

January 7, 2014

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Council President Glen Gaby called the January 7, 2014 meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Larry Ballah
Rick Ryfa
Glen Gaby
Pat Schaadt
Stan Dobosz

ALSO ATTENDING:

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

1. President Gaby opened nominations for the position of Council President for 2014:
 - a. Council Member Pat Schaadt nominated Rick Ryfa for the position of President, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. There were no additional nominations. MOTION CARRIED
2. Council President Rick Ryfa took the chair and opened nominations for the position of Council Vice President for 2014:
 - a. Council Member Pat Schaadt nominated Glen Gaby for the position of Vice President, second by Council Member Larry Ballah. There were no additional nominations. MOTION CARRIED
3. Council President Ryfa thanked Council Vice President Gaby for his service as president over the past two years. These were years that were at times quite difficult. The town eliminated the Police Commission and created the New Safety Board to oversee both Police and Fire Departments; new Chiefs were appointed in both the Fire and Police Departments; and after years of effort, the Town was finally successful in getting legislation passed that is the first step in freeing Griffith from the financially burdened Calumet Township.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to adopt the minutes of the December 17, 2013 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED
2. Council Member Stan Dobosz moved to adopt the minutes of the December 27, 2013 meeting as presented, second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be a council study session on Tuesday January 14th at 5:00 p.m.
2. The next council meeting will be January 21st 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.
3. Because of the weekend storms, trash pick-up will be delayed one day to Friday.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. The Hoosier Rails to Trails Council sent a letter requesting permission to address the council. The Clerk Treasurer was instructed to contact them to schedule a date and time.

REPORTS:

1. NIRPC – No Report
2. Community Policing Committee – No Report
3. Board of Public Works
 - a. There was discussion regarding the recent threats made by the Mayor of Hammond regarding the Town's contract with the Hammond Sanitary District. The Town is currently awaiting a judges ruling regarding the legality of HSD's unilateral cancelation of our contract with more than 5-years remaining.
 - b. The council is adamant in their determination to pursue every avenue to ensure that the town's sewer Utility has a reliable method of treating sewage.
 - c. It was pointed out that the alternatives include the extension of our current 25-year contract with HSD, building our own treatment plant or finding an alternate treatment provider.
4. Director of Public Works
 - a. The crews have been working 12 hours on and 12 hours off since the weekend in order to keep the streets open.
 - b. Today they went back to 8-hours shifts because the roads are in pretty good shape and the alleys have been cleared.
5. Police
 - a. Chief Mance reported very favorable end-of-year crime statistics for the town
 - i. The most significant decline was in aggravated assaults which are defined as the unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury, usually by the use of a weapon. This category declined from 23 in 2012 to 5 in 2013. A 78% decrease. The reductions are all the more remarkable based on the fact that the force was understaffed between 15% and 25% over the course of the year.
 - ii. When questioned, Chief Mance attributed the overall decline to
 1. The establishment of the ongoing partnership with IUN's Center for Urban and Regional Excellence and Dr Joseph Ferrandino's crime mapping
 2. The efficient allocation of resources based on statistical analysis
 3. The engaged partnership with residents and rental property owners
 4. The dedication of the officers and staff
 - b. Chief Mance also reported that we currently have three officers in Field Training and two in the academy. By mid-summer, the department will be fully staffed
 - c. Council Member Larry Ballah asked for an update on the take-home car policy. Chief Mance reported that it is working out well and recently, an off-duty officer was in town with his vehicle when a report came in regarding suspicious activity. This officer responded to the call that resulted in the interruption of a potential break-in.
6. Fire – No Report
7. E911 – No Report
8. Pending Items
 - a. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Consolidation of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS) and authorize the council resident to sign the agreement, second by Council Member Glen Gaby. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS FROM THE COUNCIL:

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. None

2. NEW BUSINESS

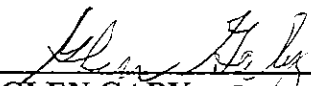
- a. Council Member Pat Schaadt moved to approve Resolution 2014-01: A Resolution Transferring Funds to V.E.S.T., second by Council Member Glen Gaby. MOTION CARRIED
- b. Council Member Larry Ballah moved to approve Resolution 2014-02: A Resolution Transferring Funds from Water Bond of 2003 to Water Operating.
- c. Council Member Glen Gaby moved to approve filling the following board and commission vacancies:
- i. Emergency Medical Service
 - 1. Dorothy Soverly – 3-year term ending 12/31/2016
 - ii. Safety Board
 - 1. Elizabeth Goral (R) – 3-year term ending 12/31/2016
 - 2. John Volkmann (D) – 3-year term ending 12/31/2016
- second by Council Member Pat Schaadt. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Alan Stankovich, 421 E 34th Ct spoke about snow removal in his cul-de-sac

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p. m.

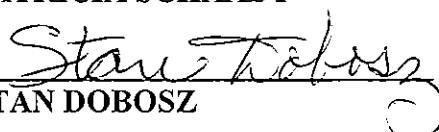
**TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF GRIFFITH**


GLEN GABY


LAWRENCE BALLAH


RICK RYFA


PATRICIA SCHAADT


STAN DOBOSZ


GEORGE N. JEROME
CLERK TREASURER