

A meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Williamsport was held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at the Town Hall with the following officers present – Mike Hutchison, Council President and Council Members Traci Latoz and Jim Lanham. Also present were Bill Lucas, Clerk-Treasurer and Jud Barce, Town Attorney, Ted Latoz, Amy Cushman, Mark Hutson, Kevin Strickler, Vickie Strickler, Michele Stucky, Libby Smith, Ephraim Stoner, Steve Smith, David Srout, Greg Taylor, Kurt Hartman, Valarie Jordan, Steve Eberly, Melinda Story, and Adam Gilbert from the Review Republican.

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

Jim Lanham made a motion to approve the February agenda, with Traci Latoz's additions regarding Park Board Appointment and her KIRPC Resignation. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Traci Latoz made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2019 meeting. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Kevin Stricker spoke about the Community Crossing Grant. Two applications have been submitted totaling \$310,834.30. The amount requested from INDOT totals \$233,125.69. The Town would match at \$77,708.61.

Kevin Strickler spoke about a drainage ditch in the Lake Ct/Willow Lane area that resident David Srout has concerns about. Kevin will go out and look at the area.

Mark Hutson spoke about several problems concerning the wastewater treatment plant. A digester broke at the plant. This has been fixed. There were two power outages Saturday, January 19th. The outages weaken the motors. The Old Town lift station had to be pulled and cleaned in January. Mark requested to look into the cost of grinder pumps for the lift station.

Mark Hutson said the upgraded equipment he is expecting for the sewer plant will be shipped on March 1st. It will take two full days to install the new equipment.

Mark Hutson said Williamsport provided Attica with sludge for their new plant.

Mark Hutson said there was a power outage today around 3:30. The plant's generator transfer switch stopped working during the outage. Houston Electric will be down tomorrow to fix it.

Ted Latoz spoke about a ticket that was written to Pink Boots Trash Service in January. Ted also stated he had put a call into IDEM to let them know Pink Boots was running a transfer station. John Kuiper with the Zoning Office also went and talked to them. Ted also stated it was his understanding Megan and Brad Bratcher no longer owned Pink Boots.

Ted Latoz asked about replacing his police car. The car is a 2010 Dodge Charger and currently has 101,000 miles on. It was purchased in 2010. It was involved in an accident a few years ago. Ted had quotes for a Chevy Tahoe and a new Dodge Charger. The quotes do not include trade-in value of the 2010 Dodge Charger.

Mike Alsop Chevrolet in Attica-\$38,690 (Tahoe)
Kelly Chevrolet in Fort Wayne \$35,730 (Tahoe)
York Dodge in Crawfordsville-\$30,000 (Dodge Charger)

Bill Lucas stated there are funds available in Automotive as well as \$12,500 in the Court Fees Fund to pay for the cost of the new police car.

Mike Hutchison asked about the additional equipment costs for the new police car. Ted Latoz stated there is some equipment from the current car that would work on the new vehicle. Additional costs would come from a new camera at \$5,200, \$4,000 in miscellaneous equipment, and \$1,500 in labor.

Mike Hutchison asked about the need for a new police vehicle for Gene Snoeberger. Ted Latoz said we can look into a new police vehicle for him next year.

Ted Latoz discussed the deferral fund through the Warren County Prosecutor's office that has helped to purchase equipment, like cameras for the police cars, for the Town in the past.

Mike Hutchison asked Ted Latoz about the time frame for getting a new vehicle. Ted stated the price on the Tahoe's will go up February 13th.

Jim Lanham made a motion to have Ted proceed with the purchasing process of a new vehicle for the police department with Mike Alsop Chevrolet in Attica. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Bill Lucas shared a Thank You card from Dick Briles family.

Bill Lucas stated he purchased a recorder for the Town for the purpose of recording the meetings.

Traci Latoz asked about her appointment to the Alcohol board and if she needs sworn in. Jud Barce said yes.

Traci Latoz said Ryan White was ok with being appointed to the Park Board in his absence. Allie Lockwood can also be appointed.

Vickie Strickler stated she would like to nominate Miles Stucky to be appointed to the Park Board.

Traci Latoz made a motion to appoint Ryan White, Allie Lockwood, and Miles Stucky to the Park Board. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Mike Hutchison stated that his KIRPC designation needs signed before the end of the evening.

Mike Hutchison discussed all Town employees, including elected officials, being set up on new emails that use the in.gov domain. The switch will be made shortly for all employees to the in.gov domain. Jud Barce stated once all employees are set up on their new emails, a motion should be made that all employees use them.

Jud Barce has a statement of benefits from TMF for tax abatement on personal property. No one from TMF was in attendance at the meeting to discuss the tax abatement process with. Jud stated he needs the deed for the property for which the tax abatement is for before continuing.

Steve Smith was in attendance concerning tax abatement on personal property and real estate for Accuburn. Jud Barce explained the tax abatement process. The first step includes declaring an area an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA). In order for him to proceed with both TMF and Accuburn's tax abatements, Jud will need the Statement of Benefits as well as the deeds for the area they are declaring ERA's for their tax abatements. At the March 7th meeting, the Declaratory Resolutions can be presented. At the April 4th meeting, the Confirmatory Resolution can be presented.

Jud Barce presented AHW's tax abatement on real estate. Jim Lanham made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-0207 for AHW's tax abatement for an ERA with a (6) year window, expiring December 31, 2025, capped at \$4,975,000.00. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Jud Barce stated AHW must now advertise in a local publication regarding the tax abatement and notifying of a public hearing at the March 7th meeting. If there is no opposition at the hearing regarding AHW's tax abatement, the Council can approve the Confirmatory Resolution granting the tax abatement.

Mike Hutchison asked Jud Barce if the Town could implement a fee for anyone requesting tax abatement. Jud Barce stated a resolution could be made stating this.

Traci Latoz made a motion that effective Feb 8, 2019 the Town of Williamsport will begin to charge a \$500 fee, plus the cost of advertising, to anyone requesting tax abatement when using the Town's Attorney to prepare their tax abatement papers. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Jud Barce spoke about the draft contracts sent by Official Payments for online bill payment services for utility customers. The only cost that would be charged to the Town would be a chargeback fee of \$5.95, which the Town could charge back to the customer, and the \$500 implementation fee.

Traci Latoz made a motion to sign the OPAY agreement and adopt Official Payments as the Town's online utility payment provider. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Jim Lanham made a motion to designate Mike Hutchison the signer of the OPAY agreement. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Jud Barce spoke about the Town's current disconnect policy and the state laws governing disconnects. State law states water and sewer cannot be disconnected until those services have been due and unpaid for 30 days. The Town's due date for utility services is the 15th of each month, so a customer should not be disconnected for non-payment until on or around the 15th of the following month. The Town will not disconnect any customers for non-payment until the ordinance is changed.

Traci Latoz made a motion to ratify the Council's decision to suspend disconnects due to cold weather on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Jim Lanham made a motion to suspend any disconnects until a new ordinance is in effect. Traci Latoz seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Jud Barce provided the Council with a sample disconnect ordinance. The Council will have to decide what the Town of Williamsport's disconnect policy should include regarding the due process hearing, payment plans, liens, and disconnect fees.

Jud Barce spoke about the Town's tall grass ordinance and liens.

Libby Smith spoke on behalf of the Youth Council of the WCCF regarding the cement slab at the park that used to be where the old skate park was. They would like permission to paint the area and make it a family-friendly game area. If the Council approves, they will to apply for a Quipp Grant from OCRA and request a letter of support from the Town Council as part of their request. They will be using \$ 1,000 of their own money and \$200 from a Walmart grant.

Traci Latoz made a motion to approve the project for the prior skate park to be turned into a game area by the Youth Council of the Warren County Community Foundation and follow-up with a letter of support for the Quipp grant. Jim Lanham seconded the motion. Voted and passed.

Steve Smith is requesting tax abatement for Accuburn for personal property and real estate totaling \$570,095.00. This figure may increase due to adding a break room. Steve Smith will look into adding this into his tax abatement when he presents it at the March 7th meeting.

Michele Stucky from the Warren County Community Foundation spoke about a grant opportunity for a trail in Town. On Dec 6th 2018 Governor Holcomb announced a \$90 million trail project with a February 15th deadline for first round. The first round will award \$20 million for regionally significant trails and \$5 million for locally significant trails. Bonus points for are given for landmarks, such as the Town's waterfall. Michele thought it would be idealistic to begin with a trail that started at the top of the Falls and went down to River Road. The trail could be extended from there if further grant funding was available.

Steve Eberley spoke about the economic benefits for the Town of a trail of this nature, as well as the DNR requirements for the trail and finding solutions for areas susceptible to flooding.

Michele Stucky asked the Council if the Town would be interested in the WCCF pursuing the trail project. There are other grant opportunities outside of the new grant Governor Holcomb introduced in 2018, such as the DNR Grant that requires a 20% match, with the match not having to be all cash. The Council gave their approval for the WCCF to pursue the trail project funding.

Vickie Strickler spoke about the pavilion. Construction will begin on March 1st. Vickie spoke about having an excess of funds between \$5,000-\$6,000. She has a few ideas on how this money can be spent to enhance the pavilion, such as a divider for the pavilion, grills, or even a single bathroom, but would like to have the Council's opinion on what they would like to see. The Council would like Vickie to explore the options and get some pricing for her ideas.

Vickie Strickler also spoke about having a day at the park after the completion of the pavilion. The Council was in agreement that this should happen.

Jud Barce asked about April Nowicki's property and the Town's unsafe building ordinance. The Council summarized what had happened through November, when it was tabled, pending new Council and Attorney. This will require further review and discussion.

Jud Barce spoke about the disannexation of a property in Warren County that left one voter in a jurisdiction of their own. Further review is required prior to doing anything with the property.

Jud Barce spoke about getting quotes to put our codes online.

Mike Hutchison asked if there was any old business, new business, or public comments that needed discussed. There was none.

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