

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2017

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 23, 2017 at the Sweetser Town Hall by Council Member Chuck Briede

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble – Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Steve Kelley-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chuck Briede. Prayer was given by Matt Stewart.

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

Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9th, 2017 town board meeting and Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Rich Gamble-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Steve Kelley-Aye

Reviewing the bills, Steve Kelley made mention of the final grant money received from the DNR for the Sweetser Switch Trail Project. Steve Kelley made a motion to accept the bills as entered and Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Rich Gamble-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Steve Kelley-Aye

III. Open Forum

No one came forward.

IV. Public Hearing-Property transfer to Habitat for Humanity

This is a Public Hearing the town board is holding for the transfer of ownership on the town's two properties to Habitat for Humanity. Chuck asked if anyone would like to speak in favor or against this transfer to Habitat. This record states that no one came forward at this public hearing to speak for or against this transfer. Chuck said at this time we could pass on second reading, Kim had a slight change on the first page of the Ordinance. Kim Rogers emailed a copy to David Payne whom is the attorney for Habitat for Humanity, Kim had not received a response from David Payne so he assumes it is all okay with him as he didn't have a problem with the first copy of the Ordinance that Kim had sent him. Steve Kelley made a motion to pass Ordinance 2017-1 on second reading the transfer of Real Estate to Habitat for Humanity and Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Rich Gamble-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Steve Kelley-Aye

Matt Stewart made a motion to pass Ordinance 2017-1 to third and final reading the transfer of Real Estate to Habitat for Humanity.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Rich Gamble-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Steve Kelley-Aye

Chuck Briede then explained all the expenses incurred over the last 3 years on this Blight Elimination Program. He broke down the costs associated with this project.

Steve and Chuck then asked Habitat for Humanity if they would be willing to split the remaining costs of the surveys and closing cost for each parcel. Mary Wheeler the Director of Habitat indicated they would have to ask the Habitat board which meets the 1st Tuesday of each month.

Harold Smuck indicated he has six churches onboard to do a blitz build on one of the properties, he believes he has the Oak Hill Industrial Education Program on tap to build a storage shed on each property. There was additional discussion from Habitat about building the properties, Steve wondered if Habitat supplies their own tools and they do supply some, some groups that are involved putting their teams together bring tools. They pre-build all the walls so when the foundation is ready they bring everything in at once to start putting it together.

V. Department Reports

Devin had nothing to report from the WWTP. Marshall Bill was not in attendance, Chuck gave a report that the police radios arrived. Matt also said the reserve officer Charlie Cable will be working to direct traffic for Liberty Baptist Church on Sundays to release traffic after church on State Road 18. Bill wondered if he could use his Sweetser Police Department uniform while doing this and Matt said it wouldn't be a good idea since he's not doing town work.

Continuing Business

Steve, Devin and Dave Fox made up with Triad last week. Steve said they had a meeting with Triad, they're working at getting all the corrections. They will be working on getting the power to the emissions equipment ran, then BL Anderson will come up to hook it up. Steve went on to explain other things on the list that Triad hasn't completed that was addressed along with the mold situation inside the sewage treatment plant.

Steve called a friend (whom he indicated is very intelligent) and asked him if he could come view the mold situation at the plant and give any recommendations to the town board, he said he would give Steve a report on his suggestions. Devin indicated he was contacting a couple of different companies to come in and give their recommendations on the mold. Matt asked if Triad is fitting the bill on all these issues.

Epc-Air Products

Kim added an additional line to Chuck Briede's letter that will be going out to Air Products. He thinks we need to get our own infiltration fixed first, Devin said we really can't take on any new business as the plant is at ninety percent capacity, discharging about 138,000 gallons a day. The plant's maximum discharge is 150,000 gallons a day. Matt mentioned that we really need to deal with the infiltration before anything else and the board agreed.

Mitch Hansel said that Air Products could be a good customer if we could get things worked out.

Steve Kelley made a motion to send the letter to Air Products and Matt Stewart seconded the motion

Roll Call

Dave Fox-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Rich Gamble-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

Steve Kelley-Aye

Kim said he spoke with Don Wimmer about the field work, he indicated it's almost done with the legal description of the property that Byron Cook wants to donate to the town. When he has the survey he'll take to Auditor's office to certify the land.

Steve asked Matt to have Marshall Bill pay a visit to the resident on Laura Lane that has the huge travel trailer, and ask him to push it back a bit more in his driveway.

VI. New Business

Steve opened the bids on the INDOT letters of interest on the sidewalks, these bids are from the engineers bidding on the sidewalk projects. The board needs to score the bids, and indicate which firm they would like to work with. The engineers who submitted were Duram Engineering from Anderson, JPR from Ft. Wayne and Fleis and Vandenbrink from Ft. Wayne. A committee must be established to score the bids.

Steve commented the state maybe raising the gas tax by ten cents, if this happens he thought the state might be changing the Community Crossing Grant this grant from 50/50 to 80/20, this is the grant for the paving of our streets here in Sweetser. If they do make this grant available for the 80/20 Steve thought we should really look in at having a majority of our streets paved.

Chuck mentioned that the town received the Budget 1782 Notice, he reviewed what the town received from the state on each fund. The board discussed how the town might pay off the balance of the loan on the Sweetser Switch Trail Fund.

Chuck also asked Devin if the town had some oneway signs, as some were needed in a few spots. Steve also indicated that the town's insurance doesn't allow any family, friends or business vendors to be a passenger in any of the town's vehicles. Only town employees may ride in the town's vehicles according to the town's insurance policy.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.
Tina J Cole
Clerk Treasurer

Charles V. Brown

Matthew C. Stewart

Steve Kelly

RD-2FX
