

Town of Pines Meeting

June 3, 2020

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:43 pm. This meeting was held virtually. James led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. In attendance were, Vicki Kuzio, James Prast, Janice Lowe, and Shelby Mashburn.

Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes for May 6, 2020 by Janice, seconded by Vicki and carried 3-0.

Clerk Treasurer

The Town is currently being Audited by the State Board of Accounts. This is a standard audit for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019. We are in the process of completing this Audit.

We have received a suggested schedule for bids with processing the Community Crossing Grant. This needs reviewed by Council at the June 6th Meeting (today).

Fire Department

The Fire Department had 20 calls. 5 within the Town and 15 in the Township. There were 14 Total Medical assists, 2 fire alarms, 1 rubbish fire, and 3 car accidents. They are averaging 9 people per call now. The Fire Department has received a Second CSX Frist Responder Grant for \$200. Their total grant funds for 2020 are up to \$17,176.

4 Members are now State Certified after completing a State of Indiana Firefighter ½ Course. 5 members will start a State of Indiana Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics Certification Class in July.

Building and Zoning

There was a complaint filed at 1509 Countyline Road for Cristi Thomas. This was for multiple appliances being scattered around the yard. Phil will send out a first violation warning.

Phil has stated working with Scott Valpatic with Porter County 911 on address issues in the town.

There was an inspection on one Florida Ave cell tower. There have been some upgrades done, all in compliance with FCC regulations.

The Patina's at 1706 Main Ave are asking for a temporary permit for their commercial storage trailer that is already on the property.

Phil is working with Mary Maupin with Indiana Department of Environmental management on some wetland issues at multiple sites within the town.

Street Department

This year's leaf pickup finished with another 28 Truckloads. This makes 108 truck loads for the full season, normally they have a count in the mid 70's.

The exhaust manifold needs repaired on the old Ford Dump Truck. This will be approximately \$800-900, done by Apex.

Street Signs that are needing replaced, are in process. Vicki is looking into signs from a new company. These will hopefully have a longer life than the current signs and will better options for replacement.

OLD BUSINESS

A Reminder from James. The spring cleanup will be June 19th for large items. All items must be curbside by 6 AM June 19th. Vicki also mentions that residents can put up to 8 BAGS of garbage out in addition to their normal bins.

Bids for the old Town Truck need to be advertised in the Newspaper asking for sealed bids. We also need to post notices. A full description of the truck is needed, for these postings to be made.

We have received information as to renewing our contract with Republic. We need to find out if we are required to have bids for this, or if it can be renewed as is due to a less than 3% change. We will reach out to our Attorney regarding what we are able to do with this situation.

The Pines Playground painting has been started. The fresh mulch has been put down. We do not have a key yet for this garbage can lock. Rob will get a key from Ken.

We do have a person hired for cleaning the hall. She began in May. She is also the person working to update the Pines Park.

New Business

It is needed for council to meet with Phil regarding the usage of alleyways. There have been issues of repeated alley blockings. These alleys are to be left open, and they cannot be parked in. We will reach out to the residents in these areas, by letter for alley access. Vicki will look into ordering signage for the alleys. The alleys also need filled or leveled. Street department will work to repair alleyways that are still open. The alley behind Pines Bank and Between Ash and 520 being two specifically named to repair.

The Patina's at 1706 Main Ave are asking for a permit for their Commercial Storage Trailer. We need more information regarding their intentions of it, what it is used for, and how long it will be there.

There are wetland issues within the town being misused. We need this checked into. James will talk to Phil regarding these issues. This is due to guidelines set forth by the State for areas deemed as wetland.

The town has received information about NIPSCO in Michigan City closing. They will be transporting fly ash to Jasper County. There is a resolution for Michigan City, and they are asking for our support on this. This resolution is due by June 22, 2020. The Town of Pines needs to write a resolution regarding Fly Ash Removal from NIPSCO's Michigan City location, to be reviewed and approved by the Council.

Vicki makes a motion to create a resolution for the Coal Ash Removal, Janice seconds this motion. It is passed 3-0.

Public Comments

No Public Comment

Comment from Fire Department.

There is a Food Pantry being held at the Fire Station at 520 on Saturday 6/06/2020 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Everything will be prepared to be hands off with social distancing in mind, they will be prepared to load everything directly in your trunk.

Tammy Watkins can be contacted for any questions or concerns. She also can be contacted over any concerns with food assistance needed.

Claims

Janice makes a motion to pay the claims. Vicki seconds the motion. Approved 3-0.

As a reminder, our next meeting for July will be a standard open meeting. We will be appropriately spacing, and we ask that people who join will please wear a mask.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer