

**December 18, 2018**

## **TOWN OF GRIFFITH TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

Council President Rick Ryfa called the December 18, 2018 meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

Council Member James Marker read the names of the Police Officers killed in the line of duty:

- Sergeant Benton Hurley Bertram, Charlestown Police Department, IN
- Police Officer Edgar Isidro Flores, DeKalb County Police Department, GA
- Police Officer Jason Quick, Lumberton Police Department, NC
- Police Officer Eduardo Marmolejo, Chicago Police Department, IL
- Police Officer Conrad Gray, Chicago Police Department, IL

### **ROLL CALL:**

James Marker  
Lawrence Ballah  
Rick Ryfa  
Tony Hobson  
Melissa Robbins

### **ALSO ATTENDING:**

John C. Volkmann- Clerk Treasurer  
Greg Mance – Chief of Police  
Steve McDermott – Building Commissioner  
Sheri Bradtke-McNeil – Attorney for the Town  
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief -Absent  
Don Hill – Asst. Fire Chief  
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting as presented, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried 5 in favor, none opposed.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:** Claims No. 20856 – 21079 \$4,000,288.93 (Four million, two hundred eighty-eight dollars and ninety-three cents) Clerk Treasurer John Volkmann explained that a transfer of funds in the the amount of \$2,078,642.10 from Centier Bank to BMO Harris Bank and a payment to SAK in the amount of \$941,057.65 are the reason for the large amount of the claims. Council Member James Marker made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. There will be a Town Council Meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 5:15 p.m.  
There will be a study session at 5:00 p.m. and one will follow if necessary.
2. There will not be a Redevelopment Commission meeting on Tuesday, December 25, 2018.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Police Chief Greg Mance presented a commendation to Officer Danny Lazic for meritorious service.
2. An appointment to the Safety Board was deferred until January 2019.

### **REPORTS:**

- Public Works – No Report
- Police – Police Chief Greg Mance thanked the Town Council and all of those who supported the Cops and Kids program.
- Fire – No Report
- Building Commissioner – No Report
- Finance - No Report

### **PENDING ITEMS:**

**TOWNSHIP ISSUES:** Calumet Township Secession update: Council President Rick Ryfa gave the following update: During the study session, prior to todays Council Meeting, he received a phone call from Frank Mrvan, North Township Trustee, Mr. Mrvan advised that the North Township Board voted 3 – 0 against allowing Griffith to join North Township. Mr. Ryfa said that he was disappointed with the decision and stated that we (Town of Griffith) are not done yet. The Town will seek other alternatives and is working with local legislators along these lines. He also stated that North Township has until November of 2019 to change their vote.

Golf Course: No Report

Interceptor Project: Public Works Director Rick Konopasek stated that the project is essentially complete with a few exceptions. There is still some man hole work that needs to be done and this will not be completed until the spring of 2019.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Council Member Tony Hobson made a motion to continue Ordinance 2018-50 until a later date, there are still a few details that need to be clarified, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign change order #5 from SAK in the amount of \$1,046.50, seconded by Council Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.
- b. Council Member James Marker made a motion to allow Council President Rick Ryfa to sign an agreement with Barnes & Thornburg LLP appointing them as Bond Council for the 2018 Park Bond, seconded by Council Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Don McCarter: Thank you to the Town Council for all of the hard work in trying to solve the Township issue.

Veronica : Thanks for all of the hard work on the Township issue.

Tina Adams from Operation Care Food Pantry: The food pantry will help out in any way they can with providing needed services.

Tim Diamond: What was the vote? Mr. Ryfa replied 3-0 against. What do we get from the Township in terms of relief? Does the Township have any data on how many people have applied vs. how many were approved? Mr. Ryfa supplied the following data:

YEAR	TAX RATE	TOTAL LEVY FOR GRIFFITH	TOTAL SERVICES CALUMET TOWNSHIP PROVIDED GRIFFITH RESIDENTS
2015	0.2297	\$1,185,129	\$53,293.10
2016	0.2672	\$1,444,614	\$35,549.98
2017	0.2631	\$1,548,004	\$20,756.11
2018	0.3470	\$2,173,845	\$31,323.54

(full financial report will be attached to minutes)

Mr. Ryfa also added that the TS does not keep statistics on how many people actually apply for relief vs. how many actually receive benefits.

At this point the following boards will meet, Board of Public Works, Finance Committee and Water Board. These boards consist of the members of the Town Council. Those attending these meetings consisted of all of the Council Members, the Clerk Treasurer and all others in attendance at the Town Council Meeting.

Melissa Robbins, President of the Board of Public Works called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. Board Member James Marker made a motion to approve the minutes from April 3, 2018 and August 28, 2018, seconded by Board Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Tony Hobson, President of the Finance Committee called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Committee Member James Marker made a motion to approve the minutes from April 3, 2018, seconded by Committee Member Lawrence Ballah. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.


Lawrence Ballah, President of the Water Board called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m Board Member James Marker made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2018, seconded by Board Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed.


Board Member Tony Hobson presented an appeal for relief from Eric & Melissa McKnight at 1707 Norwood. The property in question has a water line break in the crawl space during a time when the property was vacant. In excess of 400,000 gallons of water leaked into the crawl space the McKnight's are looking for relief on the Wastewater portion of the delinquent bill. Board


Member Tony Hobson made a motion to forgive \$1,707.68 of the total bill, this is only the Wastewater portion of the bill including penalties, seconded by Board Member Melissa Robbins. Motion carried, 5 in favor none opposed. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.


COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

  
Rick Ryfa – President

  
Larry Ballah – Vice President

  
James Marker

  
Tony Hobson

  
Melissa Robbins

  
Attest: John C. Volkmann – Clerk Treasurer