

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2016

I. Call to Order/Roll Call of Board Members Present/Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer

The regular meeting of the Sweetser Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on February 11, 2016, at the Sweetser Town Hall by Council President Chuck Briede.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble – Aye
Chuck Draine-Absent
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye
Steve Kelley-Aye

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chuck Briede. Prayer was given by Rich Gamble.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes/Review and Approval of Bills

Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble- Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Chuck Briede – Aye
Steve Kelley – Aye
Chuck Draine –Absent

Chuck Briede and Travis LeMaster asked the clerk (Tina) to change the Lowes bill of \$1346.00 that was originally charged to the General Fund and to take it from the CCI Fund, since it was a major improvement to the Town Hall Bathroom. Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the bills as written with the exception of the Lowes bill of \$1346.00 to be paid from the CCI Fund rather than the General Fund. Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-Aye
Travis LeMaster – Aye
Chuck Briede – Aye
Steve Kelley –Aye
Chuck Draine-Absent

III. Appointments:

Chuck decided to skip the appointments this time. On the Redevelopment Commission board Chuck is talking to one person to see if they're interested.

IV. Open Forum

Tom Walters stated he moved here in September of 1966, and in 1967 he joined the Pleasant Township Fire Dept., while on the fire department he kept noticing a problem, there was a crossing arm and blinker light at the train track for the train going east and west. This was the only railroad crossing in town and it presented a problem for the Kuch's Kove (at that time) if there was a train on the track. This presented a problem for the fire department to get to the Kove, the fire department would have to go completely around the outskirts of town to get to the Kove. So, in 1988 -1990 while on the Sweetser Town Board he decided to try and do something about it, he heard that Kokomo was having a Pennsylvania RailRoad Seminar, he went to see if there was something that could be done. He found out it's very extensive to maintain the crossing arms. There was an additional problem, he indicated where the shelter house sits that this was a ballist pit, where they(railroad) would dump stone. The railroad would bring a railroad car and it would sit there and dump stone all day. When Tom got home from the seminar he decided to call the Pennsylvania railroad engineer to discuss this problem, and possibly move the ballist pit to County Road 400. At that time the Pennsylvania

RailRoad was having financial problems so the town council agreed to pay Pennsylvania Railroad \$15000.00 to move the ballist pit to CR 400, so it would keep the passage clear to Kuch's Kove, and it put an open street behind Town Hall for residents to be able to go south. Tom said then the railroad started taking the rails up so the town council paid the Pennsylvania RailRoad \$8000 for that first mile and that is how the park was formed, it just didn't magically appear. Tom Walters was the person that was responsible for getting all this accomplished.

v. Department Reports.

Travis met with Bill and Ryan on their take with the Reserve Program, Travis said Bill and the board won't bring someone in that they aren't comfortable with. It will be a review process, basically the program has been lifted only.

Steve Kelley gave the report for Devin as he was absent, Steve said the heat trace cable and parts are in, they have started putting the pipe in, once all done they will start wrapping the pipes with the foil where the heat trace is present and then Zakrich will come in and insulate.

V. Continuing Business

Chuck Briede mentioned that INDOT is interested in some of our dirt Steve Kelley called up and talked with Steve Niblick about putting in a pond and what we would have to do. He needs size of total tract, along with quite a few other things. INDOT needs 15,000 cubic yards for the work being done at the St.Rd.18 and St.Rd 13 bridge, so they asked the town if they would be interested in trading dirt for a pond, it's called a borrowing pit, borrowing dirt for a pond. Steve indicated that it wouldn't create any additional cost on our insurance for this. The pond would be about 3 acres and about 10 to 12 feet deep. They would put a gravel road on the north side of the trees that would lead back to the pond, discussion was held about stocking the pond with fish, the fire department could possibly use it for water if needed, we could possibly put a path around it and maybe have some picnic benches for the public. Everyone sees this as a good thing, everyone was on board about it.

Steve Kelley picked up T-shirts for Indiana's Bicentennial year, they're available at Sweetser Town Hall for \$15.00, hats are available also for \$15.00. Steve also has pricing available if someone wants to donate a park bench or tree in a loved one's honor for the new trail expansion. Kelly Moses designed the logo for the shirts and hats, Thank You Kelly!!

VI. New Business

Chuck Briede stated we got our 1782 Notice on the Budget, we projected high for the General Fund at \$260,410 but knew we could generally get by with \$240,410. The state gave us \$215,113 for 2106, last year they gave us \$242,741.00, so the difference over all from 2015 to 2016 is \$-27,623, Chuck indicated it's going to be a tight year. We do have the pilot money (payment in lieu of taxes) that helps the town. Chuck Briede went over all the funds and what the state approved for our budget.

VII. Adjournment

Rich Gamble made a motion we adjourn, everyone was in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.







