

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council

March 12, 2020

I. The meeting was called to order by Chuck Briede at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:

Rich Gamble—present
Matt Stewart—absent
Travis LeMaster—present
Dave Fox—absent
Chuck Briede—present

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Chuck Briede

II. Minutes

Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-Aye
Matt Stewart-Absent
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

III. Bills

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as written. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Rich Gamble-Aye
Matt Stewart-Absent
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. Public Forum

No comments.

V. Department Reports

Parks Dept.—Parks President Steve Kelley was present at the meeting.

- Richard Vonnegut of the Indiana Trails Association has requested an additional 500 Sweetser Switch Trail flyers and has agreed to reimburse the town \$500.
- Steve submitted for reimbursement invoices totaling \$249.76 for repair parts and paint that he applied to the train baggage cart.
- Steve distributed a quote from All Things Custom to develop and produce a new town sign. The sign will contain 5 information slots per side and the slots can be sold for \$170 each. Oak Hill Schools Superintendent Joel Martin has okayed placement of the sign on school property. Chuck Briede suggested we may need approval from the state or county. Cost of the sign would not exceed \$2,600.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to accept the quote from All Things Custom for a new town sign at a cost not to exceed \$2,600 and with the fund allocation to be determined by the clerk. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-Aye
Matt Stewart-Absent
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

- Long-time resident Howard Schick has passed away. The parks department has been receiving a number of donations in memory of Howard. Steve proposes to use those donations and other parks funds to install a new display Kiosk at the trail head to the Sweetser Switch Trail. DNR would donate \$652 to relocate the existing sign. In addition to trail information, the kiosk would be used to house the donation acknowledgement plaques that are currently installed on trees along the trail. The kiosk would consist of two 4' x 8' tri-panel display cases under a wood structure. Steve will build the structure and install the display cases. Total cost of the project is approximately \$1,830.

Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the project to install a new Kiosk at the trail head and have the existing sign relocated at a cost of \$1,830 utilizing donations made in memory of Howard Schick, DNR funds, and existing parks funds. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Steve distributed a quote to replace the vandalized water fountain located at the town hall shelter. The proposed replacement is an upgrade from the prior fountain: it is refrigerated and has a water bottle fill feature. Being refrigerated, it would need to be drained in the winter months. Cost is \$1,007.50.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the purchase of a new water fountain for the town hall shelter location at a cost not to exceed \$1,007.50. Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Steve recommended that the town consider purchasing at least one AED (Automated External Defibrillator). Travis agreed and suggested we gather some information for consideration.

Police Dept.—Marshall Ryan Hornback was present at the meeting.

- A handgun was stolen from a Sweetser resident in 2016. Former Marshal Bill Freet initiated work on the case. The handgun has been recovered in Chicago. It will be returned to Marshal Ryan who will then return it to the owner. There will be an Indiana Data and Communication System (IDACS) audit of the case.
- Ryan found a handgun and holster in the street at the intersection of Sherron & Osborn. It has not been reported missing or claimed as of the date of this meeting.
- Joshua Miller will not be returning as deputy due to health issues. Ryan intends to hire Allison Compton to fill that position.
- Ryan and deputies plan to wear polo shirts during warm weather this year. They will purchase on their own. It is allowed in the SOP so council approval is not required.
- Ryan contemplating hiring another deputy to cover Saturday's 2nd shift.
- Demi Cheek, the new crossing guard, is doing a good job. Ryan also hired her mother to fill-in when Demi was unavailable.
- Chuck asked if the security cameras were operational and Ryan said they were not but he would revisit the issue when the weather improves.

Maintenance Dept.—Superintendent Devin Cole was present at the meeting.

- Devin met with Greg Gray to discuss the scope of work to remediate the drainage issue with Mr. Gray's yard and adjacent areas. Devin intends to have Mitch Cook cut a swell between the properties of Gray and his

neighbor, set a catch basin on the Gray side of the street, and then connect it to the existing catch basin on the other side of the street.

- Mitch Cook is scheduled to clean up the catch basin work at the corners of Peterson and Main when weather permits.
- Devin said there is some work to do on the Washington Street issue and that two Main Street catch basins need to be repaired.
- The screen at the treatment plant is back in working order.
- Devin is obtaining quotes from B.L. Anderson Company to repair the treatment plant UV system.
- Devin followed-up on the quote from CIC for work at the Eagle lift station, reported the quote was accurate, distributed the quote, and recommended we award that portion of the work to CIC. The project will require coordination with American Pump Company: the town will perform the vac work, CIC will install brackets and piping, and American Pump will provide new pump and control panel. There is an approximate 3-week lead time after project is approved.

Chuck Briede made a motion to accept the quote form CIC for bracketing and piping work at the Eagle lift station. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-Aye

Matt Stewart-Absent

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Devin will obtain a quote from CIC for the remaining work at the Case lift station.
- When the Main Street and Highway 18 project start, the bridge will be closed for approximately three months.
- Devin and Mitch Hansel of Fleis & Vandenbrink are meeting with INDOT to initiate the process for the town to acquire the corner property at State Road 18 and Main so that sidewalk ramps can be installed there. This process will also involve coordination with the Oak Hill School Corporation, which is the owner of the property. After acquisition from Oak Hill, the town would donate the property to INDOT, who would then be responsible for future maintenance.
- Both mowers were sent to TTG in Swayzee for repairs and maintenance.
- Chuck reported that there appears to be an electrical issue at the Kuch lift station as the monthly charges for that station have been much higher than unusual the past two months. Devin will coordinate with AEP to have AEP perform some tests.

VI. Continuing Business

- Town counsel Michael Hotz was not present at the meeting; no additional information available at this time on the town's attempted acquisition of the unimproved Church Street property.

VII. New Business

- It has been determined that the town should pursue the installation of a new electrical pole at Pawadise Park: the existing pole location is suboptimal for current and anticipated uses of the area, such as the Harmony Music Festival. Council will ask Devin to contact AEP to initiate request.
- Steve mentioned that the train cars and associated items are quite valuable. Steve will provide a list to the clerk so the town's asset management program and insurance coverage can be updated.
- Steve recommended that the town seek a grant to replace the street lights along Main Street. The idea behind this is that the lights should be replaced before the sidewalk work begins.
- Chuck reported that Steve Brock of Therber & Brock had submitted to Grant County a request to revise the 2020 TIF calculation, as he detected errors in the proposed calculation. The county corrected the errors to Steve's satisfaction and he forwarded the revised report to the clerk and council for review. The clerk reviewed the report, deemed it accurate, and will submit to the state by the due date.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chuck Briede to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Travis LeMaster and passed by voice acclimation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter