

September 2, 2015

The Town of Pines Town Council held the Budget hearing at 6:00 pm. The meeting was called to order by Cathi Murray. In attendance were: Sandra Hall, Bud Prast, Cathi Murray. Adjourned at 6:10 pm.

September 2, 2015

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines Town Council was called to order at 6:30 pm. In attendance were: Cathi Murray, Bud Prast, Sandra Hall and Alan Murray. Vicki was absent. Cathi led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Bud made a motion to accept the minute of the August 5 and 12 meetings and Cathi seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 2-0.

Clerk-Treasurer

None

Building and Zoning Administrator

Three permits were issued this month and 1 electric meter inspection.

Met with the alarm company and they reset the cameras because the power went out. Complaints about appliances on County Line Road and Alan went and talk with them and they put up at fence and it looks better. Complaint about 1692 California Ave. the dogs coming out and attacking dogs that people are walking on the street. Other issue is that they have a fence to high. They may have too many animals at this house as well. Our ordinance states that they can only have 6 dogs or 6 cats or any combination of the two. Bud would like to look into this before we do anything. Council is tabling until the October meeting. Cathi will follow up on whether the dogs got their rabies shots. Property on Maine and there has been no change to the cleaning up. Their neighbors are complaining because it is lowering their property values to have this property junked up with blocks and things. Bud made a motion to send them a letter from the attorney to comply or be fined. Cathi seconded the motion and the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 2-0.

Street Department

Bud made a motion to pay for the salt by September 15, 2015 and Cathi seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 2-0. E John's Street and Idaho and Walnut Street and Hwy 12 need new poles. Bud and Alan went around the Town and found some stop signs covered with trees and the buses are having to drive down the center of the road because trees and bushes are grown out to the road. Bud suggested that Rob go through the Town and trim things back so that the speed limit and stop signs can be visible. Railroad Ave. needs to have a company to do the trimming and Bud is going to get a quote from another company or two. Table the Railroad Ave until the October meeting.

Old Business

Amazing Cars court date September 16. An executive session with the attorney on September 9, 2015 at 6:00 pm. Julie Paulson at the attorney office will need an hour to go through all the charges from the attorney on the Amazing Cars. Lynn Lowe wants to donate the property on John's street. The attorney said the most important thing is to make sure the property title is clear. Either we can pay for the title report or we can have the owners pay for this. Would he be willing to split the cost of the Title report. And we need to make sure the 2015 taxes are paid. Cathi will contact Mr. Lowe on this. Flood Ordinance needs to be done by September 30, 2015. But the FEMA needs to review it to make sure everything is in order. Special meeting on September 23, 2015 at 6:00 pm to approve the Flood Ordinance. Therese Davis from the Recycling Waste Management District came to discuss and explain the Compost Working Agreement. This agreement is for 2 years and that the compost site is the responsibility of the Town and that the Town will follow all Federal and State regulations. We agree to

the testing of the compost each year. This is a formal documentation of what we are already doing with the County. There is no cost to the Town for the County to come in and turn the leaves and other various services. All the test results were good on our compost site. Bud made a motion to accept the Compost Working Agreement and Cathi seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 2-0. The EPA has set a public open house and meeting for September 17, 2015 at the Michigan City Public Library. A flyer is being printed up and will be distributed in the Town. Resale shop did finish the black top sealing and the lines repainted. The resale shop has acquired a building to store the trailers in so they will not have trailers being stored at the resale shop. Opening up Connecticut Street was brought up at the August meeting. Bud talked with the owners of the properties on the street, he talk to Alan, he talked with Porter and Michigan City. Only one property on this street is big enough to build on, some of the property can have someone buy more than one property and combine them to build on. We only recently sent a letter from EPA that said that there is no contamination so it is okay. How Bud feels about this is that if we open this road up we are opening up problems. Surveyed, cleared, stoned and paved. Liability is that we would have to make improvement before we could open it up and the Town does not have the money. These improvements would have to be up to the State standards. This is what Porter and Michigan City told Bud. Bud is in favor of leaving the north end open to give access and leaving the south end closed until the Town can afford to maintain and make improvements to the road.

New Business

Need to discuss the problems we are having with the attorney. We cannot seem to get a hold of him when we need him. Also, there is a conflict of interest because he represents the railroad that is planning on doing things in the Town that we do not agree with and he cannot represent us because he represent them. We have worked with another attorney on the Trash transfer station issue and the Town Council prior to Bud becoming a Council member had met with him. Bud had a suggestion to look into a meeting with an attorney out of Merrillville so that there would be less likelihood of conflict of interest. Alan asked if the Council would be interested in a new bulletin board. He will bring in a catalog.

Public Comments

Loukia wants us to post things on the website. Loukia thanked the Council for serving and the people for coming to the meeting. A resident has a complaint about Indiana Ave and E. John's it is hard to see to pull out. A street light on highway 12 and Indiana Ave. keeps blowing out. Cathi will check on this. A resident asked about a property owner on Colorado that is adding junk to his yard. Complaints about the hotel on highway 12 and people living there. Alan can ask the owner to come to the meeting to explain what is going on there.

Claims

Bud made a motion to pay the claims and Cathi seconded the motion and the motion was voted on and passed 2-0.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm



Sandra L. Hall, Clerk-Treasurer



Cathi Murray, Council President