

Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 12, 2017

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, June 12, 2017 at Assembly Hall, Council Meeting Room, 131 N. Wayne Street, in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Town Council, Ethan Stivers, Julia Glessner(Absent), Steve Buzzard: Tracey Brown); Clerk-Treasurer Marilyn Morrison; Employees, Lee Poulson, and others.

Vice President Stivers called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Greg Guerrettaz, Financial Solutions Group, and the Town's financial advisor opened discussion on options related to the proposed Eleventh Street Reconstruction/Drainage Project. The project is estimated at \$886,900 with engineering of \$88,690. The project would cover the reconstruction of Eleventh Street and installation of a storm water drainage system in the same area. A grant is being sought through the Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings Program which would provide seventy five percent of the cost. Construction, if the grant is awarded, would be scheduled in 2018 and funds on hand would be used to cover the matching twenty five percent of the costs. Buzzard moved, seconded by Brown, to proceed with the grant application. The motion was approved unanimously. As an addendum, the engineers will be asked to estimate the cost of sidewalks along the street and possibly bid as an alternate portion of project.

Guerrettaz updated progress of negotiations with AEP as the Town, within the Indiana and Michigan Distributors Association (IMMDA), has filed notice of intent to use a five year exit ramp in the current I&M Contract to drop purchase of power due to AEP's high energy costs. IMMDA members represent ten to fifteen percent of AEP's total load with Warren being the smallest member. Options to purchase power from other sources are being explored.

Continued discussion was held regarding the implementation of a Stormwater Utility as authorized under state statute. Recommended was a \$5 per household fee with increments based on square footage of impervious surface – foot print of building plus paved- and a cap placed on the total amount which would be charged. No decision made on the cap but an ordinance will be drafted for further discussion.

Guerrettaz recommended that payment from CEDIT of the Electric Tracker Factor portion of the Sewer Plant billing be dropped as installation of a new blower system has reduced the monthly billing to a level which can be covered within the Sewer Fund. Brown moved, seconded by Buzzard, to approve the recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjacent property owners have requested the house at the corner of Wayne and Fourth Street be inspected by the Department of Community Development for possible condemnation due to odor and continued deterioration. Council concurred and DCD will be contacted.

Council requested the REO Fire Engine be prepared for the Salamonie Summer Festival Parade.

Morrison, noting preparation of the 2018 Municipal Budget is underway, requested Council consider basing that budget on the numbers in the 2017 budget making adjustment, if the grant is awarded, for the INDOT project. Council concurred.

Submitted to Council were financial reports for projects. The river project to remove the log jam and repair the river bank and stormwater drains cost approximately \$16,443.85. The Second Street Electric project which covered installation of light poles, electric pedestals, and sidewalks stands at \$60,326.22 with only the landscaping remaining to be done.

Marshal Spitler, absent, had submitted the written monthly activity report.

Poulson, as Fire Chief, submitted the written monthly activity report. Citing that two new radios and two refurbished radios had been ordered by the Department, Poulson said that the Firemen's Association would pay the cost. By consensus, Council directed that if the Township approved to pay half of the cost, the Town would do also.

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Poulson, as Utility Manager. Submitted project updates citing, as previously detailed, that the Phase II, Second Street Project was completed except for landscaping which is to be done prior to the Festival. Peerless Midwest has estimated that it will be approximately two months until installation of the new well is completed and the previous unusable Well #2 is capped. Poulson also requested that trade in of the smaller park mower be considered and a 72' mower be purchased, total cost after municipal discount and trade in of approximately \$9,000. Buzzard moved, seconded by Brown, to proceed with the purchase/trade in at the end of the year. Poulson reported that Tucker Tree Service had completed inspection of trees/branches impacting the Electric Distribution System as of this date and has given a preliminary estimated cost of \$23,750. No action taken as no information, other than projected cost, was available for review. Poulson requested that the GaGa pit installed by Scouts at the park be removed due to upkeep and low usage. Council concurred.

The next Regular Meeting of Council is scheduled for July 10th at 5:00 pm. All Town departments will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.

The Accounts Payable Register was approved as submitted.

General discussion was held.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted _____ Clerk-Treasurer
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As _____ President
Julia Glessner(Absent)

As _____ Member
Steve Buzzard

As _____ Member
Tracey Brown

As _____ Member
Ethan Stivers