

Town of Pines Meeting

October 7, 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, Vicki Kuzio, Shelby Mashburn, and Philip Orlando.

MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Vicki, motion carried 2-0.

CLERK TREASURER

The Clerk Treasurer asks if there is any information on voting yet, as no one has contacted the Town regarding setting up for voting. Rob responded that it is listed as the Town Hall being the voting location on November 3rd. Shelby will wait to hear from the voting team regarding set up.

A question regarding a residence at 4401 West Highway 20 is part of the Pines or not. This was to correct service issues with trash pickup.

When is Trick-Or-Treat? How will it be run? It was decided that Trick-Or-Treat will be held on Sunday October 25th, 2020 from 2PM to 4PM. This will be up to homeowner discretion. The Town would like to remind everyone to keep safety of our residence in mind and wear your masks as per state recommendations. Vicki will get the flyers drawn up and passed out. These will cover our leaf pickup and fall information.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had 31 Calls.

The Fire Department is preparing to do their donation letters in the end of October or beginning of November.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Rob cleared the tree that blocks the sign on Carolina and 2nd. He also put the largest sign up that we have available.

Rob patched the pothole on Johns. He is planning to repair the other pothole on Poplar as well.

Rob will speak to the county about clearing out compost in the next 2-3 weeks. He will then be able to begin leaf pickup. He has repaired the screens and is planning to get the box installed to the truck.

The sign on Maine has been repaired and moved so that it is more visible to drivers.

It is also planned to get up the new signage for speed out before winter.

Salt and sand are to be delivered this week as needed in preparation for this winter.

Vicki discusses the states of the alleyways that need repair. The alley off Poplar by the bank does not need immediate repairs. It was able to be walked and to be driven on. The alleyway between Ash and 520 does need repair. Vicki and Rob will investigate what can be done about putting gravel in the alley to even the surface.

BUILDING AND ZONING

3639 Pinney was issued a building permit for a shed that is being installed.

A permit for Debbie Hyndman for a new whole house generator.

Bulk Transport on 500 E and Hwy 12 has a permit for new glass installation.

MasterCraft Marina has a permit for their septic with their new building. This was approved by Porter County.

The Newmann property is still being negotiated. There is no definite sale yet.

OLD BUSINESS

The Town will be working to update our Ordinance and Code book. We would like to get this uploaded digitally for people eventually once it is reformatted. The Town will be working to collect all the Ordinances and Resolutions, to ensure that our book is accurate and up to date.

James met with Aldrich and got an estimate for Reith Riley to repair/install a dry well at 2nd Street and California. It is trying to be decided the best method to handle the drainage issue.

Vicki spoke to the Sheriff's Admin Assistant regarding the speeding. There is nothing they can do. The Town will proceed with additional signage to slow drivers.

James will speak to the county regarding the chip and seal. They will hopefully be doing this in the spring as they were not able to do so this year for the Town.

NEW BUSINESS

The Town has been presented with the ability to receive another CCMG grant from Abonmarche for the spring. This will allow us to have our streets repaired twice a year instead of once a year. They pay 75% and we pay 25%. They currently do our streets once a year with repairs and repaving. They have reviewed 8 roads. This program will allow the Town to be able to better maintain streets without needing to fully replace them. The total estimate of cost for the town would be \$19,500.00. The total project is estimated at \$80,000.00. Johns Ave to Illinois and Ardentale, Idaho from Johns to 12, Illinois from Johns to 12, Henry from Louisiana to Maine, and Pine from 520 to 12. This would be planned for the spring of 2021.

James requests a motion to accept the new CCMG Grant opportunity with Abonmarche. Vicki makes a motion. Motion carried 2-0.

The negotiations with NIPSCO regarding multiple streets are still being worked out. The Town is hoping to have this resolved in the spring of 2021 as well.

Vicki suggests to the board to give Robert Watkins a raise from \$13 an hour to \$16 an hour and Mike Watkins from \$10 to \$13 an hour. It is also requested to hire a helper for \$11 an hour. This will be discussed next meeting when Janice is back so all Council members can partake in this decision.

There is a concern with the weeds in the park. Rob will be salting the park this winter so that the weeds will die off and the town will not have to use harmful chemicals near the playgrounds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident filed a complaint about a sign being put up in the alleyway between Ash and 520 regarding blocking the alleyway. She complains that she is disgruntled with a neighbor over blocking the alleyways. She is upset over a sign being placed in the alleyway when she states no one blocks the alley. She states that she has trouble with her neighbor and complains that they are bothersome and complain about people doing work near their vehicles. She complains that they do not park in the garage and states that she should have to park in a garage. She again states that in 48 years she has never seen the alley blocked. James states that this will be handled at the next meeting.

A resident at 664 Railroad Ave. She and her husband are requesting permission to build a 6-foot privacy fence between their house and the railroad. She states that they have planted trees and shrubs, but they take time to grow. The train is disruptive to their home. They have tried to adjust but find it difficult. The ordinances allow for a 4-foot fence in the front yard, but the residents would like a 6 foot as they feel 4 feet is not going to be effective enough. James states that they need to meet and review the property and issue. He also informs the homeowner that she will need to go before the BZA if it is decided that this is an acceptable matter.

CLAIMS

Vicki makes a motion to pay the claims. Motion carried 2-0.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer