

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2007

The regularly scheduled monthly 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	Maintenance Supervisor Bill Cross
Dean Johnson	Sean Horst	

Minutes from the March meeting were read and Woods moved to accept them as presented. With a second by Hubbard the motion carried. A resident suggested clarifying the name of the owners of Heybrook Ridge. The minutes list them as Buse, when in fact the land is owned by W. B. Foresters. That change will be noted.

Stowe read the March warrants, numbered 2127 - 2143. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4569.08 and all others were \$6205.74 for a grand total of \$10774.82. The warrant to Capmark is for the water bond, which will be paid off in 2017.

During public comments, a resident asked if the Town would be getting funds to pay for a berm along Avenue A. The Town has money currently through the FCAAP grant for the portion that is currently sandbagged. There are no funds for a berm farther down Avenue A, but if any grants become available the Town will pursue that as well. Some of the downstream berm area is private property. The resident then asked about plans for work within the channel. Part of a potential grant through the Hazard Mitigation group includes doing something there but it doesn't look promising that the Town will get that grant. As always, inspections of the riprap will be done.

Another resident asked for clarification about the location of riprap repair. Cross said that there are homeowners who have not done any installation or repair of riprap, and that the County has yet to do any repair work on the swale near the beach. So far the County has not returned calls.

Under Council comments, Hubbard found large rocks had been placed on the railroad tracks as a potential obstruction for the trains. It is not clear if the rocks were large enough to create a derailment, but Burlington was notified. These kinds of serious actions are federal offenses.

Sample asked if anyone wanted comments on the material in Council boxes. Since all Council members and the Mayor receive the same material, it is not necessary.

The Planning Commission did not meet. Next month they will be reviewing buildable land maps from the County.

During the Maintenance report, Cross said that it was nice seeing all the clean up work being done at the tavern. He will be pouring cement for the new flags sometime this month, and may need some help.

Albert and Sample were not able to meet this month, so no date has been chosen for the Centennial.

Garbage rate increases were discussed. It is clear that with the new rates from Allied, current charges will not be enough to cover the bill. The Town has not received a complete contract, but did get a list of changes, which included the rate increase, the addition of recycling, updating dates for the new contract, and a statement that Allied can petition throughout the year for rate increases if the current rates are not enough to cover CPI increases. The Town has contacted another company for comparison rates, but that company has not yet responded.

Discussion included other options, such as having residents haul their own as Gold Bar does, having the Town start hauling recycling again (which, in the past, resulted in a huge mess and even larger bill), and whether the Council needed to make a decision on the contract this month. It is preferable to decide soon rather than stringing along the current company.

Woods moved to authorize Albert to enter into the interlocal with Allied Waste, and Hubbard seconded the motion. Albert clarified that this is a five year contract with annual CPI increases, and Sample said she would prefer an increase in rates high enough that this did not have to be done every year. Rates and increases are included in the proposed draft Ordinance

on the agenda. Horst asked if garbage service was optional, which it is not within Town limits because of health and safety. Albert said that if the other company came back with favorable rates before this contract was finalized, he'd be happy to call a special meeting of the Council to discuss it, and called for a vote on the motion, which carried.

Albert asked to take the draft Ordinance out of order on the agenda and discuss it now since they were on the garbage topic. During talk about the rates, it was agreed that even with an increase it was still cheaper to pay than to haul garbage away on your own. A resident reminded the Council of the huge mess she had cleaned up last year at a home, and how much worse that mess would have been if the Town had not had garbage services.

Sample asked if the water fund was doing okay, which it is. The Town has more water customers to draw revenue from. Sample then moved to amend the base rate in the Ordinance for posting, increasing it to \$26 per month for a single can. The motion died for lack of a second.

Albert proposed thinking about the rate increase during the month, with a decision at the next meeting. The ordinance draft can be posted for public comment, with a note stating that the amounts are subject to change.

Stowe talked about old Council minutes. These were found in boxes when she and Cross were clearing out the back room. They are copies that the Historical Society originally had made in order to have a backup at the Society in case the Town Hall was ever damaged by fire. Somehow the boxes were returned to the Town Hall, and the Historical Society would like them back. The Council had no objection to this.

Minutes from the last meeting of Friends of Heybrook Ridge were distributed. The next meeting is April 3rd at the fire department.

A letter was received from a local girl who is a student at Skykomish, asking to photograph the Council as part of the upcoming Centennial celebration. It was agreed that this was a good idea, and Stowe will set up a time. Albert asked the Council to make every effort to attend that meeting.

A Special Events Checklist was reviewed for a children's parade on the 4th of July. The resident would like help from the Special Events committee. While this no longer exists, there are people willing to help out. The new owners of the tavern will be bringing in porta-potties that the event can use, and will also have a volleyball pit available. The street will be closed for the parade tentatively starting at noon. Activities for the kids will include sidewalk chalk, races, etc. Albert suggested a Viking funeral pyre with the old boat now sitting on the Town street. Sample moved to accept the Checklist and with a second by Horst the motion carried. Albert said that while the Town does not regulate fireworks on private property, he would not like to encourage fireworks elsewhere.

Horst asked about Snohomish County Tomorrow. Stowe said Index is a member, that it is connected to Growth Management, and that the Town currently gets agendas and minutes, although no one has been able to attend the meetings. Since they are held in the middle of the day during the week, it is impossible for people with full time jobs to go. Horst, Hubbard, and Johnson would like to start receiving copies of the materials.

A resident is going to be donating \$1,000 to the Friends of Heybrook, and encouraged residents to support the project.

There were no business or land use applications.

As there was no further business Hubbard moved to adjourn. Johnson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 7th day of May, 2007.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer