

Meeting of the Town Council of Huntertown, Indiana
March 18, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Huntertown Town Hall, 15617 Lima Road

A meeting of the Huntertown Town Council was held on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were council members Mike Aker, Patricia Freck, Gary Grant, Brandon Seifert (P), and Mike Stamets. Also present were: Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab and Town Manager Beth Shellman. Also in attendance were two (2) guests and one (1) reporter. Absent was Huntertown Resource Officer Kevin Surface.

Brandon Seifert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

Mike Aker made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2019 meeting. Gary Grant seconded. Motion passed, 5-0.

Gary Grant made a motion to approve the general claims dated March 18, 2019 in the amount of \$1,405,076.49 Mike Stamets seconded. Mike Aker noted that only \$105,076.49 was truly spent. Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab affirmed that \$1.3 million was moved to a Money Market Account at Farmers & Merchants Bank to earn a higher rate of interest. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 5-0.

Mike Aker made a motion to approve and sign a letter of support to the Allen County Board of Commissioners for major bridge fund tax rates. Gary grant seconded. Beth Shellman provided details on the county's plan to increase the Major bridge tax rate from .0129 cents to the maximum .0333 cents. Shellman said the county is also using retired debt service tax rates in an effort to create a neutral shift in tax rates for all Allen County residents. The increase in the Major Bridge Fund tax would lessen the burden on Huntertown by reducing or eliminating the current wheel tax and surtax funding required from the town. After no further discussion, the motion passed, 5-0, and council members signed the letter of support.

NEW BUSINESS

Outside of items listed under Council Action, the following new business was presented.

- Beth Shellman presented the council with a handout detailing the town's Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) fund and the process of re-establishing the CCD rate. The current CCD rate is .0101 and the state will allow the town to re-establish the rate to .050. Discussion topics included the pros and cons of re-establishing the rate; the timeline for re-establishing the rate in 2019; what purposes the increase in funds could be used for; whether the town had to re-establish at the maximum rate; and whether it would be better to wait a year and introduce the topic earlier in the year to give the public more awareness of potential changes to their tax rates. After no further discussion, no action was taken.
- Beth Shellman presented the council with a copy of a proposed ordinance/resolution for tax abatement procedures and reviewing applications for economic revitalization areas. Discussion topics included whether to allow tax abatements for new equipment; the different types of abatements that are available; who issued the ordinance (Allen County); changes from the previous ordinance; the scoring process for abatements; and the timeline for approving the ordinance. Shellman also discussed the idea of establishing "target areas" that would receive abatements in an effort to promote business in certain areas of town. After no further discussion, no action was taken.
- Patricia Freck asked council to review a Code of Conduct for Elected Officials that was sent to them by resident Gerry Byanski. Mike Stamets agreed to meet with Freck and create a Code of Conduct suitable for the town.

OLD BUSINESS

The following old business was presented.

- Beth Shellman presented the council with a quote from API to pave a section of Hathaway Road, east of State Road 3, in the amount of \$22,128. Town employee Randy Bailey said the road needed paved. Patricia Freck said Allen County was going to pave all of Hathaway Road from State Road 3 east to the Corbin

Road roundabout and said the town should bring the topic up at a meeting with the Allen County Commissioners later this month. Construction is scheduled to start in May. After no further discussion, no action was taken.

REPORTS

Patricia Freck reported on the following items:

- She met with the Willow Run/Turnberry Homeowners Association and informed them about the town's plan for TIF districting, the Brownstone subdivision and also reminded them to have their residents sign up for the sprinkler credit.
- Allen County will be having a second Tox-Away day on a Saturday. The current Tox-Away day is Tuesday in the afternoon and a lot of people can't attend.
- She is continuing to look at existing ordinances in order to beef up the contents of those ordinances and bring homes in the downtown Hometown area into compliance with those ordinances. She has received some covenants from area Homeowner's Associations to compare with and also plans to meet with Resource Officer Kevin Surface in regards to enforcing the ordinance.
- Four bills currently being discussed by the State legislature are causing some concern and could impact Hometown. She detailed SB233, which could see an exemption increase for business personal property; HB 1266, which would impact storm water regulations; SB 535 which would impact extra territorial jurisdiction for water/sewer services within the 2-mile boundary of a town's corporate limits; and SB193 which impacts water/sewer right-of-ways.
- She asked who is handling the punch list of items related to the Willow Ridge North development since Mark Aurich is no longer the Superintendent of Utilities. Beth said the items were taken care of before Mark left, but utility employee Gabe Brindle is handling those responsibilities at this time.
- She asked who is following up with the Standards and Specifications for development. Beth Shellman said that both boards approved those items in February.

Hometown Resource Officer Kevin Surface was absent.

Clerk-Treasurer Ryan Schwab reported the following:

- The town is switching automobile insurance coverage from State Farm Insurance to Insurance Management Group. He provided details on the fleet rate and the improved accounting benefits the new policy would provide the town. Patricia Freck asked about overall savings. Schwab said that since the town changed its overall coverage liability, there was no apple-to-apples comparison to make, but was confident that town was getting a strong policy for all of its vehicles.

Patricia Freck asked for more information on the movement of money into a Money Market account. Schwab explained that the Money Market Account earns 2.0% interest compared to the 0.15% interest of the traditional checking account the money was in. Schwab also said that money from MVH, Local Road & Street, and CEDIT was moved. The interest earned would be placed back into those accounts with the main purpose for extra road repair funds.

Town Manager Beth Shellman issued the following report

- She and Randy Bailey attended a pre-construction meeting with API for the Hathaway Road project west of State Road 3. She had a handout detailing the timeline for project. The road closure is likely to impact the end of the school year an estimated 4-5 days.

Mike Aker asked for an update on new employees. Shellman informed the council that Austin Roberson was started on March 11, 2019 and has been working in the wastewater treatment plant. Tony Marquardt has also been hired and will start on March 19, 2019 and will work in the water treatment plant.

Randy Bailey informed the council about plans for crack-filling throughout town. He said Allen County will provide the service at Apollo Drive and the streets behind Farmers & Merchants Bank. Bids are being accepted for work in Classic Heights and along Old Lima Road through downtown. Patricia Freck asked how he determined those were the areas to work on and he said he walked them and identified them as in the most need.

Bailey informed the council he would be renting a grinder for \$525 a week and would likely use it for about 3-weeks.

Bailey informed the council about repairs needed to the Old Lima Road Bridge on the south end of town. Patricia Freck said the county fixes bridges, not the town. Bailey noted that the approaches to the bridge are in need of repair and the county likely wouldn't cover the entire area needed to be fixed. Beth Shellman said that according to the county's bridge repair schedule, that bridge is scheduled for repair in 2019. Freck asked that any work the town would do be in conjunction with the county's project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None were brought forth.

Gary Grant made a motion to adjourn. Patricia Freck seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Attest:


Brandon Seifert
President


Ryan Schwab
Clerk Treasurer