

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2007

The monthly meeting of the Index Town Council was called to order at 7:10 PM by Mayor Bruce Albert. Due to New Years, the meeting was held on Tuesday rather than Monday.

This meeting was dedicated to the memory of former President Gherald Ford.

COUNCILMEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

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

Horst called ahead and his absence was excused. Johnson's was not as no message was received.

Minutes from the December meeting were read and Woods moved to accept them as presented. With a second by Hubbard, the motion carried.

Stowe read the December warrants, numbered 2065 - 2087. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4157.38 and all others were \$20484.83 for a grand total of \$24642.21. The warrant to Pacific Ridge Excavating will be reimbursed through the Backflow grant. Woods moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Hubbard, the motion carried. Sample asked if the electricity bill was down any as the Town was without power for several days. While the kilowatt usage was down the amount due was not.

During public comments, a resident thanked the Town for getting garbage and recycling picked up. Due to the New Years holiday, garbage will be picked up a day late this week, and Stowe will post a notice. While Allied will pick up late due to holidays, they will not do so because of flooding, wind, snow, etc.

Hubbard had problems with someone riding a quad through Town. The sheriff was called and the information passed on as the driver threatened Hubbard.

A letter presented last month relating to the November flood was addressed. Woods thanked the resident for his work, and appreciated the thought that went in to the letter.

Sample asked for clarification about the emergency coordinator position. She was not sure if there was one, or if it had evolved. Albert reminded the Council that Horst was the emergency coordinator, and he has operational authority in the absence of the mayor. In the coordinator's absence, authority then goes to the mayor pro-tem, then to council members who can elect a temporary mayor pro-tem. During the November flood Albert was not absent.

Sample liked the recommendations in the letter, especially the part about pointing out who is in charge, even though she had no problem with the way things were handled during the flood.

Regarding the question of filling various roles, Albert said tasks in the field are taken care of by Cross, and in the Town Hall by Stowe, and that 90% of the time these tasks are in control. Other needed positions are filled by people available at the time.

Sample felt the Town was taken by surprise and thinks there is room for improvement. If people were up earlier sandbagging could have been started sooner.

Albert said some points in the letter were spot on and agreed that there are supplies needed. Outside contract services were lacking, which will be discussed later on the agenda. One of the problems was the inability to get reliable information. Part of the current grant application includes the Town creating a Comprehensive Flood Control Plan. Albert feels this should include completing a permanent berm where sandbagging takes place over and over, maintaining rip rap, working with outside agencies to control scouring, helping and encouraging homeowners who get hit repeatedly with elevating their homes above the base flood elevation, and ending the sandbagging efforts, which are basically ineffectual as it doesn't stop the serious overflow of water. He feels limited sandbagging in doorways would be sufficient.

Woods has attempted to get funding to elevate their house, but they have not had enough damage to qualify.

Albert agreed raising a home is the desired end result as even the current sandbagging doesn't keep stuff dry. He also pointed out one of the biggest support props came from Snohomish County Public Works who were here immediately and did a wonderful job.

The resident said there had been three recent incidents where the Town was caught short, those being the Nisqually earthquake, the 2003 flood, and this recent flood. Albert asked for what was meant by "caught short", especially as there is no advance warning for an earthquake.

The resident has no desire to be the emergency coordinator again, but when he turned it over there was a well-operating team effort using the incident command system. He handed out a flyer he had used during that time, breaking down jobs. He understands there is a problem getting people to volunteer but by having a team trained and drilling, people can be moved into slots that know what they are doing and can respond rapidly. He feels if people had been notified sooner during the November flood event there would have been more lead time for them to take care of their own needs. He also said that people had approached him offering to volunteer for the slots. Stowe said no one had come to the Town Hall or spoken to her about volunteering.

Albert reiterated Stowe handled things capably, and drills have historically had a low rate of attendance.

Sample asked when the flood watch became a flood warning in November and felt one of the reasons people might have been caught short is not noticing when the standard changed.

The resident said since the Town knew something was developing, someone should have been monitoring.

Albert said if someone chooses to live in a flood hazard zone he considers it their responsibility to be aware of the flooding and to not rely on others.

Woods suggested a day of training for sandbagging, to make it easier during a flood event. Stowe pointed out that the Town has done sandbagging trainings, only to have no one show up. Cross agreed that interest in training flagged after the 2003 flood. Sample wondered if training, with food provided could be incorporated into the Centennial plans.

Albert honestly believes the Town needs to move beyond the sandbagging approach.

Further discussion included different ideas for a permanent berm, the fact that the whole Town is in the middle of a river valley, and Stowe pointing out that just because residents may not see work or flood monitoring being done doesn't mean it isn't happening.

During Council comments, Sample wished everyone a happy New Year.

The Planning Commission did not meet because there were no agenda items.

Cross has attended several meetings, including one by FEMA working on changes to the flood elevation maps, one by the US2 Safety Coalition on proposed changes to the highway (information available at the Town hall), and one by the Department of Emergency Management on what worked and what didn't during the November

flood. DEM admitted that with the loss of Roger Serra and Mike McAlister the organization wasn't as on the ball, and will work better in the future.

Albert has been in contact with Robert Amenn, a Gold Bar Council member who is working on the Snohomish County Health District representative position. Amenn feels this position should be cycled through the towns involved rather than the current method of appointing someone. Historically no Council members from Index have wanted the position, and currently it is filled by Jim Flowers from Sultan Council, who is seeking to be reappointed. After discussion the Council had no opposition to Flowers continuing in the position.

The Dept. of Emergency Management Interlocal was presented. Attachment A lists what they will do for the Town, and Albert pointed out several items have not been met. He feels at a minimum dialog is necessary. While it is true DEM is a new organization, it is important they know they have not done what they say they will in the interlocal. Sample asked if this was renewed annually, which it is. Albert said the old DEM did a bang up job helping during emergencies, and this interlocal is fuzzy about who is in charge. He would like to add clarification to the attachment to the effect that the Mayor or Council members retain primary operational authority. Sample moved to enter into the interlocal agreement for emergency management services with the amendment that gives Index home rule, and with the understanding that the interlocal will be reviewed next year for compliance. With a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

Albert would like to maintain positive relations with DEM and hopes things will improve with practice, but at the same time, they should be informed about the lack of effort. For example, the attachment says they will assist with grants, but no assistance happened. He has sent e-mails and received no response. After some discussion, a letter will be included with the interlocal.

Albert thanked Peterson and Stowe for the work involved in obtaining the \$50,000 grant for flood repair and restoration. The Town will pay 20% of this, and while it will be tight, he believes the projects can be completed within this budget.

Stowe applied for and received a small Loss Control Grant from AWC in the amount of \$500 to go toward the repairs in front of homes along Avenue A.

The City of Marysville asks Index to consider proclaiming February as Career and Technical Education month. Sample felt this was something we could do, and a resolution will be available next month for signing.

Under business and land use, Stowe has received calls from the owners of the Redmen's Hall. They are in the process of completing the required paperwork in order to plan for demolition of the building, but no forms have come to the Town yet.

Ordinance #391 relating to amending the 2007 budget to reflect the flood repair grant, was presented for a first reading. Albert said while the funds will be reimbursed, this is a good reminder about the importance of maintaining the rainy day fund.

As there was no further business Hubbard moved to adjourn. Sample seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 5th day of February, 2007.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer