

Town of Pines Meeting

December 28, 2020

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, February 3, 2021. This will be held virtually.

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

MINUTES

The Minutes from the December 2, 2020 meeting were reviewed with no corrections. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Janice, seconded by Vicki. Carried 3-0.

CLERK TREASURER

The Town now has updated contact information. Each member now has an email address, this information will be available at the Town Hall News Board, the Town Weebly page, and the Town Facebook page. There are no changes in phone numbers.

The Ordinance for 2020-12-28-05 was presented regarding the pay of Town Employees. There were 3 changes. These were to bring the P/T Public Works Utility Manager from \$13 to \$16 an hour, the P/T Public Works Assistant Manager from \$10 to \$13 an hour, and to add in a P/T Public Works Laborer for \$11 an hour. This was approved in November. There are no errors to be seen in the Ordinance. Vicki makes a motion to pass the Ordinance, Janice seconds the motion. The motion carries 3-0.

The security system has now been repaired. Ellis Electric came out and replaced the conduit between the Town Hall and Maintenance Building. Par Mar has also come out and replaced all the wiring between the buildings with burial grade cable. The cameras are all now working and repaired. The manager of Par Mar has been out as well and seen the issues at hand. If anymore issues arise, they will be contacted immediately as before.

The Clerk Treasurer is now preparing to close out the year of 2020 and to begin the new year. There are no claims at this time, as the month is not finished and cannot be completed yet. Shelby will present these at the February meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department has the new contract. It has been left at the Clerks office. There are no changes from the year of 2020. Janice makes a motion to accept the contract for the Fire Department for 2021, Vicki seconds. The motion carries 3-0.

STREET DEPARTMENT

96 Loads of leaves have been picked up for this year.

Rob has prepared the other two trucks for winter and plowing. He states that the new truck works very well for salt.

Rob has all the equipment currently working well. In the spring he will maintenance the leaf machine as he usually does. The town will need to find someone who can help with some welding repairs needed to the leaf truck. Rob says he will check with Brown Trucking and D&M Excavating and see if either of them could help.

Vicki asks for a document regarding inventory for the audit she must file. Janice states she will get that and give it to her to review.

BUILDING AND ZONING

A permit was issued to replace roof for Bulk Transport at 4482 W Dunes Highway. The permit was issued to Korellis Roofing.

A permit was issued to Haley & Aldrich for demolition of 2 residential homes 1603 Florida Ave and 1602 Idaho Ave. Both properties are owned by NIPSCO. Demolition will be starting first week of January.

Phil is still working on gathering all necessary paperwork for the property at 3900 W Dunes Highway owned by Dave Newman for the attorney's office.

Tammy and Rob ask about the NIPSCO property mentioned above being a possible investment to put up a fire station for the Pines Fire Department. Their current location is the Townships Firehouse and is not theirs. James states that he can speak with Sullivan and get with them about the matter and see what they can work out.

OLD BUSINESS

James has spoken to Reith Riley about the drain still. The solution was to do a cold patch, but then the temperature dropped and that is not an option right now. It was not bad to drive over with the plow, but it is hard on cars. James will reach back out to them for a written agreement to repair this.

The Town is still waiting to hear on any matters regarding the Newmann property. Phil has not yet had any contact.

The Town is looking at new possible Cell Tower Contracts. We have two currently that need to be sent to the lawyer for review. After these are reviewed, council will be able to vote on a choice based off the lawyer's recommendation in February. One company wants to buy out the tower from the Town with a lump sum that is less than the 20-year contract amount at about \$167,000. A second company wants to take over the rights of the tower. After 20 years the tower would come back to us for renegotiation. This is also one lump sum and they want access to both towers at \$340,000.

Vicki is still looking for signage for Blind Hills still. James does suggest looking into a small sweeper to help maintain the streets and edges. He also suggests a guardrail on the blind hill due to the swamp

being on the one side if anyone goes off the edge. There are a few other areas he would like to look at the safety of and potential fixes.

NEW BUSINESS

The Town is waiting to hear back about the Cares ACT funds. If a similar thing opens, then the council will discuss any other needs that we have to better the town.

James also states that we should let the attorney know an update of the 2 papers the Town uses for publications. The NWI Times and The News Dispatch, as the Chesterton paper is ending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the claims thru and including the date of 12/31/2020. Vicki seconds the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 P.M

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer