

A meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Williamsport was held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Town Hall with the following officers present – Mike Hutchison, Council President and Council Members Jim Lanham and Traci Latoz. Also present were Bill Lucas, Clerk-Treasurer and Mallory Redlin, Town Attorney, Ted Latoz, Amy Cushman, Mark Hutson, Karter Briles, Kevin Strickler, Danny Kincade, Steve Smith, Russ Brenner, Joanna Brenner, Dave Banta, Allison Baker, Greyson Green, Jason Collins, Kristen Beedle, Josh Scherer, and Todd Ortman.

Mike Hutchison called the meeting to order. All in attendance were advised the meeting was being recorded.

Traci Latoz made a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Mark Hutson said HWC evaluated the new equipment at the sewer plant. HWC will compare the costs for refurbishing or purchasing new blowers for the sewer plant and get those quotes to Mark.

Mike Hutchison asked Mark Hutson how Justin Davis's training at the sewer plant was going. Mark said Justin has been out the past two Fridays, and he has his study guides printed out. It will take six months to a year for Justin to be ready to take the test. The class he can take is out of town and is every weekend for approximately eight weeks. Mark will get more information on the class regarding times, location, and costs and get back to the council.

Allison Baker with the STARS group requested permission to put a portable library at the Old Town Park in Williamsport. Traci Latoz asked Allison what they do about maintaining the portable libraries. Allison said they are periodically checked on by members of the STARS group.

Jim Lanham made a motion to approve the stand-alone library. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Mike Hutchison asked if there was anyone in attendance for the disconnect hearing. Jason Collins and Kristen Beedle were in attendance regarding Kristen Beedle's utility account. Jason Collins requested to set up payment arrangements in three installments for his outstanding balance remaining at the end of March as follows: \$400.00 by May 10th; \$400.00 by May 24th; \$165.03 by June 7th. Mike Hutchison asked Kristen Beedle and Jason Collins what they are going to do about the continuing bills. Jason Collins stated he is going to get those bills caught up and will pay the regular bills along with the payments he is arranging.

Traci Latoz made a motion to approve the payment plan for Kristen Beedle. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Mike Hutchison asked if there were any others in attendance for the disconnect hearing. There were no others in attendance for the disconnect hearing.

Jim Lanham made a motion to disconnect all remaining unpaid March accounts Monday, May 6th if the accounts remain unpaid, except the two set up on payment plans and the account for which the tenant moved. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Traci Latoz asked Amy Cushman how long it takes online payments to be posted to accounts when a payment is made online. Amy Cushman stated she checks for online payments every day. Payments made online by utility customers show up in the administrative portal in thirty minutes or less, however, payments are not posted every day, but batched and entered based on volume of payments. Payments made prior to penalty day are posted prior to penalty day so penalty will not apply.

Kevin Strickler introduced Todd Ortman and Josh Scherer with EJP, a Sensus representative. They were in attendance to discuss replacement meter reading equipment for the Town. The Council was given a quote that included an option of getting the handheld, command link, and charge stand equipment at no charge if the Town purchased a minimum of 500 units of meters and/or radio reads at a cost of \$78,750.00. The software may or may not be charged, depending on if EJP is charged for it. If they are charged, the cost for the software would be \$4,500. If the council approves this option, Kevin Strickler would like to get 250 water meters and 250 radio reads. Bill Lucas would like it noted that the Town is in need of new meter reading equipment due to our handhelds no longer being supported by Sensus. One of the two handhelds the Town has is no longer operational. If the remaining handheld quits working, the Town would be unable to read meters.

There is a trade-in program available for the handheld. If the Town trades in its old handheld, the new would cost approximately \$7000.00. Handhelds cost \$10,000 a piece without trade in.

Kevin Strickler stated that the Town went to touch reads about 25 years ago. All meters were replaced at the same time initially, and now all are failing at the same time. Kevin would like to replace the meters now over a five year period, so all meters aren't failing and needing replaced at the same time again. No decisions were made regarding replacement meter reading equipment at this time. Tabled for further review and consideration.

Kevin Strickler stated Well # 3 motor failed on April 6th. Ortman replaced the motor and check valve on April 9th at a cost of \$8,236.00.

Kevin Strickler stated the Community Crossing Matching Grant is set to go to bid. Kevin will advertise for bids on May 9th and May 16th. Bids will be opened at the June 6th council meeting and will need to be awarded at the same meeting due to a signed contract needing to be returned to INDOT by July 1st, or the Town will lose funding. The streets that will be paved with grant funding will be Bluff, Market, South Third, Midway, Front, and Mill streets. Paving will take place over the summer.

Kevin Strickler had a quote for the resurfacing of the tennis courts at the park. The quote was for \$10,886.00 with the option of adding pickle ball lines at an additional cost of \$300.00 per court. The quote is good for 120 days. Tabled for a later time.

Steve Smith stated that the WCCF Youth Council was awarded the QUIPP grant money in the amount of \$5,000.00 for their park project.

Traci Latoz stated that the newly appointed Park Board members have been meeting and would like to know what their budget is. Bill Lucas stated there is no funding available for them this year, in large part because of the Pavilion costs. He will have to review the budget to see what could be done about allocating funds for the Park Board for next year.

Kevin Strickler stated there is some playground equipment at the park that needs replaced soon.

Kevin Strickler discussed the electrical pole inspections and treatment options. OSMOSE provided a quote in the amount of \$42,655.01. Mike Hutchison asked Bill Lucas if the funds are available to proceed with the pole inspections and treatment in the electric fund. Bill Lucas stated there is \$1.1 million in electric depreciation fund and the funds would come from there.

Jim Lanham made a motion to proceed with the pole inspections with OSMOSE at the quoted price as soon as possible. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Jim Lanham and Traci Latoz discussed several resident complaints regarding standing water and water drainage.

Ted Latoz stated that production on his new patrol car has been pushed back to May 20th.

Ted Latoz stated he will begin tagging and towing unplatd vehicles soon.

Bill Lucas discussed the rates for the new Storm Water Utility. He stated most towns charge businesses by square footage instead of a flat fee that is the same as the residential rate. Bill Lucas will provide information to the Town Attorneys so that they may draft an updated ordinance on storm water.

Bill Lucas discussed short-term disability coverage through Aflac. He provided a document to the council that Aflac is requesting a signature on. The council will review this further prior to signing.

Traci Latoz requested that an Aflac representative come down and present their offerings again. This will be set up for a future date.

Danny Kincade discussed hanging 4-H flags for the fair's 100th year, as well as requested permission to hang metal signs with fair sponsors on them in the downtown area on the Town's light poles. Steve Smith from Accuburn made the sponsor signs and explained how they will be hung from the poles.

Traci Latoz made a motion to amend the previous permission given to put the signs in the flower boxes to now hanging them on the light poles for the fair board. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Danny Kincade discussed the Fair Parade. It will take place on June 15th at 11:00 a.m. The parade route will go from the school up Monroe Street and turn right on Ross Avenue and end at the park.

Danny Kincade asked if the Town would once again donate \$500.00 towards the cost of the fireworks for the fair.

Traci Latoz made a motion to donate \$500.00 for the fireworks. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Danny Kincade asked about the fair competition ordinance. Mallory Redlin stated the current ordinance will remain in effect until an amended ordinance is presented.

Mallory Redlin presented the declaratory resolution for Accuburn's tax abatement on real estate in the amount of \$725,000.00.

Traci Latoz made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-0502A for Accuburn's tax abatement. Motion seconded by Jim Lanham. Voted and passed.

Mallory Redlin introduced the new Sprinkler Credit Ordinance prepared for the Town. The ordinance presented did not follow the typical procedures of the Town for giving sprinkler credit. A new ordinance will be prepared and presented at a future meeting.

Amy Cushman asked about adjusting two utility customer's accounts for sprinkling credit that have filled their pools earlier than when sprinkling credit is typically given.

Traci Latoz made a motion to approve the adjustments issuing sprinkling credit on the two utility customers who have filled their pools early. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Mallory Redlin presented Ordinance 2019-0502B regarding the document writing fee for tax abatement requests and waivers of non-compliance at a cost of \$500.00 plus publications and notices.

Jim Lanham made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-0502B. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Mallory Redlin discussed the necessity of reading an ordinance twice before they are passed, especially for ordinances that have a penalty provision. The amended golf cart ordinance that is being presented tonight, has a penalty provision, so needs read twice. It will be read tonight, and then a second time at the June 6th meeting. The amendment made allows golf carts to not only be operated by a licensed driver, but now allows an unlicensed driver that is at least 16 years and 180 days old and holds an identification card or photo exempt id card. The amended ordinance will be signed and passed at the June 6th meeting.

Mike Hutchison questioned if the Town should start to charge a permit fee or registration fee for golf carts. This was discussed, but no action was taken to implement any fees at this time.

Mallory Redlin presented the Tall Grass and Weed Abatement Ordinance. The ordinance amended the notice provision to comply with state statutes. The current ordinance also contains a \$50.00 minimum sum billed to owners for abating tall grass. Mallory asked if the council would like to amend the amount. The council would like the amount to be amended to a minimum of \$250.00. This will be considered the first reading of the ordinance. The ordinance will be read for the second time at the June 6th meeting and signed and passed.

Mike Hutchison discussed refunding utility deposits to customers. The council would like to put a provision in place in the ordinance regarding utility deposits that will issue a refund after a specified amount of time. No decisions were made regarding utility deposit refunds at this time.

Jim Lanham discussed houses that are vacant in Town and questioned if the Town has an ordinance that would fine property owners of vacant homes if they aren't kept up, or eventually allow the Town to take possession of the home. Mallory Redlin stated she did not believe there is an ordinance in place for this at this time. This will be looked into and researched further prior to any decisions being made.

Mike Hutchison opened the meeting for public comments.

Joanna and Russ Brenner, owners of the Bomber Wash, were in attendance to discuss the negative effects of the increased water and sewer rates on their business. They stated that they will not be able to stay in business if there is not something that can be done with the rates that would decrease their utility bill. Bill Lucas and the council will review the sewer rates to see if any changes can be made.

Dave Banta questioned if the council has appointed a Town representative to the Zoning Board. This representative is supposed to attend the county commissioners meetings. Dave stated that he went to a County Commissioner's meeting and they were discussing the windmills and a noise ordinance that he thought the Town needed to be aware of.

Dave Banta stated that Steve Eberle mentioned there may be some economic development money to assist with finishing the streets in the Deer Meadows area.

Dave Banta questioned why Kevin Strickler and Mark Hutson's trucks do not have Town decals on them.

Traci Latoz made a motion to appoint Jim Lanham to the Zoning Board. Mike Hutchison seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Traci Latoz would like it noted that cards of thanks were read and received from the Davis Family in regards to the passing of their mother/grandmother, as well as the Linda and Melinda Story family regarding the passing of Melinda's father.

Jim Lanham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

With no further business to come before the Council the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST _____,

President

Member

Member