

# **Town of Pines Meeting**

**November 4, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:30 PM.

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

## **MINUTES**

There were a few corrections made to October 7, 2020 Minutes. These were noted and will be made by the Clerk Treasurer. Motion to accept the adjusted minutes was made by Vicki, Janice seconded the motion. Carried 3-0.

## **CLERK TREASURER**

The Clerk Treasurer presents council with a packet of information from Tower Point regarding interest in the Town wanting to sell their contract for the Cell Towers to them from the current contract holder. Our current contract expires in 2025. At this time, it will be renegotiated for a new contract. Currently we get a regular payment from the tower with our current contract. If Tower Point would like to send us further information, this can be reviewed by council and see if it will benefit the Town or not.

The Clerk reports the Town has taken part in an insurance audit. She has not heard back yet, after sending all requested documents. We are still waiting for a final response.

Shelby asks the Fire Department about the bill regarding the radios for the Fire Department that the Town has decided to purchase in a previous meeting. Tammy and Rob state that they will get the bill forwarded over to us for appropriate billing.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Fire Department had 23 Calls. 20 Ambulance Assistants, 1 False CO Alarm, 1 Car Accident, and 1 House fire near Chesterton.

The Fire Department sent out 2 trucks during Trick-Or-Treat on Sunday to help with easing traffic and ensuring safety for everyone who participated.

## **STREET DEPARTMENT**

Salt has been delivered.

Rob will be going around this week to pick up brush so that they can install the salt bin on the truck for winter.

Valparaiso came and took the compost. They spend 3 days doing a pickup.

The Street Department has picked up 15 Truckloads so far.

The new baby swing has been installed at the Pines Park.

Bud asks about any potholes that may need repaired before winter. Rob states that he has repaired the holes that he can and will watch for any others.

### **BUILDING AND ZONING**

There was a permit issued for J&B West for roof repair at 1505 Ardendale.

There was a permit issued for Kolar Roofing for roof repair at 1856 Maine Street.

Phil reached out regarding the Newman property and has not received any response.

Sargent is overseeing all of the work starting along the tracks and adjacent to the tracks. That will begin this month.

Phil is working to go through all of the code book and ordinances so we can begin working on the new completed book.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Vicki brings the topic of giving Rob Watkins a raise from \$13 to \$16, Mike Watkins from \$10 to \$13, and to hire an additional helper for them at \$11. The helper must be licensed to drive and insured. Vicki motions to approve raises and new hire. Janice seconds the motion, carried 3-0. This will take effect as of January 1, 2021.

Reith Riley was out and marked the property on 2<sup>nd</sup> for utilities and put the drywell down with block around it. They also installed a screening material to prevent buildup. They will also be looking into other filters for the manhole to try and keep the drains clear longer. This should be done sometime this week they have put the base of the blacktop in and leveled. The topcoat still needs to be finished. This should be finished within a week.

James discusses the signs that have been placed in alleyways. He explains that currently 2 alleyways that are primarily used have been placed with signage so that they will be fully accessible to plowing and maintenance. The Town is looking to repair the alley between 520 and Ash. They are looking to have stone put down and packed. The company Vicki reached out to wants to do more than we need. James suggests asking a resident Monte Struyf if this may be a job, he would be willing and able to do for the Town.

James is staying in contact with the County regarding getting Railroad Ave finished with a chip and seal. They are discussing also widening the road by the ditch and putting guard rails up. James suggests reviewing the area by the entrance of Browns as well, as they have the same situation with their road widths.

There will be no large pickup this year for the Town of Pines. Residents can call Republic ahead of time and let them know that they have large items for pickup. They will take the large items.

A resident requested information regarding a high fence on Railroad Ave. It has been recommended by council to file an appeal with the BZA to get an exception for their property.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Vicki sent everyone a compost working agreement. Nothing has changed, the company has misplaced their copy and requested that we resign. Vicki will send this back to them.

There is a conference from AIM coming up for their roundtable meeting. This is to talk about things going on in our communities and communities can ask questions and find answers for things they have going on. Shelby states she can set this up for James if he would like, he states he will do this meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> and invites anyone to join him that would like to for this Zoom call.

The Town has received the opportunity for another CCMG grant to take place in the spring. This will allow us to better maintain our streets. They will be cleaning cracks and tarring them. This will go in hand with our fall CCMG grant and help to extend our street life.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Helen at 1532 Ash Street states another complaint about the DO NOT BLOCK ALLEY signage on the alley of 520 and Ash. She states that she does not have an issue with anyone except "that little one" because she does not park in her garage and parks off the alleyway. James states the alley signs are for town benefit and for ease of access and plowing. He states otherwise this is a personal matter and not town business. Janice does mention that Phil did go down and confirm that the parking areas where Helen is referring to are not in the alleyway and do not block the alley. Phil confirms that this is correct and James states he has also been through this alley a few times and seen the situation.

Diane Lawrence asks if we will go back to Zoom meetings or continue normal meetings. Currently we are still scheduled for a in person meeting December 2<sup>nd</sup>. If this changes, we will post notices, online and physically where we can. Residents can reach out to any town member, the town email, or Facebook page if ever needed or if it is easier for anyone who has questions or concerns.

## **CLAIMS**

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

*As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M*

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James Prast, President

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Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer