

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 3, 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	

This meeting was dedicated to the memory of Lou Chorba, a resident of many years who recently passed away.

Minutes from the November meeting were read and Hubbard moved to accept them with one amendment to page three, paragraph two. This amendment replaces “work that was unintentional” with “work done without being aware of the process”. With a second by Johnson the motion carried.

Stowe read the November warrants, numbered 2269 – 2282 and 2307. Warrants 2283 through 2285 were voided due to a printing error and Warrant 2307 was used out of order (the drawbacks of printing warrants during a flood event). Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4002.12 and all others were \$4597.48 for a grand total of \$8599.60. Woods moved to pay the warrants as presented, and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried. The warrant for Railroad Management is the annual rent fee for the water line easement under the railroad tracks.

The Tulalip Chamber of Commerce was to present during public comments but rescheduled due to the flooding. They will be at the February meeting.

Steve Higgins had two handouts for the Council. One was updating the Council on a meeting he, Johnson, and Hubbard attended with Surface Water Management to discuss flood prevention and mitigation. A representative will be asked to attend a Council meeting. The second handout regarded the Sportsmen’s Club and was addressed later in the agenda.

Higgins appreciated the sandbagging work done during the day and asked if anything could be done for the low spot near Hoffman’s. Under the terms of the permits the Town got for flood repair, no new construction could be done, which is why that spot was repaired only. Some sandbagging was done in the area.

John Rubish presented handouts to the Council on noise ordinances for other towns. He would like the Town to consider adopting them word for word. The Council will look at them, but there is a draft noise ordinance before them. There will be no action on that draft at this meeting as the draft is being reviewed by the Town lawyer. Ed Boress said this hand out would be in addition to the draft. Sample clarified that the draft would have to be acted on as it was presented before anything could be changed.

During Council comments, Sample is working on the fireworks ordinance draft. She thanked Cross for all the work he did plowing snow. She also said that December 13th may be a tree lighting.

Hubbard is working on the dog licensing fees and is gaining a consensus that raising fees would be acceptable.

Albert thanked Woods for coming up with a flood in order to practice a flood drill. Woods was impressed with the preemptive work during this flood event, including calls from the Town with updates, as well as the sandbagging.

Horst also thanked Albert for the preemptive work. He got in contact with the representatives from the Office of Economic Development, and while they are unable to assist the Friends of Heybrook, they are available for the Town to assist in grants.

Horst stated his opposition to the Bush administration's attempts to start a war with Iran. Albert said it is appropriate for the Council to offer resolutions on national policy if they feel strongly enough about the issues and if they represented the opinions of residents.

Johnson is continuing to work on the interlocal. He said the meeting with Higgins and Surface Water was nice and will help decide what plan the Town will need.

The Planning Commission had no quorum, but accepted the SEPA application for elevating Kim and Pat Woods house. The meeting has been rescheduled for December 5th. Albert asked Cross to remind members that when there's business it is essential there's a quorum. People apply to the Town, follow the rules, and have an expectation of a timely response.

Albert complimented Cross on his plowing job.

One issue from the denial last month of a vacation request is compensation. Albert suggested amending the ordinance to the Town receiving a vacation at fair market value. The Council had no objection to drafting this amendment.

Sultan Council member Jim Flowers has asked the Town to once again allow him to represent Index on the Health District Board. There was no objection to this from the Council. Sample asked that he be asked to come present to the Council whenever there was something the Council should know about.

An e-mail regarding Criminal Justice meetings was given to the Council.

The Snohomish County Conservation District is asking the Town to support creating a \$5.00 tax. Albert suggested calling them to find out what this would fund and where their current support comes from, prior to making a decision on support.

A SEPA application for elevating the Wood's home was presented and opened for a public comment period.

Ordinance #396 relating to salaries for 2008 was presented for action. Sample asked if there was an increase to Cross's hours. There was not, but there was time budgeted for labor to assist him if needed. Sample moved to accept the Ordinance as presented and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

Ordinance #397 relating to the budget for 2008 was presented for action. Albert said that seeing both Monroe and Sultan in budget crisis speaks well that Index is in the black instead. Woods moved to accept the Ordinance as presented and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Resolution #07-07 relating to supporting the Forest Service in reopening the Index Sportsmen's Trap grounds was presented. The club has been around for many years, and had to close due to lead pollution issues but is now ready to reopen. The Forest Service is soliciting comments. Albert clarified that the Town can supporting the Forest Service in reopening, oppose the reopening, or stand pat and take no action. The Town will not be making decisions on opening or not.

Public comments were submitted to the Forest Service and copies given to the Town. These included comments from Steve Higgins on permitting concerns and zoning as the activities relate to noise and safety. Sandy Gordon felt noise was not an issue as it has been around for so many years and is similar to the train. She has talked to people in favor of reopening and feels not supporting it would dishonor long time club members who have passed away. Hubbard reiterated that any decision was not directed at the club or its members but at the issues

such as noise. John Rubish wanted to know if there was any control over the hours of operation. That would come from the Forest Service and not the Town.

Horst clarified that reopening would be under a one year trial and conditional use permit.

Hubbard talked about the noise nuisance of shooting as well as pollution from lead. He also feels there is too much of a split in Town for the Council to uniformly choose a position. Because of that, Hubbard moved to not take a position as a whole in the reopening of the Trap grounds. Sample seconded the motion.

Albert said there was a grain of wisdom in Hubbard's words and there was a significant body of thought for both sides of the argument.

Sample is in favor of the reopening, but as a Council person representing the Town was not comfortable in taking a position.

After further discussion, a vote was taken on the motion. Johnson opposed the motion but the others were in favor and the motion carried.

At 8:10 Albert called an Executive Session to discuss employee issues. The meeting was resumed at 8:25 p.m.

As there was no further business Sample moved to adjourn. Johnson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 7th day of January, 2008.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer