, and Shelby Mashburn. Janice Lowe was present VIA ZOOM. Phil Orlando was Absent.

MINUTES

The Minutes from the July 7, 2021, meeting was reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made to approve the minutes by Vicki, seconded by Janice. Janice voted to accept, Vicki voted to accept, James voted to accept. Carried 3-0.

The Minutes from Special Meeting for 2021 Budget July 23, 2021, were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Vicki, seconded by Janice. Janice voted to accept, Vicki Voted to accept, James voted to accept. Carried 3-0.

CLERK TREASURER

Shelby has met with Kurt Ott Regarding the 2022 Budget. He stated that everything looked good as the budget that was suggested by Council at the July 23, 2021, meeting. The next step in Budget 2022 is the Public Hearing. Shelby suggests this to be scheduled for August 18, 2021. Council agrees this date is fine and suggests the time of 6:30 PM. The Adoption Meeting needs scheduled as well, Shelby suggests September 1, 2021, at 6:00 PM before the normal Council Meeting begins. The Public hearing will be held August 18, 2021 at 6:30 PM and the Adoption meeting will be held September 1, 2021, at 6:00 PM, both tentative to state approval.

Shelby has discovered an issue with Taxes/Payroll from 2016 after trying to resolve issues from 2016 with Department of Workforce Development. She has reached out to Ragan with Keystone for advice as how to best process this issue or how to correct the matter. He stated that the Town needs to contact a tax accountant regarding this, Shelby asks Council if they would rather her to reach out to Rowley the CPA Firm, or to a new tax accountant. Council agrees that they would like to reach out to Rowley as they took part in balancing that year.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had 21 Calls. 3 Car Accidents, 13 EMS Assists, 2 Gas leaks, 1 Open Burn, 1 Person laying on side of Hwy 20, and 1 Car Fire.

Rob also asks for the Town to share the information for the NWI Food Bank Distribution via the Pine Township Volunteer Fire Department. This will be on Friday August 20, 2021, from 1:00PM to 3:00 PM at 1516 Maple Street, Town of Pines, IN, 46360.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Rob has put up the new sign at Pines Park. He has also installed the new Basketball nets. He informs council that the rims for the Basketball hoops do need replaced as well.

Rob also asks about getting a toolbox for the garage, as he does not have anywhere to store tools properly. He states that he has looked at pricing for some that would work for the street department's needs, the pricing is around \$500 depending on what is available. Shelby agrees this is acceptable with the budget as is if council would like to do so. Janice makes a motion to approve the purchase of a toolbox for the garage, Vicki seconds this motion. Janice votes Yes, Vicki votes Yes, James votes Yes. Purchase approved 3-0.

Vick states that a slide has been ordered from WillyGoat. Due to safety concerns and liability concerns, it has been decided to go ahead with getting the installation of the slide from the manufacturer. It will be delivered and set up in a few weeks.

BUILDING AND ZONING

There was a building permit for a new roof at 1531 Main Ave for Mike Janowski.

Anthony Skreby's property at 1552 Colorado Ave has changed ownership. After speaking with the lawyer, it is too late to put a lien on the property as the ownership has already changed.

Phil spoke with Nicole from South Shore with the Double Track Project about the fencing around the area. The response received was as follows: "Thank you for reaching out. The perimeter fencing option that was discussed with the Town of Pines related to NICTD's future planned use of the site to establish a building for operations. That plan is separate from the Double Track Project. For our Double Track Project, the property will be fenced as a staging area for the construction company. We also have WSP, our construction management firm, working on site in their construction trailer as you know."

Phil spoke with a gentleman from Municode for the New Code book. He would like to set up a meeting with the Town Council to go over some of the Information to help give us more of an accurate estimate on pricing and the work that needs done. Phil also reached out to General Code and is still waiting for more information from them. Once he hears back, he will share this information with Council.

OLD BUSINESS

James has not heard back from MD7 yet. Once he speaks with them, he will inform them of the decision to not take their offer and to keep the agreements we currently have with no changes.

James states that once we receive more information about the Code Book team, that we need to set up meetings to work on the code book and make sure it is fully up to date.

NEW BUSINESS

No new Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Walter lives over the tracks off Birch Ave. The post office is currently refusing to deliver mail to the residents along this road. We have reached out to the county regarding this issue again, with no results. The Town is still trying to get a solution worked out due to the location. Since the main problem is from the track to the highway, this is the priority. We are trying to see about getting the road chip and sealed. The town must work with the county due to location of the road with this matter though.

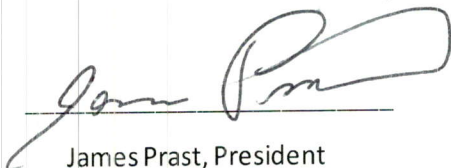
Cathi Murray from 1621 Colorado states that at Colorado and 2nd place there is a rectangular patch of road that needs replaced. Rob states he is planning to patch this. She also asks about the Newmann property status. She is informed that it is in the process of being sold. That the Newmann's have been removing items and a potential buyer is working with them. Cathi also questions about her neighbor on 2nd place (Alex). She states that the BZA has denied his variance on his property. James states that the Town will have to reach out to the lawyer regarding the manner. Cathi states that he is living in an accessory structure and asks about his ability to live there with the proper occupancy permits. James will ask the lawyer about this matter as well.

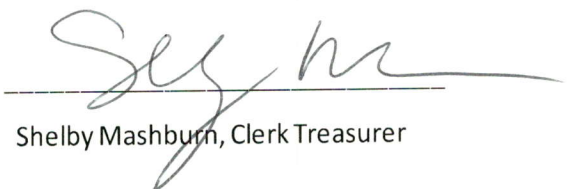
Diana Lawrence stands as a member of the BZA to make a statement of how hard they work. She has excluded herself from her position on the BZA regarding the most recent petition from Alex on 2nd place due to her status as a close neighbor being a conflict of interest. She states that is not fair the treatment sometimes received by members of the board from other residents for the challenging work that they do to keep our community at the standards that have been set forth in the town. She states that she wishes there were better terms amongst neighbors. She continues to explain the ongoing issues with continual burns late into the night and accessory structures on the property. A Photo was presented for the fire that was mentioned.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the claims, Vicki seconds the motion. Janice votes yes, Vicki Votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

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


James Prast, President


Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer