

Town of Pines Meeting

September 7, 2022

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, October 5, 2022, at 6:30 P.M. There will also be a 2023 Budget Adoption Hearings on Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM before the Regular Council Meeting.

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

MINUTES

Shelby presents August Meeting Minutes. Janice made a motion to accept the minutes, Vicki seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

CLERK TREASURER

Shelby is still working with Hodges about the Highway Ordinance. She has not heard back from Shawn and has reached out once again regarding this matter.

Shelby presents a posting for the Closed Bidding of 1991 GMC Dump Truck. She reads the bid as is for approval or changes by Council. Janice makes a motion to accept the posting for the Closed bidding. Vicki Seconds. Janice votes yes, Vicki Votes Yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0. The posting will be shared on Facebook, Weebly, and the Newspaper. Bids are due by September 30 at 6:00 PM CST.

Shelby has signed and submitted the in.gov form. She is waiting for a reply as to what to do from here to complete this process.

Shelby is working with the list for the Water Department for gaining water access to the remaining residents in town. She has evaluated the list and information provided by the Water Department to the Town. She is now requesting to have a meeting with Council and Chris of the Water Department to find out what we can do and what kind of costs this will incur to the Town and if we can afford to do so.

Shelby mentions that the Pre Budget 2023 Meeting was held at 6 PM. The next Budget 2023 Adoption Hearing will be held October 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM before the normal council meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department had 33 Calls in August. Rob has begun to organize the garage incase they need to use something down here for the Fire Department. They are planning to hold the Trick or Treat festivities at the Town Hall Location, not at 520 as it has been done before for the 2022 Halloween Season.

needed to do the paving. We are unable to do just the cul-de-sac for this area because the grant is to be used for mill and fill and this type of work would not fall under that category. The Town is going to find out what else can be done for this area. This is needed for emergency access for emergency services as they have not been able to access a resident here, and this was brought to towns attention. Shelby suggests the possibility of Smalls helping with this if needed, as they did a good job with the alleyway issues. Council has the winter to think about how to best handle this in the spring while working with Matt, this should be addressed in the spring.

James has been trying to contact the Sheriff's office about the misuse of side streets by travelers as they are being directed to do so by Google Maps as a "shortcut". He has yet to contact them to discuss the matter. The concern is the speed and frequency of cars that are traveling these side streets being a hinderance to residents.

We have submitted CCMG work for 2023 already. This covers Railroad Ave as well in this. We have not heard back about approval yet but will hopefully soon. James is going to work on meeting with Val to make sure that the issues caused by brown and by the county portions are handled accordingly before the new chip and seal.

Phil is going to look at the bathroom outside again regarding the leak. He will see if we can just fix the leak or if the pipe needs replaced as a whole.

Vicki asks if we have heard from Municode. No-one has heard from them yet. We hope for an update soon.

Shelby asks about the ADA corrections for the Town Hall. She reminds that we need to do this ASAP as some are due to be done in 2023 or by the end of 2022. Phil is going to try to find someone to do the work that is needed. Janice suggests that we meet with Abonmarche about some of the changes that they are asking for.

Janice makes a motion to accept the Flood Plain Ordinance. Vicki Seconds. Jan votes yes. Vicki votes yes, James votes yes. Carried 3-0

NEW BUSINESS

Janice asked about the grass for the property on Dunes Highway, the blue home with tall grass and the camper for sale. Phil states that he will reach out to both them and to Rodney the property owner next to this that also needs to be cleaned up.

James has spoken to Porter County Sheriff's office about the usage of our side streets by high flow traffic and people speeding. He was told that we could not close the street as a town for through traffic. The sheriff suggested that they can put speed signs out, and for residents to keep reporting the issues to the Porter County Sheriff's office about it. James and Phil both voice concerns over not getting proper assistance from them when requested. Shelby suggests that we write a letter and send it via certified mail and request a reply to the Sheriffs Dept as to how they can assist us and what their action plan is.

Vicki said she will see what we can do about this and if a letter is possible.

James has gotten word that they are going to grade the road at Birch and RailRoad finally.

James asks for help to contact Val about the drainage from the adjoining property.

STREET DEPARTMENT

Rob has replaced the requested signage.

Vicki is ordering new signage as requested by a resident for a child with special needs to be placed near their home, for his safety.

Rob got the dump truck fixed now. He has also removed the dumped items from the compost site, and it has been removed by republic after being hauled away from the Compost sight.

Vicki has worked with Jons Tree Service, they have billed us for \$3600 for their labor and time. They have completed the cleanup as requested and corrected any issues found after with speed and efficiency. Vicki asks for a motion to pay the bill as it is more than expected. Janice makes a motion to pay the bill. Vicki seconds. Jan votes yes, Vicki votes yes, and James votes yes. Carried 3-0.

Due to the cost of mulch and availability, Vicki is suggesting at this time to wait until next year to mulch the parks.

BUILDING AND ZONING

There was a permit issued for Rodney Burton at 1528 Louisiana Ave for a home remodel.

1524 Main Ave for a home remodel for Adrija Bakaityte.

1535 Marv's Construction for a home repair at 1575 Florida Ave.

The Soil sampling has been completed as requested at Pines Park to see if it is even possible to have a building there.

The survey at the Patinos is still in progress. Thate has come to do the work and will be reporting back to Phil soon with answers to be shared with Council.

Phil presents an updated Flood Plain Ordinance as requested by the state. This is just an update to our current floodplain ordinance. This needs to be accepted as soon as possible to be due by September 28, 2022 at the latest.

There are 2 homes on Florida and Idaho that need to tend to their yard and have been notified as much.

NIPSCO Claims they have been working the The Pines Fire Department regarding the homes that they wanted to purchase but are infected with Asbestos. The Fire Department states that they have not spoken to them since December 2021. Phill will try to get more answers regarding these properties and care.

OLD BUSINESS

James met with NIPSCO and Matt. NIPSCO feels that they have adequately repaired any damages caused by them. He will continue to work on this with Matt.

For 2023 CCMG work, we have had to remove Connecticut Street from the list of streets to be repaired with the upcoming year's grants. This is due to the current increase in cost of supplies and materials

Shelby asks about Halloween and Trick or Treat, as well as leaf pickups. Tammy will update their portion of this flyer and forward this to Vicki. Shelby and Janice will help with mailing out flyers per usual.

PUBLIC COMMENT

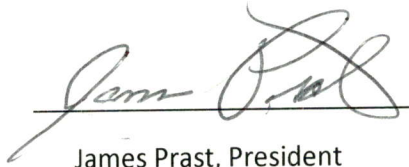
Marv Gunther brings to the attention of council the water system that has been set up in New Buffalo as we are looking at the water system in the Pines and it might be helpful.

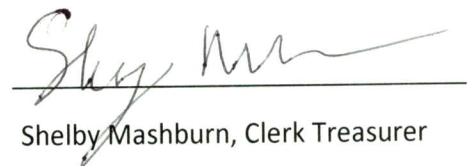
Marv also mentions the grant that the Beverly Shores Fire Department has received recently of a large scale, and suggests that our Fire Department might be able to find assistance such as this for their needs.

CLAIMS

Janice makes a motion to pay the August 2022 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 7:10 P.M


James Prast, President


Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer