

Minutes of Special Meeting, June 19, 2023

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, June 19, 2023 in a called Special Meeting at Town Hall, 132 N. Wayne St, in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Council Members, Steve Buzzard, Michelle Schweikhardt, Tavis Surfus, Absent was Jeremy Rufener: Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison: Lee Poulson.

President Buzzard opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Report was given as to discussion which had been held at a projects meeting with Ben Adams, Engineer, and Greg Guerrettaz, Financial Consultant, Lee Poulson, and Marilyn Morrison on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Wayne Street Project – due to boring results, full reconstruction of Wayne Street from SR 5 to Eleventh Street must be done which adds up to \$400,000 to the project. The project must be bid by the end of July and Contract must be awarded by August 11 as the project has funding of \$1M from the INDOT Community Crossings Grant Fund and those requirements must be met. The final signed Local Roads and Bridges Matching Grant contract has been received as of this date. General discussion held with Poulson detailing the project. Any additional projects related to Wayne Street were put on hold until 2024 pending further detail from the Financial Consultant.

Sewer Projects – Nancy Street Lift Station and sewer main replacement project. Adams reported the projects are 90% engineered and expressed concern about the timing of bidding. Recommendations were that the bid be held until later in the year or that the project be bid now with Council adding a flexibility start date clause to the contract. Adams suggested Council decision be withheld pending a bid opening in Berne that would be an indicator of number of number of bidders to be expected for this type of project. Nancy Street Lift Station/Sewer Main is to be bid as one project with the two TIF District projects – decommission of Huggy Bear Lift Station and water/sewer main extension at I-69 to be bid at same time but in two phases. Council concurred with the planning. Project cost is to be updated and submitted by Adams.

Discussed was procedure to bid Fire Truck Purchase through HGACBuy Program, a cooperative. Information had been received regarding the program and the East Central (New Haven) Chief of Fire/EMS had supplied documents regarding the procedure. Council set July 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting as an opportunity to meet with Fire Chief Hale and Township officials to discuss the matter further.

Following discussion regarding possible purchase of land, Buzzard moved, seconded by Surfus, to hire Thomas Niezer, Fort Wayne real estate attorney, as recommended by the Municipal Attorney, to oversee the development of the land. Niezer had indicated he would be available. Motion approved unanimously.

Morrison reported no further information had been received from Crain Ford regarding upgrade to transformer at the site. Council, by consensus, determined purchase be kept on hold until information received.

In the process to complete the EPA mandated copper/lead survey, due by October 16, 2024, Morrison reported that 151 surveys had been returned and that another mailing would be sent. In discussion it was determined that the process to do the reporting and testing would need to involve Commonwealth and reviewed was an informal quote of \$9000. Approved by consensus. Adams had also indicated that grants were available from the State Revolving Fund for that matter so Council, by consensus, approved moving forward with filing for a grant.

In another matter involving the State Revolving Fund, the agency had contacted Adams and Poulson and offered project funds to the Town to complete IDEM inspection matters, one being the leaking iron filter at the plant. To receive more information from SRF, a conference call has been set for June 27<sup>th</sup> with SRF officials, Greg Guerrettaz, Ben Adams, Morrison, and Poulson.

In a matter previous approved, consensus given for release of CEDIT funds to the Knight Bergman Center in the amount of \$12,000 for sidewalk replacement.

Problems with fuses blowing in the two year old Electric Capacitor Bank located on Western Avenue has resulted in Anixer agreeing to replace the \$18,000 unit free of charge. Consensus given to hire T&B to install the unit.

A meeting will be set with Financial Consultant Guerrettaz, according to his schedule, so that Council will have updated funding estimates.

Reported was that an online auction of Golfo was underway with scheduled end date of Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Minutes of Special Meeting, June 19, 2023 Continued

Accounts Register in the amount of \$201,898.70 was approved by consensus  
A Special Meeting was set for July 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 to continue discussion of employee hiring.  
There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk-Treasurer  
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Steve Buzzard

As \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
Michelle Schweikhardt

As \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
Tavis Surfus

As \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
Jeremy Rufener(Absent)