

## **Town of Pines Meeting**

### **June 7, 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, July 5, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.

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

### **MINUTES**

Janice presents May Meeting Minutes and Minutes from a Special Meeting for Water Workings. There are no questions from Council. Janice makes a motion to accept both minutes, Vicki Seconds. Janice votes Yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

### **CLERK TREASURER**

Shelby is still waiting for the official start of work for the Water Department. As of currently it is supposed to start in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June.

It is also now budget season. Shelby will present options for upcoming meetings at the July meeting pertaining to Budget.

A relator from Beverly Shores has been contacting the Town regarding multiple properties that are small lots of a deceased resident to Beverly Shores. Phil states that they are random lots throughout the Town. Phil suggests the liability of the town if something happens on these properties. Janice suggests they let it go to county as original owner suggested. Shelby will contact Arlene.

Marv and Geckler are still working on the estimates for the bathrooms.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Fire Department had 24 Calls.

11 in the Town and 13 in the Township.

The Township might be able to sign a contract for the next 3 years. This will help ease their need for space hopefully for a few years to come.

### **STREET DEPARTMENT**

Porter County came and turned & took compost. Leaves were added to compost.

Rob asks Vicki about signage on Birch and by the shop on Delaware for replacement signage. She said she will get.

Rob asks to get ahold of Republic someone dumped at Railroad and Birch a large amount of trash.

James asks about signage to prevent trucks from using our side streets. There is signage on the problem streets. There is nothing the Town can do to stop travel on these roadways from the public.

Rob asks about areas that need to be patched and what roads are going to be paved by CCMG work. Shelby lists the 5 roads/areas to be paved. James suggests trying to chip and seal the remaining section of railroad in the near future to finish the area properly. He will talk to Matt.

### **BUILDING AND ZONING**

664 Rail Road Ave Received a permit for work.

1573 Idaho Street received a Deck Permit.

3140 W Dunes Highway Landscaping Permitting.

1535 Louisiana Ave New Deck Permit.

Geckler and Marv are each working on estimates for the ADA bathroom compliance and outdoor bathroom updates.

The Town Attorney is working on 2702 W Dunes Highway & 2752 W Dunes Highway notices that need sent to the Stryuf Residence.

We also have Municode attorneys still working on the Code Book. They will hopefully be reaching out soon for a meeting with a member to review changes to present to the Town.

2872 2<sup>nd</sup> place has an ongoing issue with Animal Control. Both Phil and Vicki have been in contact with them without much success. If you have issues with

Phil has not heard back about the maintenance issues with the two properties they own on Idaho.

1706 Maine Ave at the Patinos there as been an investigation started by the EPA regarding fillings of the wetlands. Phil will update council as he can.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

James brings up that the side streets are being used more and more with the season change. James asks if we can contact the Porter County Police to get speed signs on the busy side roads to deter speeding in residential roads.

James asks about the possibility of watering the front of the yard at the hall to help it grow and look better as it is very dry and looks bad currently. Shelby reminds that it doesn't just take time to revive, being a dry area if it does not rain, we need to maintain through the season then. This is between Rob and Council on how much time they want to dedicate to yard watering and care.

A resident asks about the wells and city water. If you get the new city water, you can keep your well, but it will NOT be hooked up with the city water as wells in the pines are contaminated. The council explains this situation further for residents and suggests they reach out to council or the water department with any questions or concerns.

James states that there is a recycling pickup going again in Valparaiso. They are also replacing gas cans if you bring an old one in.

James asks if we have information about Jay breaking and the noise pollution or not. He asks for information based off the surrounding area.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Loukia states that she heard of interest in running a meeting to aid people in learning to properly use Narcan for opioid overdoses. She offers to volunteer to assist with this if the Town plans to do so. Vicki will keep in contact about this.

Cathy Murray of Colorado brings up the issue of the Struyf property. Phil informs her that one family member was in jail last, they have heard and the other whose name is on the property has passed away.

She asks about the meeting with Municode. Phil states this is not a meeting for anything other than Municode telling a representative of the town what they have done. She asks if we will be presenting before adopting this book. Phil explains that they have made no changes, they only organized all of our current material. Cathy asks about a place on Central Ave and about tents on Countyline. She states there are people sleeping in them. Phil States there is storage in it not people living. He is working with them. She brings up the Struyf Property. Phil states this is the same previous issue. To the property on Central she complains that there are boarded windows and that they have been burning here as well.

Cathy states that there is a coal ash meeting coming up and that the property owned by NIPSCO would be included in this and she offered to speak regarding this area at the meeting to try and push them to handle the property as requested by the Town.

Alan Murray asks if the notice policy has been followed for the appliance man on Countyline road. Phil states they have and that the resident does not care about the fines. The Murrays suggest the next step of court for council and their resident issues. He also asks about the 2<sup>nd</sup> place property and states that he is farming and that the BZA told him no to farming. Phil states that he is farming for personal use and is allowed to as long as he is not selling produce. They insist that he is selling products. Janice asks how they would know and prove this. They state that a large refrigerator truck leaves at least twice a day.

Alan brings up the issue of dogs on 2<sup>nd</sup>. As already mentioned, he is told to call Porter County Animal Control and Police. That the Town cannot do anything unfortunately more than report as well. He also asks about what Alan calls a root cellar. Phil states it has a foundation and is a fully functional small home. The Murrays ask about the RV Alex states no one is living there, and Phil has checked into it.

Alan brings up DNA Auto, He states that cars are parked too close to town property and that he needs to move some of the property that is out there as it is in Town Easement.

Alan brings up a resident on Railroad Ave that was supposed to be taken to court. He asks why he hasn't been. It was rescheduled multiple times. The council will have to check into this and find out more information as no one was contacted about this and Alan was the representative initially for this hearing.

A resident asks about the Code Book and Municode. Phil reiterates that this is just a combination of everything we currently have. Nothing is changing. This is making it electronic. When the council is ready to have changes made meetings will be held no changes will be made until further notice. This resident also asks about online building permits and accessing information on them.

### **CLAIMS**

Janice makes a motion to pay the June 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 8:00 P.M*

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James Prast, President

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Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer