

Town of Pines Meeting

May 6, 2020

The regular meeting of the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 6:30 pm. This meeting was held virtually. 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.

It was stated at the beginning of the meeting that the June meeting will be held via ZOOM as well due to issues with the COVID-19 virus. Residents are asked to reach out with public comment to be addressed in June via the town Facebook, email, or paper mail.

Minutes

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

Clerk Treasurer

The town is currently being Audited by the State Board of Accounts. This is a standard audit for the years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019. We are in the process of completing this Audit.

The loan with First State Bank of Porter has been finalized for the purchase of the 2020 Truck for the town.

The town Facebook page is now up and running. This can be accessed at www.facebook.com/TownofPines.

Fire Department

For March the Fire Department had 15 Calls. 9 EMS assists, 1 CO Alarm, 1 open burn, 1 controlled burn, 1 10-50, 1 house fire, and 1 mutual aid to Chesterton Fire.

For April the Fire Department had 17 Calls. 10 Ems, 2 10-50, 1 Electrical Fire, 1 Assist Homeowner, 1 Fire Alarm, 1 Authorized Control Burn, 1 Mutual Aid to Chesterton Fire.

Total Calls for 2020 so far are 62 calls. The average member per call is 9 members.

3 Grants were received since the last meeting. CSX for \$2,000 used on New Ladders, Transcanda for \$3,000 for New Ground Monitor, Porter County Community Foundation for \$2,176 for new PPE. A total of \$15,176 has been received in grants for 2020 with the Fire Department.

Building and Zoning

Business for March and April are as follows. A Certified letter was sent to Fernando & Esther Patino at 1706 Main Ave on 3/13/20 for a municipal violation for commercial storage trailer in a residential zone. The letter was unclaimed and returned to the town. A second letter was sent out 4/19/20 with no response yet. Phil will send a third letter in May attaching a fine in hopes of getting a response.

A sign permit was issued to Paul Dyterok at Mastercraft Marina at 2766 W Highway 12.

NICTD operators South Shore Railroad notified us about electrical maintenance they will be working on along the tracks here in town.

The property at 3900 W Dunes Hwy owned by Dave Newman is still an ongoing issue. Due to the COVID 19 all actions being taken with the sale have been delayed.

At this time Phil is starting to transfer paper files on to town computer for easier access and file sharing capabilities due to the demand of email communication.

Street Department

In March the street department started leaf pickup. They did 13 loads.

In April leaves will be picked up every Monday for the rest of the month.

For April, the new dump truck was received. Rob put on warning lights and is waiting for the lettering to be installed after the COVID situation is over. Worked great for the most recent snow clearing.

Street signs that need replaced have been noted. The mowers are being prepped for mowing and the parks are being cleaned up for the season.

OLD BUSINESS

At this time Vicki is looking into the options for updates to the Pines Park including mulch, fresh paint, and safety for small children.

The issue of faded street signed has been addressed as Vicki is looking at ordering options to replace these signs. Possibly changing vendors.

The Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant Agreement with Abonmarche was approved. This will be used for repair/repaving of Birch from US 12 to US 20, Columbia from US 12 to 2ND Place, Indiana Ave from Johns Ave to US 12, and Louisiana from Henry to Pinney.

New Business

It was requested and approved to hire someone to clean the Town Hall as needed at a flat rate of \$50 per clean.

A Compliance evaluation was done to the Compost Site. It received good marks on the compliance report.

On June 2nd elections will be held at the Town Hall.

Spring Cleanup will be starting soon. Large Item Pick up is June 19th. A second date is to be announced later due COVID 19. Notices will be sent out.

Council will be reviewing and seeking proper procedure on accepting bids for the old town truck we will be selling. Once the proper protocol is known it will be placed to sell.

The contract with Republic is coming to end. It is up for renewal at the end of June. A meeting will be scheduled for bids.

James wants to have a meeting with NIPSCO to discuss the roads and patches they had done.

Steps were taken to stop the abuse of the trash can in the Pines Park. Loukia and Ken have fixed the can to be open a set amount instead of fully. A spare key will be given to the council for access. Thank you for the assistance with this in the community Ken and Loukia!

Public Comments

No Public Comment

Claims

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

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

James Prast, President

Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer