

January 12, 2016

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Rick Ryfa called the January 12, 2016 meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

James Marker
Larry Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Patricia Schaadt
Tony Hobson

ALSO ATTENDING:

George Jerome - Clerk Treasurer
Greg Mance – Police Chief
Roy Schoon – Fire Chief
Rick Konopasek – Director of Public Works
Bob Schwerd – Attorney for the Town

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Jim Marker moved to adopt the minutes of the January 5, 2016 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

1. Claim No. 5126 - \$87,580.68 (eighty-seven thousand, five hundred eighty dollars and sixty-eight cents) for a payment made in 2015 and
2. Claims No. 5127–5229 in the amount of \$284,971.66 (two hundred eighty-four thousand, nine hundred seventy-one dollars and sixty-six cents) were presented for payment. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to accept claims 5126 – 5229 as presented, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED
 - a. Clerk Treasurer Jerome explained that APV numbers will no longer reset to 0001 at the start of a new year. The software adopted in March 2015 is date specific and resetting is no longer required.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The council study session scheduled for Tuesday January 19th has been cancelled
2. The next council meeting will be Tuesday January 26th at 7:00 p.m. A study session will be held at 6:30 p.m. before the meeting and one will follow if necessary

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from NIRPC regarding appointment to Commission – Deferred

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Director of Public Works
3. Police
4. Fire
5. Economic Development
6. Pending Items
 - a. Plan Commission Vacancies - Deferred:

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE AGENDA:

1. NONE

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. None
2. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve Resolution 2016-01: A Resolution of Reorganization of Governmental Units, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

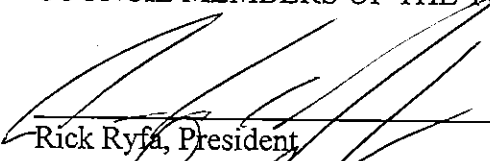
- b. Council Member Tony Hobson moved to authorize Council President Ryfa to sign NIPSCO Agreement – Rider 679, Interconnection Standards for Level 2 or 3 Facilities, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
- c. Council Member Jim Marker moved to authorize Council President Ryfa to sign NIPSCO Net Metering Agreement, second by Council Member Tony Hobson. MOTION CARRIED

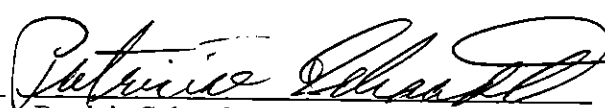
PUBLIC COMMENTS:

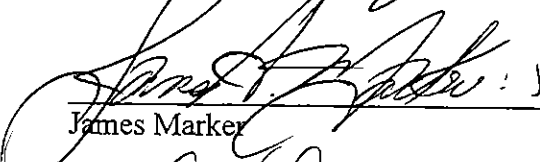
- Michael Stadnik, 1512 N Indiana spoke about CN issues and submitted a letter detailing his concerns (attached) He expressed concern about ongoing damage to personal property as well as Town of Griffith infrastructure. Public Works Director Konopasek will review problems in that area over the past few years.

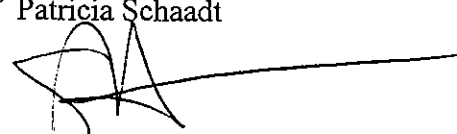
There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p. m.

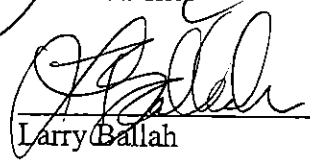
COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA


Rick Ryfa, President



Patricia Schaadt


James Marker


Tony Hobson


Larry Ballah

Attest:


George N. Jerome
Clerk-Treasurer

Michael & Elizabeth Stadnik
1512 N. Indiana St.
Griffith IN 46319
1/12/2015

Town of Griffith Board
Griffith IN

Dear Town of Griffith Board:

This letter is in reference to issues that have come about since the change in the C&N Railroad traffic has changed through our area. I am here to find out how to deal with a problem I've had with the EXCESSIVE VIBRATION and NOISE & EXHAUST from the locomotive. Needless to say, I am quite frustrated.

1. VIBRATION – The vibration that is being transferred from the railway is extreme. The grade of my land is approximately at the height of the locomotives due to being so close to Ridge Road. I would estimate the vibration to be similar to the earthquake that our area experienced a few years ago. The only difference this is multiple times a day. I am concerned for my home because I don't believe this is good for the structure. I also have found out that homeowners insurance does not cover this type of damage. There is either a problem with the tracks or the trains that go through here including excessive weight. I am also concerned about the infrastructure of our neighborhood of the water and sewer lines. Please see the following link in regards to freight train vibrations.
<https://stb.dot.gov/stb/docs/DME/DEIS/volume7part04.pdf>

2. NOISE & EXHAUST- Due to the trains stopping for a signal stop, the locomotives sit and idle for numerous hours in front of my residence. It is like being in a train yard all night. Along with the idling come the fumes from the diesel. We presently have had to run air conditioning from May through October because of the noise and the smell.

Sincerely,



Michael & Elizabeth Stadnik

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH REQUESTING REORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH SO THAT THE PORTION OF THE TOWN WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF CALUMET TOWNSHIP BE REMOVED FROM CALUMET TOWNSHIP AND PLACED WITHIN ST JOHN TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, in order to create a more fair and equitable form of government for the citizens of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Griffith is co-located in both Calumet Township and St. John Township; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-3(2) permits the consolidation of the participating political subdivisions into one of the participating subdivisions subject to the requirements of Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-5 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the taxpayers of the Town of Griffith that the Town be reorganized so that the portion of the Town within the boundaries of Calumet Township are removed from Calumet Township and placed within St. John Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, that the Town be reorganized so that its borders fall entirely within St. John Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

1. That all three subdivisions, the Town of Griffith, Calumet Township, and St. John Township, consider and approve this Resolution for Reorganization;
2. That upon adoption of this Resolution for Reorganization by each of the political subdivisions named herein, a reorganization committee be appointed to consider and adopt a plan of reorganization pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-15;
3. That the reorganization committee adopt rules governing its management, conduct public hearings, review books and records, administer oaths, and issue and enforce subpoenas and discovery orders pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-17;
4. That the reorganization committee prepare a comprehensive plan of reorganization for the reorganized political subdivisions that addresses the actions, duties, and powers of the reorganized political subdivisions not specified by law pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-18;
5. That the legislative bodies of each of the reorganized political subdivisions consider the reorganization plan and incorporate the plan in full or by reference in at least two separate meetings and a public hearing prior to final action by the legislative bodies pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-19;

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

6. That the legislative body with the largest population shall provide a certified copy of the reorganization plan to be filed with the County Recorder, the Department of Local Government Finance, and the Clerk of the Circuit Court in the county affected by the election district changes pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-24;

7. That the County Recorder notify the election board that a public question on a plan of reorganization is eligible to be placed on the ballot for consideration of the voters pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-26;

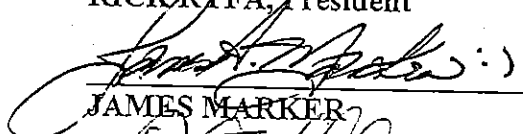
8. That the county election board place the question on the first regularly scheduled general election or municipal election in all precincts for the reorganizing political subdivisions pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1.5-4-28; and

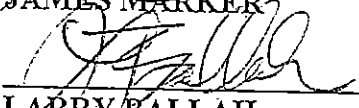
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Griffith forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the Calumet Township Board and the St. John Township Board for their consideration and response within sixty (60) days.

SO RESOLVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, on this 12th day of January, 2016.

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


RICK RYFA, President



JAMES MARKER


LARRY BALLAH


PATRICIA SCHAADT


TONY HOBSON

ATTEST:

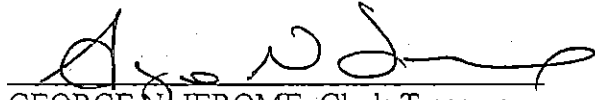

GEORGE N. JEROME,
Clerk-Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01

CERTIFICATION

I, George Jerome, duly elected and active Clerk-Treasurer of the Town of Griffith, do hereby certify that the attached Resolution 2016-01 "A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH REQUESTING REORGANIZATION OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH SO THAT THE PORTION OF THE TOWN WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF CALUMET TOWNSHIP BE REMOVED FROM CALUMET TOWNSHIP AND PLACED WITHIN ST JOHN TOWNSHIP" is a true and correct copy of same as it exists in the permanent records of the Town of Griffith.

Dated this 12th day of January, 2016


GEORGE N. JEROME, Clerk-Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-02

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, INDIANA PARK AND RECREATION BOARD TO ENTER INTO AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE AND UTILIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS PARTICIPATING IN A FEDERAL AID BICYCLE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-7-1 *et seq.*, allows local government entities to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to mutually purchase and utilize equipment, supplies, and services for the mutual benefit of each other; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Griffith, by its Park and Recreation Board; the City of Crown Point, by its Park Authority; the Town of Chesterton, by its Park and Recreation Board; the Town of Highland, through its Park and Recreation Department; the City of Hammond, by its Board of Park Commissioners; the Town of Merrillville, by its Park Authority; North Township, by its Township Board; the Town of Porter, by its Park Authority; the City of Portage, by its Park and Recreation Board; the Town of Schererville, through its Department of Park and Recreation; Lake County, through its Park and Recreation Department; and the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), all as participating entities, now desire to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement constructed pursuant to I.C. 36-1-7-1, *et seq.*, to provide for the ability to provide construction services for the mutual benefit of the participating entities, and as a shared cost, for the fabrication and installation of uniform wayfinding signage along existing bicycle and walking trails. A copy of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

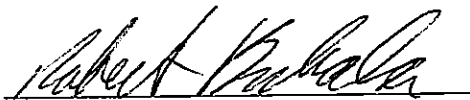
NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Park and Recreation Board of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, as follows:

The President of the Park and Recreation Board of the Town of Griffith is hereby authorized and directed to enter into an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the aforesaid political subdivisions for the purpose of fabrication and installation of uniform wayfinding signage along existing bicycle and walking trails.

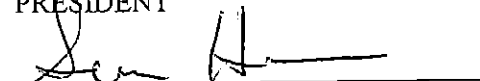
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Park and Recreation Board of the Town of Griffith, Lake County, Indiana, on this 11th day of January, 2016.

BOARD MEMBERS OF THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GRIFFITH, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA



PRESIDENT


VICE-PRESIDENT


MEMBER

MEMBER

SCHOOL BOARD EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

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1512 N. Indiana St.
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1/12/2015

Town of Griffith Board
Griffith IN

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