

New Carlisle Town Council
124 E. Michigan Street, New Carlisle, Indiana
General Meeting, August 28, 2018, 5:00 PM

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Carter called the meeting to order with Council Member Rypma, Council Member Vermillion, Council Member Budreau, Council Member Kauffman and Clerk-Treasurer Susan Moffitt present.

Also in attendance were Jared Huss, Andrea Halpin, Jill Doll, Josh Schweizer, Cal Dittmar, Stephanie Murphy, Bob Middlebrook, Bradley Howe and Dave Doll.

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018 General Meeting as written was made by Council Member Rypma and seconded by Council Member Kauffman. Council Members Vermillion and Budreau abstained. Motion passed 3-0.

Public Comments

- Dave Doll

Dave expressed concern about the Town moving forward with the purchase of a pumper tanker when we have fire hydrants throughout town and do not need the tanker portion. If the territory does not go through, the lease for the truck cannot be transferred and the town residents will bear the full cost of the truck. He stated that he is questioning the Town purchasing and paying for the truck without participation from Olive or Hudson Townships and is not questioning the need for the truck.

Employee Reports

- Police Chief Cal Dittmar

Chief Dittmar announced that the newest member of the department, Brandon Lewandowski and his wife have a new baby, Nora June Lewandowski, who was born on August 26th. Brandon is currently in his fourth week of academy and will graduate on November 16.

Chief Dittmar reports that he shared a link regarding a Kansas police officer killed in the line of duty on the police department's Facebook page. The officer's young son was collecting patches from other police departments and the chief sent one of their patches to him. He shared a printout of the article and a thank you card that he received that he feels should be put on the board.

- Attorney Andrea Halpin

Andrea reports that she has reviewed the pumper/tanker lease proposal and has done work in preparation for the meetings later today.

- Engineer Jared Huss

Jared reports that he and John continue to work with the Collins Group and may need to discuss this with Andrea in case they are not able to fulfill their portion of the agreement.

Jared will bring the contracts for the previously approved sidewalk project tomorrow for President Carter's signature.

Jared and Jeff from Lawson Fisher will meet with John regarding the sanitary sewer. There will be another call for projects from OCRA at the end of the year that we may want to consider for this project.

The paving preservation project should be finished in the next week or two. He will get back with them to see exact times so that we can share the information on our website.

Jared reports that both John and Sue have completed registration and are now confirmed on the LTAP website which is a new requirement for the Community Crossings Grant. MACOG is again assisting the Town with the application process for the grant submittal due at the end of September. A financial commitment letter will also be required and will need Ken's signature.

- Public Works Director John Mrozinski

John reports that he met with Council Member Kauffman last Monday and showed her both water treatment plants, lift stations and other things around town. They also met with Nancy Taplin and Roger and a representative from the splash pad company.

H&G will be starting replacement of water service lines at the homes in the 100 block of West Front Street on Thursday to be ahead of Walsh & Kelly beginning the sidewalk project. They will also be working in the alley on the west side of Home Café to put in a new water shut off.

John has reached out to Permar, the security company that has been working with the school corporation, and will meet with a representative on Thursday.

John recently met with Rick Lee regarding a proposed Eagle Scout Project to add a path along the school/Edge of the Woods property back to Bourissa. Much further discussion will be required with the scouts, School Corporation and Town. John has agreed that the town would maintain this once it is complete.

Old Business

- Tanker/Pumper Truck Purchase

Asst. Chief Schweizer reports that he submitted stuff to Andrea about the lease information for the truck that the fire department would like to purchase.

Andrea explained that the main concern is that if the town were to purchase the truck we would have to meet that financial commitment and it could not be done by a non-existent fire territory. The main question was can we assign the lease to the fire territory once it is formed. The document she reviewed is for a lease from the finance company to look at the terms. The master contract allows us to assign the lease with permission of the finance company. We would have to assure them that the persons/entity we are assigning it to is financially able to assume the payments. She then reviewed the assignment and felt that it was good and allows us to completely divest ourselves from financial responsibility if the other entity takes it on. Ultimately we could transfer or assign the contract to a territory as long as it is financially viable.

Council Member Vermillion reports that the bids we received will go by the wayside if we do not act soon. Asst. Chief Schweizer stated that the three companies will hold the bids until September 1.

Council Member Vermillion stated that Dave Doll made a very valid point. Fire Chief Middlebrook explained that the idea of a pumper tanker is the convenience of having two trucks in one. He stated that it is correct that the Town does not need the tanker but we currently don't have an engine backup for the Town which we do need. In the case of the downtown, he explained that they would not want to rely on one pumper and would take two and go in different directions. He added that there are issues with hydrants in some parts of town so the idea that this is just for the townships is foolish because we definitely need a second pumper.

Council Member Rypma asked for clarification that we need both a tanker and pumper. Chief Middlebrook stated that yes, we do, but can't get two separate trucks right now. Council Member Kauffman asked if we purchase this truck and don't go to a fire territory, would it remain the Town's responsibility. Andrea and Sue both stated that this is their understanding because due to Olive Township's current financial situation they are not able to participate in the purchase. President Carter stated that the prices are good through September 1 and chances are the price will increase after that date. Josh stated that one of the three bidders did increase their price and that will happen with the other two bidders as well.

President Carter asked what the reason is for the huge discrepancy in prices on the three bids. Asst. Chief Schweizer explained that the lowest bidder has a whole list of things they can't or won't meet. Pierce is the middle price and there are some things they won't provide and then the third bid meets all expectations but is the highest cost. Council Member Kauffman requested information on the points the lowest bidder won't or can't comply with since the difference in costs is so big and also requested to see the specs. She questioned that with over \$200,000 difference in costs, is the lowest bid that much inferior. Josh stated that one difference is they won't put restraints in because they aren't needed. Council Member Kauffman asked Chief Middlebrook what he thought about the differences and he deferred to the Asst. Chief on the specifications.

Council Member Vermillion stated that we can squabble all we want but if the fire department says this is what they want and this is what they need then that is what we need to do. He asked if we are willing to spend money on this particular apparatus and if not it will need to be rebid and we need to decide tonight. Council Member Vermillion stated that if they say it is good then it is and if they are happy then we should be happy too. The bottom line is, are we willing to spend this kind of money for what the fire department needs. He stated that Davey brings up a good point but if circumstances warranted use of a tanker and a hydrant wouldn't work and we lost two kids in a fire it would be terrible.

Jared stated that from the engineering and utility side he and John can absolutely address any issue of hydrants that are not working properly. He asked if there is an asset management plan such as the one the police department instituted several years ago and Asst. Chief Schweizer responded that they are trying to do that now.

Chief Middlebrook stated that the Asst. Chief is taking the heat on this but the fire department always puts a committee together to decide these things.

Council Member Kauffman stated that she doesn't doubt the need but it is a lot of money and she is concerned about the differences in the bids and costs received and is also concerned that this could become another twist to requiring a fire territory.

Sue reminded the Council that, because Olive Twp. will not be participating in this purchase, should a territory not be formed, the Town will be solely responsible for the entire cost of this apparatus. Additionally, should a territory be formed and for some reason the lease agreement not be allowed to be transferred, it would leave the Town solely responsible and with no levy for fire as that would all go to the territory.

Council Member Vermillion asked if we can approve the purchase conditionally and Andrea responded that we could.

Asst. Chief Schweizer recommends accepting the bid from Pierce.

Sue stated that since the plan discussed is for a fire territory to accept the lease transfer so that the Town is not responsible, we would need to be certain that Pierce would not require the first payment until 2020. Asst. Chief Schweizer responded that Pierce isn't actually financing the truck and that it is another company. Sue stated that additional interest rate quotes should be obtained when and if a decision is made on which apparatus will be purchased.

Council Member Budreau moved that the pumper/tanker bids be tabled until bids and terms of the agreement are clarified. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rypma and passed unanimously.

Dave Doll stated that Josh had said previously that you can turn these vehicles in at the end of the lease agreement and he asked if we had looked into purchasing one of those.

New Business

- Outstanding Checks

The Clerk-Treasurer is required annually to furnish the Town Council a list of all checks that have been outstanding for a period of two or more years as of December 31 of the preceding year. This report of checks is to be declared void with the amounts listed to be entered as a receipt to the fund or funds from which they were originally drawn and the checks removed from the list of outstanding checks. The Clerk-Treasurer presented a report of checks outstanding for two or more years as of December 31, 2017 and respectfully requested that the Council accept this annual report of voided outstanding checks.

Council Member Vermillion moved that this annual report of outstanding checks prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer be accepted and the checks be voided and the amounts receipted back into the original funds. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rypma and passed unanimously.

Resolutions and Ordinances

- Ordinance #1365 – A salary ordinance for employees of the Town of New Carlisle

A motion to waive the rules to allow for the adoption of Ordinance #1365 this evening was made by Council Member Rypma and seconded by Council Member Budreau. The motion passed unanimously.

President Carter read Ordinance #1365 in entirety for the second reading.

President Carter read Ordinance #1365 by caption only for the third reading.

Upon a motion by Council Member Vermillion and second by Council Member Budreau the motion passed unanimously.

President Carter read a letter from Mrs. Mona Kafka requesting that she be charged the sprinkle rate (charged for water only) for the month of September as she is not living in the home and is using water only to establish the lawn.

Council Member Budreau moved to allow the sprinkle rate so only water is charged for the month of September for the new lawn at 204 S. Harris Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vermillion and passed 4-1. Council Member Rypma voted nay.

Council Reports

Council Member Rypma

Council Member Rypma would like to meet with John soon to discuss information received at the meeting with the splash pad representative.

Council Member Kauffman

Council Member Kauffman thanked John for taking her around and showing her the water plants and other town things and thanked Sue for meeting with her to discuss budgets and other ongoing items today.

Council Member Budreau

The Park Board discussed future plans at the last park board meeting and Council Member Budreau hopes to continue that discussion.

Council Member Budreau stated that he has received many, many questions about the emergency loan that Olive Township has applied for. He has explained that the loan is strictly for the Township and not the Town.

President Carter

President Carter expressed thanks to Lawson Fisher for the invitation to their recent golf outing. He reports that everyone had a great time. Jared replied that the Town's team had great outfits and he thinks Bob must be good at everything because his golfing was straight.

Bills to be Paid

A motion to pay all bills as presented was made by Council Member Budreau and seconded by Council Member Vermillion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Council Member Budreau and second by Council Member Vermillion the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Attest:

Ken Carter, President

Susan I. Moffitt, Clerk-Treasurer