

February 3, 2010

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines was called to order by Cathi Murray at 6:30 p.m. Cathi led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. In attendance were: Cathi Murray, George Adey, Vicki Kuzio, Sandra Hall, Alan Murray, Dan Fries and our Town Attorney Chuck Lukmann

Vicki made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 5, 2010 meeting and George seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

Vicki made a motion to change the order of business to allow the Public Hearing to be next on the Agenda, George seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

Public Hearing on the Tax Abatement

Cathi opened the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m. Cathi then opened floor to the Petitioners to state their request for a tax abatement on a recently purchased property.

1. Quealy Investments stated that they plan to put a lot of work into improving the property that they have purchased on Highway 12 in the Town of Pines.
2. This is all in order to expand their business, since they have out grown their present building in Michigan City,
3. They plan to hire more people and will have jobs available for Town residents to apply for.
4. They have been in business since just after World War II.

Chuck Lukmann drew the Council's attention to the fact that on their Statement of Benefits they promise to hire 10 new people with a total salary of \$275,000.00 and later an additional 20 with a total salary of \$550,000.00.

Cathi then opened the floor for public comments and there was one question. The question was how long was the tax abatement for? Chuck answered 8 years.

As there was no further public comments Cathi then opened up the floor for the Council to ask any questions that they have and Cathi asked about the 8 years because at first the Council was going for a 5 year only and Quealy wanted a 10 year originally. Chuck stated that this was what they finally agreed on after negotiating. As there was no further comments or questions George made a motion to close the public hearing and Vicki seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

George then made a motion to accept Resolution number 2010-3 and Vicki seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

Chuck Lukmann then made a suggestion that on the Statement of Benefits that they raise the cost estimation by 25%. This will keep us from having to have another hearing if the cost exceeds the original estimated cost. George made a motion to accept the Statement of Benefits with Chuck raising the estimated cost by 25% and Vicki seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer

Sandra read the funds received.

Sandra informed the Council that there is \$1,416.54 left in the Donation fund and that since we are no longer in the lawsuit against the Trash Transfer Station that we need to return the donation money. Rational has asked that we send this money to Porter County to aid them in their fight against issuing the Transfer Station a driveway permit.

George made a motion to send this money to Porter County to help with the lawsuit and Vicki seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

Sandra informed the Council that our 2010 Budget has been approved!

Sandra requested that she be allowed to buy needed supplies for the Town (hanging file folders, tubs for records, a larger flash drive for backing up files, CD's for Downloading Annual Report to sent to SBoA) and that she be allowed to reimburse herself immediately as she does not have the personal funds to go a month without being reimbursed. George made a motion to allow Sandra to purchase the items that she needed and that she be reimbursed immediately, Vicki seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

Building and Zoning Administrator

A request for a cell tower on Railroad Ave. is still continuing. Porter County health department did an inspection on a duplex that was said to have a mold problem and they found the duplex in fine shape and they found NO mold or any moisture within the apartment. Several inspections were done. One occupancy permit was issued. Alan made a suggestion that the Town charge for these electrical inspection and gas inspections. Chuck Lukmann said that all municipalities charge a fee for these inspections and was surprised that we did not. Alan will look into what other Towns charge and will get back to the Council at the next meeting.

Alan has looked into the complaint about the property on the corner of 520 and Pines Street and our lawyer has advised him on the steps necessary to resolve this matter.

1. Alan will write a letter for the party to abate the nuisance (He will list all the violations and then give the property owner a set time frame in which to abate the nuisance.
2. If he does not abate the nuisance then the Council will decide on whether they will take the matter to court.

George made a motion to allow Alan to write a letter to the property owner and to give him 90 days to abate the nuisance, Vicki seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

Alan looked into a property that recently sold and that we have a lien on and we have a lien on the other home owned by this person. We can obtain a Memo of Title that would tell us if someone else has a lien on this property and where we stand on getting our money from this lien. If the Council decides to go after their money then they can turn this over to the Sheriff's Department for a Sheriff's sale. This may cost around \$2,000.00 or more. George made a motion to have Alan go ahead and obtain a Memo of Title, Vicki seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

Street Department

Council says No on taking over the payments of a street light on Maine Ave.

A resident request that the Council reimburse her for plowing her street during the last snow storm. Looking at the men's work logs shows that they street that day were plowed and that there was 19 hours of plow time on the streets. This was on January 8, 2010. Therefore, the Council has decided not to reimburse the resident for plowing her street.

Old Business

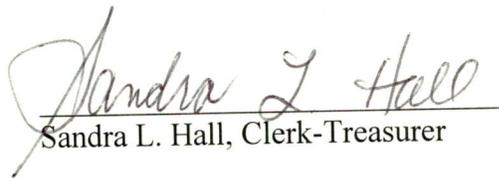
The Town was dismissed from the Rosolik lawsuit.

Census – Vicki has been passing out flyers. George suggested giving shirts and hats to area business owners to where to get the word out.

Cathi wrote letters to our Congressmen, the EPA in Washington, Chicago office of the EPA and our Governor regarding the involvement of the P.I.N.E.S. group in the progress and developments of the Alternative Superfund Process for the Town of Pines. Sandra will send these letters out. The Council is requesting that the P.I.N.E.S. group be allowed to continue to be the eyes and ears for our Town.

Vicki made a motion to pay the claims and George seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 3-0.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Sandra L. Hall, Clerk-Treasurer


Cathi Murray, Council President