

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2015

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Sweetser Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 22, 2015, at the Sweetser Town Hall by Council President Travis LeMaster.

II. Roll Call of Board Members Present:

Rich Gamble, Chuck Draine, Chuck Briede, Travis LeMaster, Steve Kelley

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Travis LeMaster. Prayer was given by Rich Gamble.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

Steve Kelley made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2015, regular session. Rich Gamble seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble - Aye

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede - Aye

Travis LeMaster - Aye

Steve Kelley - Aye

IV. Review and Approval of Bills

Steve Kelley made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. Chuck Draine seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Rich Gamble - Aye

Chuck Draine - Aye

Chuck Briede - Aye

Travis LeMaster - Aye

Steve Kelley - Aye

V. Department Reports

Sweetser Town Maintenance Manager - Devin Cole

Devin Cole stated that the town received the notice to proceed on the INDOT project. Devin stated that the town has to keep up on the quarterly reports until the project starts.

Devin and Ken attended the pipeline safety training at Honeywell and received their certification for excavating around pipelines. The certification is good for two years.

Devin stated they are continuing with crack sealing on the streets.

Devin told the council that they will need to bring sludge in for the start-up of the treatment plant the second week of February. They intend to haul it in from Converse or LaFontaine. Devin is also looking into purchasing lab and office equipment for the treatment plant. He is making a list and will get prices for the Council. Steve Kelley stated that the furniture cost is approximately \$5,000.00 and the lab equipment is approximately \$15,000.00. Devin will look into getting discounts for the equipment.

Devin stated that he ordered a load of sand and three skids of salt to treat the streets. He will get in the program to purchase in bulk in 2015.

Devin passed along a request from the Board of the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department that the town consider putting in a fuel tank at the treatment plant for the fire department to use. The fire department has offered to pay for the concrete pad for the fuel tank. Devin also stated that he is looking into having the electricity installed by Hueston Electric for the fence. The electricity is required to power the keypad on the fence.

Town Attorney Kim Rogers

Kim Rogers stated that he is looking at dates for the annexation hearings and is proposing April 23rd. Kim stated that he also needs legal descriptions for all of the parcels to be included in the ordinances. Notice must be given to the land owner on the south side of 18. Kim asked the council about the advisability of having all 5 hearings at the same time versus holding more than one hearing. Notice of the hearings will need to be published in the newspaper and certified mailings will need to go to the land owners. Kim also requested permission to contact special counsel regarding the annexation. Kim has spoken with Joe Rompala at Lewis & Kappes and they do have attorneys who have experience with annexation issues. Kim has not been given a fee schedule for their work yet. Discussion was held and the town council recommended holding a special meeting for the hearings. The annexation costs were discussed and the council will wait for the fee schedule from Lewis & Kappes. The council suggested a special meeting to be held on April 30, 2015, for the hearings on all parcels proposed for annexation. Steve Kelley stated that Joel Martin asked about how the annexations would affect the school corporation. Discussion was held regarding how farm land is affected with property tax caps.

Kim Stated that he is approximately 1/3 of the way through reviewing the police department SOP. He is marking where changes are needed.

Kim also is working on the conflict of interest forms for Chuck Briede and Travis LeMaster to sign for 2015.

Chuck Briede is to get Kim a copy of the sewer use ordinance to review.

VI. Open Forum

There were no comments from the public.

VII. Other Business

a. Continuing Business

Waste Water Treatment Plant—Steve Kelley gave an update from the progress meeting earlier in the day. Steve stated that the electrical is being worked on, the piping to the pressure tank is set, the maintenance garage is done except for the lighting, the lavatory is complete except for switch cover plates and baseboard, the HVAC needs to be installed. Work continues on the safety railing, wiring and the backfill around the structure. The force main will be run under State Road 18 next week and the electricity should be done in the next two weeks. AEP still needs to run the electrical line under the road. Steve also stated that the influent screen arrived at the plant today. The contractor stated that it was the original screen which was reported stolen. It was found 30 miles from Zachrich's office in Ohio. They are still waiting for the generator to be delivered. There will also be gravel added to even out the driveway.

Travis LeMaster informed the council that Zachrich has requested an extension of the contract from February 2, 2015, to March 16, 2015. Discussion was held and Travis asked Kim Rogers to look into the wording in the contract and authorized Kim to notify Zachrich of the town's intent to exercise its' right to damages under the contract.

Travis LeMaster informed the council that the most recent bill for waste water treatment from Marion Utilities was more than \$30,000.00 for the time period covering December 2, 2014, through January 2, 2015. Kim Rogers was provided a copy of the bill.

Devin Cole stated that the work to change the lift stations can begin even if the town is still puming the waste to Marion.

b. New Business

Sewer Use Ordinance 2015-6 should be ready for the Board's consideration at the next meeting per Chuck Briede.

The new crossing guard began working yesterday.

Steve Kelley stated that the Greenways Foundation sent notice of two bills introduced which create funding of the trails maintenance fund. Steve also gave Travis LeMaster paperwork for the nominations for an award for outstanding groups, public official, corporation or local government. Also, the Indiana Trails Community is sponsoring a booth at the Sport and Travel show at the Indiana Fair Grounds starting February 20th and they are looking for individuals to work the booth. Steve has been looking for individuals to help man the booth.

Steve Keiley stated that the Economic Growth Council LEO dinner is on February 20th.

Steve Keiley stated that he spoke with Joel Martin about the traffic problem at the elementary school in the mornings. The school shared an architectural drawing showing the new drive at the school and parking lot and the proposed traffic flow. The school is looking for funding for the project.

Travis LeMaster shared that the town received a letter from the Converse Police Department. They are seeking donations to start a canine unit.

Steve Kelley reported that he spoke with Middlesworths about the trail and they seem receptive.

Chuck Briede made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned by unanmicos consent at 7:43 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Eileen D. LeMaster, Clerk/Treasurer

Travis LeMaster
Steve Kelley

Chuck Briede
Chuck Briede

Bill P. Sube