

Index Town Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 2007

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Index Town Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Bruce Albert.

**COUNCILMEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Bruce Albert	Karen Sample	Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer
Bob Hubbard	Patrick Woods	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor
Dean Johnson	Sean Horst	

Minutes from the October meeting were read and Woods moved to accept them as presented. With a second by Hubbard the motion carried. Horst asked for clarification on the reopening of the Sportsmen's Club.

Stowe read the October warrants, numbered 2252 – 2268. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4054.50 and all others were \$15087.25 for a grand total of \$19141.75. Johnson moved to pay the warrants as presented, and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

During public comments Lorna Mrachek and Brent Lambert with Snohomish County Office of Economic Development introduced themselves and explained what their department does to support small towns, including assistance with grants. Assistance with non profit groups and flood engineering may also be available.

Steve Higgins had handouts on flood prevention. He has been meeting with agencies on the subject and reviewed salient points. The Town needs to decide what projects to pursue, prior to agency involvement. Albert said other agencies can provide assistance, but it's the Town having to do engineering, permitting, and funding, so it is important to make sure proposed projects are realistic. Hubbard and Johnson will work with Higgins on researching projects and will report back to the Council.

During Council comments, Johnson said he is working on the interlocal for land use and hopes to have something for the Council by next month.

Woods is still working on coming up with a Flood Awareness Day.

Hubbard has been talking to residents about dog licensing fees but is not ready yet to report to the Council.

Sample presented a draft ordinance on noise, created after researching numerous other noise ordinances. Ordinance #398 relating to noise will be posted for a first reading. It will get sent to the Town attorney and the County Prosecutor for review since penalties are included.

Sample has also been working on a fireworks ordinance but it is not yet ready for submitting.

Horst said the Hoedown went well, and he has put a statement in the voter's pamphlet. He will be researching backhoes for land use for the Town.

The Planning Commission had no business beyond the Corson SEPA which will be addressed later on the agenda. They had received a SEPA for a foundation but it was returned for further information.

There was not much to report for Maintenance other than Bill getting the Town ready for winter.

As a result of work done by Peterson and Stowe on flood management, the Town has received a two-point increase in flood ratings. This means residents will receive an additional 2% reduction in flood insurance rates. This is because of the Town enforcing flood plain regulations.

The Department of Emergency Management sent the 2008 interlocal. The Council has the choice of reviewing it or allowing Albert to sign. Sample moved to enter into the contract with DEM for 2008, authorizing Albert to sign. With a second by Horst the motion carried.

Stowe authorized Allied Waste to make a change in the dates when the company reports on cost increase. The contract stated April to April, but it makes more sense to set it up for October so information comes in time for the next year's budget. The Council had no problems with this change.

A resident approached Stowe asking the Council to consider taking action against panhandling. This does not appear to be a large problem, but rather related to two people in particular. Cross will talk to deputies.

The public hearing on a proposed vacation of a portion of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street was continued from the last meeting. Albert reminded the Council a decision needed to be made separate from the people involved and the issue of the Vanepps ability to build a house. In this way future vacation requests can be handled consistently. If the area was vacated he would like to see revenue earmarked for something such as flood control. He also said the law states the Town can be compensated by half the property value, but no one would sell property to the Town for half price and suggested the Council consider amending the ordinance.

Hubbard would like to hang onto the land as he sees all the land at that lower end of town as potentially too valuable to release.

Woods asked if the vacation was refused would the Town be able to use the piece for anything other than a street. The Town can choose to use it any way they wish.

Albert said a potential compromise would be the possibility of granting some sort of easement to the Vanepps for a drain field. This could bring in some revenue for the Town while allowing the Town to retain ownership and still assist the family in building.

Johnson is not opposed to granting the vacation and believes the Town should earmark compensation as well. He also appreciated hearing opinions and getting public comments.

This is a tough issue for Horst as he can see the value in building and the Vanepps are nice people, but being in the Council seat, he also has to look at resident's concerns, and this is one of the few assets the Town has. He has also thought about easements as a compromise, and doesn't think the land should be sold for half price.

Albert reminded the Council a motion was needed and it had to be based on criteria that could be used if another request came in so that the Town is consistent.

Woods moved to grant the vacation for the amount listed in the Index Municipal Code, with the buyers paying closing costs and each receiving half the property. Johnson seconded the motion. Woods and Johnson voted for the motion, and Horst, Sample, and Hubbard voted against so the motion failed. Albert said this was a tough decision, and while he can't guarantee anything, he suggested again that the Vanepps consider pursuing an easement or something similar.

The Corson SEPA for a remodel was discussed. The application went to the Planning Commission, and their recommendation, along with the public comments received, was given to the Corson's and the Council. Albert reminded the Corson's that the Planning Commission comments were not meant as an objection to the proposal but rather as a need to have the work more complete and clearer. Albert felt a letter should be sent to the Corson's along the lines of the Planning Commission recommendations. This has been a very complex project

for the Town and the Planning Commission, with considerations that have to be dealt with thoroughly and legally. Cross said, as chair of the Planning Commission, it is not the intention to discourage the Corson's at all.

Bill Corson apologized to the Town for work done without being aware of the process and hopes to get everything in line. Albert said the Town is supportive of what they are trying to do. Johnson offered to help the Corson's with a site plan. Sample hopes this will not cause the Corson's to lose steam, but at the same time, the project needs to be done correctly so that it doesn't become a road block for the Town in flood plain regulations. Hubbard is also available to assist. Stowe will send a letter to the Corson's with the recommendations from the Planning Commission.

Ordinance #396 relating to salaries for 2008 was presented for a first reading. Albert has raised pay by 5% rather than 2.5% as he feels it is important to retain good employees.

Ordinance #397 relating to the budget for 2008 was presented for a first reading. The actual line items can be viewed at the Town Hall.

Resolution #07-05 relating to property taxes was presented. This would set the dollar amount if the Town elected to take a levy increase. Johnson moved to accept the resolution with a zero increase. With a second by Sample the motion carried.

Resolution #07-06 relating to property taxes and the valuation of the Town was presented. This one shows how revenue from taxes will be distributed. Sample moved to accept the resolution as presented. With a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

Albert congratulated the Friends of Heybrook on a successful hoedown. The quality of donated artwork was great.

As there was no further business Hubbard moved to adjourn. Johnson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2007.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer