

SOUTH WHITLEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
TOWN HALL BOARD ROOM  
118 E FRONT ST  
SOUTH WHITLEY, IN 46787  
February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 6:30 PM

The Town Council of South Whitley met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 at 6:30 PM in the town board room. Members present were President Bill Boggs, Councilman Hoffman, Councilman Cokl, Attorney Gregg Hockemeyer, Waste Water Operator Kent Slater, Town Marshal Mikel VanDevender and Clerk-Treasurer Janet Howard.

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Boggs at 6:31 PM and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the February 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 Regular Session Meeting were approved. Motion made by Councilman Cokl and seconded by Councilman Hoffman and carried by unanimous vote.

AVP'S were presented for approval totaling \$43,080.17. Motion made by Councilman Cokl and seconded by Councilman Hoffman and carried by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading to appoint Councilman Randy Cokl as a Commissioner on the Board of Commissioners of IMPA. Motion made by President Bill Boggs and seconded by Councilman Hoffman, Resolution # 02-23-2016-01 and carried by unanimous vote.

Revision of Employee Holiday Schedule was discussed again. President Boggs stated he was in favor of changing Xmas Eve to all day and New Years Eve Day. Councilman Hoffman stated he would like to see the cost of this. Attorney Hockemeyer mentioned regular employees would be no more cost just would be paid for not working those Holidays but that the public safety be adjusted for their hours which would be a little cost. The board members decided to table until work session on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 5:30 PM.

NEW BUSINESS - Tony Starkey from Fox Products/One Community wanted to let the board know that parts of the Comprehensive Plan are taking place and will be announced in a couple of weeks. IPFW arts department will be at the Brownstone every Saturday in April for K thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Other things through One Community are going on and would like a point of contact from the board to talk to and there will be meeting Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Brownstone at 6:30 PM and would like a representative from the Town to be there. Meeting with the Super intendant of school system, John Myers, Dean of Arts from IPFW and Scott and Rhonda Darley. Randy agreed to be the point of contact for the Comprehensive Plan. Tony said at some point the Comprehensive Plan is going to take some private money, nonprofit money and as well as some public money and pull together different types of people to get idea of how to go forward. He said they have some things already in motion from the outside. The Dean of Schools has a similar program going on in Fort Wayne, not sure about fees but looking into trying to get scholarships to reduce the cost for kids that can't afford it. Councilman Cokl can not make the February 29<sup>th</sup> meeting so Councilman Hoffman will be able to attend. Tony said this would be a spin off to the Comprehensive Plan and said they would concentrate on; the arts to use the leverage that Fox

Products has. Trying to full some store fronts with related music activities, we have the potential to make this town a nice place to do conventions and conferences in the music industry. Tony stated Fox Products has the connections with Universities throughout the country and the ability to do that but it's going to require the town to also be involved in this.

PARK BOARD – Teresa said they are working on a survey for all 46787 customers to see what they would like for activities for kids and adults for the spring and summer. Has been working with Erika from the YMCA in Columbia City on this. They also have had walk through Hagen Park and there are projects going on there. The next meeting is March 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 5:30. Bill mentioned he has asked several people about the open spot on the Park Board but no interest yet. Mikel said he would put this on the town website.

President Boggs wanted to talk about the Electrical Contract with Columbia City and them not wanting to resign with the Town. Councilman Cokl mentioned he met at the roundtable and talked with them and they will help us out but want us to move forward into hiring our own linesman. Shawn Lickey from Columbia City Electric Department mentioned that IMPA has a magazine that goes out and could advertise in it and also with IMEA. President Boggs stated we would need to advertise and determine a pay scale for the position. Councilman Cokl said he had a job description for this.

President Boggs also wanted to talk about the current water sprinkling ordinance and would like to look into changing it. Would like to give across the board discount from May to August on sewage. This means you would pay for all the water you used but would snapshot the month of April sewage usage and wouldn't increase the next four months. Greg thought the past board had discussed this and will look at his notes and get back with the board. The board said they will table this until next meeting. Currently if you would like to get a break on sewage you need to come into the office and sign a form, the board would like to change this to being across the board and not have to do this as long as your utility bill wasn't past due.

Bill also asked the clerk if it was decided on term of payment for the Ordinance Book and she checked into the term and if there was an interest rate and there will be no interest rate so should go with 3 year term on payments.

#### DEPARTMENT HEADS

TOWN MARSHAL – Mikel VanDevender introduced the new SRO Officer Matt Gilbert, he will start SRO school March 7<sup>th</sup> for 5 days and then will go thru the academy in July and be ready for the school year. Mikel also asked Attorney Hockemeyer for an updated Oath to give SRO Officer.

WASTE WATER OPERATOR – Kent Slater said they talked about a generator with the work session and he checked into the old estimates and found that the range was from \$27,00.00 to 43,000.00 from three different companies. This would be for one generator for both the Town Hall building and the Utility Building for when there would be a major power outage. Kent was asked to get new estimates and bring back to the board, they felt this would be a good idea.

TOWN ATTORNEY – Gregory Hockemeyer said he will be getting with the IRS tomorrow about the previous year's Tax issues.

CLERK-TREASURER – Janet Howard mentioned she received a call from Dottie Nixon and wanted her to relay her thoughts to the board since she hasn't been able to make it to the meetings because of health reasons. She wanted the current board to know she is against the purchase of new signs that the past

board was looking into and also ask the new board to research things before making any major decisions.

Clerk also had a letter from State of Indiana, Governor Michael Pence about the Reduction in Mileage Reimbursement Rate effective February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016. The mileage will be reduced to \$0.36 per mile. (paper attachment)

Library Contract – Clerk talked with Deb Zalocki with the South Whitley Library Board about the current contract that the Town has with Library for the house that was rented for the Town Manager and if it would be possible to get out of the contract since we do not have a need for it anymore. She was going to have it on the February meeting but had to many other things so will be on the March meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Bill stated he would go to the meeting to represent the town and Attorney Hockemeyer stated that he hopes they can come to an acceptable decision between both parties because he is the Attorney for both the town and the library so would not be able to represent either one. He also stated there was no provision in contract to cancel before December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016.

PUBLIC INPUT – Jim Yeager from the Amvets Post 2919 came to the board to tell them that there was a VFW member that passed away in 2013 and didn't find out until 2014 left a donation for the community and he came to the past board to ask about a reader sign at the trustee/fire station area to see if they would cover half the cost and they were not interested in the idea so wanted to present this to the new board to see if they would consider half the bill. The donation left by Robert J Schumaker is for \$15,000 and is asking the board for \$15,000.00. Jim had pictures of signs from Johnson Brothers back when he first starting looking into this and shared them with the board. Mikel mentioned he would research the ordinances and get back with the board. Councilman Hoffman mentioned if Jim had thought of another location if this didn't work out and Jim said this was the first one he thought of. This will be brought up at the work session on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

Chris Harrison from American Water mentioned that we were coming to the end of the 30 day quiet period and just wondered if the board had any questions. Board responded they did not.

Deb Zalocki said she was approached the library employees to ask the board if it would be possible to put another light in the parking lot on the east side of the library, some of the employees do not feel safe at night when leaving. Kent is going to look into this matter. She also questioned the board talking about the sprinkling break this summer and if there will be any mandates, President Boggs said the only stipulation would be if you are past due on your utility bill you would not get a break and would not have to sign a form like in the past.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:38 PM was made by Councilman Hoffman and seconded by Councilman Cokl and carried by an unanimous vote.