

Town of Pines Meeting

March 4, 2020

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:27 pm. James led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. In attendance were, Vicki Kuzio, James Prast, Janice Lowe, Shelby Mashburn, and Philip Orlando.

Election of Officers

The meeting started with election of officers. The first nomination was for President. Vicki nominated James Prast. No other nominations were made. Carried 2-0.

The other nomination was for Vice-President. Vicki nominated Janice Lowe. No other nominations. Janice accepted the nomination. Carried 2-0.

Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes for February 5, 2020 by Vicki, seconded by Janice and carried 3-0.

Clerk Treasurer

The town has received an update and training on their new software from Boyce. There was training held for the Clerk Treasurer on February 25 and March 3.

The 2019 Annual Financial Report has been completed. This report was posted to both the News Dispatch on February 29-March 1 and NWI Times on February 27. This is available for public viewing online. The site can be found by searching Google for Gateway Annual Financial Report, then using the link to find the appropriate town.

There was a bill that has been sent to us by Beverly Shores, for aid to a double house fire. They were sent out via 911. Rob will be sending in a copy of the county mutual aid agreement that is set for the fire departments. Once all the information is received, Shelby will reach out to our town Lawyer regarding the matter and what is the best way to handle the situation. If it is decided to not pay this bill then we will request the lawyer to send Beverly Shores Fire Department.

There is a decision needed to be made regarding the loan for the purchase of the new town truck. The options are a 5 Year loan with the paid \$1000 down payment, a 7 Year loan with the paid \$1000 down payment, a 5 Year loan with an additional down payment of \$26,000, or a 7 Year loan with an additional down payment of \$15,500. Without additional down payment we would need to readjust the budget significantly for the monthly down payments or the additional down payment would come from our CREDIT fund and would keep the payment within the current budget allotted. The council decides that

the best route is to do a 5 Year loan with an additional down payment of \$26,000 for the purchase of the truck. Janice motions to move forward with the 5-year loan. The motion carries 3-0.

The signers on the loan are to be decided. Porter Bank requires the Clerk Treasurer to sign on the loan. It is decided that James Prast, Council President will sign as well on this loan.

Fire Department

There were 11 calls in February for the Fire Department. 4 calls in the town. There was a house fire. There were 5 maintenance calls in the township.

Michael found out on March 3rd that they will receive a \$2000.00 grant from Wal-Mart as well as a \$1500.00 grant from Meijer's. Michael is also trying to receive a \$1000.00 grant from the South Shore. The Fire Department is working to gain more radios still. They would like every firefighter to have a radio for ease of communication. Once that is complete, they will work towards getting base unit radios built into the truck.

Fire Department is discussing when to schedule another open house and when will be best to do that. Michael is also still looking into a few other grants that will give them more leniency on the fund usage. They have purchased a special washer for the firefighter's gear. A firefighter is building them a special dryer system for their gear as well.

Building and Zoning

There was an electrical permit for 2949 Highway 12 where there was the house fire. There was a permit for a carport at 699 Railroad Ave. A new contractor took over for American Trash at the Skreby's residence. The property has been cleaned up and the boats have been removed to the contractors lot. Once Shorewood Marina is contacted and a contract is established, they are to be moved to Shorewood. It is requested that the contractor at least covers the boats, and informs the town when they will be moved. The Skreby house is now nearly done.

The attorney for the property 3900 Highway 12 has new owners now. They are looking to sell or demolish within the next month. If this does not happen, they will be at the next meeting to inform the council as to what is happening. The legal owner is now Dave Newman.

Street Department

The Street Department is waiting on the arrival of the new dump truck. James and Rob will go through the town in the near future to review the intersections that need lights and to look at any other possible repairs with the town.

OLD BUSINESS

Rob has put a new chain on the compost site. He is waiting to hear from county to receive a new county lock for this.

James did get the thumb drives for the view of the roads so that they can determine what needs to be done before the spring.

The state highway needs to be contacted about Illinois and Highway 12. There is a large dip on the state side. Vicki will reach out to them regarding this.

James will be in contact with the county regarding Railroad Ave and when they will be beginning work on this.

The town is still looking into options for better recording and amplifying voices for the audience to hear more clearly. Shelby will continue to look into what we can do to solve both of these issues.

New Business

There is a conference call scheduled for March 6th with the state. They are suggesting that we have the Town of Pines getting sewer hookups to connect with Michigan City. We will be transferring this meeting information over to the attorney for review. Once more information is known we will discuss this at the next meeting.

We do need to renew our contract with trash pickup. Planning to start advertising for this in April.

The town can match the state for funds on road care. We are looking into doing this in the fall allowance for maintenance on roads for someone to come and tar and sand the cracks. This is an effort to extend the life of our roads that are newer and in good condition still.

It is needed to find out what needs to be done to auction off the '91 GMC truck.

The town is looking into developing a Facebook page for the Town of Pines. We will start a page on a trial basis. This page will be monitored and mediated by 1 to 2 members of the town. Shelby volunteered to manage the site. This would increase the accessibility to the town members for sharing information in an additional way rather than just mailing out flyers. We would link this page to our Weebly page and share pertinent information. Loukia and Shelby will meet to update all the online site information in the future. We are still waiting to hear in regards to using the Town Hall for Voting purposes this year. It was approved by the Council to use the hall for this purpose.

Public Comments

Loukia has informed the Council that the Pines Park sign needs repair. The garbage in the park is also a source of concern as people are dumping their home trash in the park's garbage can, causing it to overflow and allowing accessibility to stray animals to the trash. It was suggested to put a sign on the garbage can as a kind suggestion to use the can appropriately.

Loukia mentioned a better way to inform people whose leaves cannot be picked up with a sign or flyer left in their leaf pile or to make an announcement when the leave vac is out of order.

Loukia has requested from the town what needs to be done by members when their garbage is not properly picked up. Vicki will contact the company to find out how to resolve this issue.

Loukia has suggested an update of the Pines Park equipment. Vicki is working on getting new equipment. There was also expressed concern of the street sign wear. There is an issue with the street signs fading quickly and being completely white. Vicki will research with other companies as well and what other options we have.

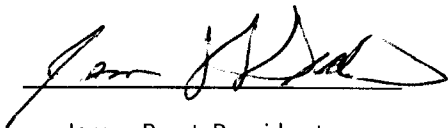
Ken mentioned a concern with the large house on Main and Piney. There is a large number of concrete blocks and bricks strewn around. They have also added in recently a storage trailer and a few broken down trucks. Phil will be reaching out to them regarding the status of their property and the needed permits they need to have and cleaning up the property.

April Rhodes at 2758 W Dunes expressed her concern with the storage facility next to her home. This is where the boats have been placed from the Skreby property. It was discussed to cover and possibly move the boats further from her property line to prevent unwanted cat and raccoon attraction. It was also mentioned about the green fence he was to put in place to mask any unattractive sights for residents located here. Phil will reach out to Paul regarding this matter.

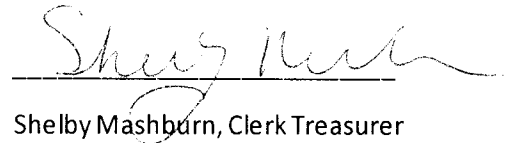
Claims

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

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 P.M.



James Prast, President



Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer