

Index Town Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
September 4, 2007

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Index Town Council was not held on Monday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, due to Labor Day. The meeting was rescheduled for Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, and 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	
Dean Johnson	Sean Horst	

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

Stowe read the August warrants, numbered 2218 – 2231. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$3,884.89 and all others were \$4090.88 for a grand total of \$7975.77. Sample moved to pay the warrants as presented, and with a second by Johnson the motion carried. Hubbard asked if the warrant for Edge Analytical included water testing for arsenic. This test did not, but the Town does test for arsenic and Peterson will have more information.

During public comments two part-time residents talked about their appreciation of the Council. They saw notices for SEPA applications and questioned the reason for the public comment periods. Was it to solicit public comment and to make sure the Council had all relevant information? In particular, they were concerned about a remodel project already approved by the Council, saying they never saw anything posted. They suggested when something is submitted, the Town contact adjoining property owners in person. They also had concerns about the proposed construction of a permanent berm and the impact it would have on people downstream.

Any permanent berm would be required by law to be engineered to make sure it would not raise flood waters in the channel.

The Town is required to post notices for public comment in three places, the store, the kiosk, and the Town hall. One resident said that posting for sixty days would be more acceptable than thirty but Albert said the comment periods are set by law, and the project proponent has an interest in getting results in a timely manner. He can understand people might want more time but the planning commission also comments on projects, so by the time a public comment period has ended it has already lasted five weeks.

Regarding the construction project already approved by the Town, the part time resident had concerns about not knowing what is going on, as a neighbor. Albert said the project was reviewed under environmental and zoning issues and approved, but if the resident felt this approval was in error they were welcome to submit their concerns in writing and the Town would reexamine the decision.

The residents felt Index is being discovered and as homes are upgraded and remodeled, the Town should be more specific and more aware of how to deal with those issues, and the process should be in writing. Stowe pointed out that limited hours makes it difficult to notify everyone in person of everything they want notification of. Albert felt bad that the residents did not know about the approved project, but no matter what process is used someone will fall through the cracks. He reassured the residents that the Town is run in a lawful, open process. We are also a puny town and on the ragged edge financially, with our resources stretched more and more as we are expected to conform to all the same laws as larger cities. He said larger cities have full time offices with people that do nothing but land use, something Index cannot provide.

There was some discussion at this point on making postings more noticeable, and the decision was made to shift the kiosk so that things posted there will be more visible as people drive by.

Also under public comments, another resident congratulated the Council and Mayor on the successful centennial celebration.

During Council comments, Sample said she was not the person shooting off fireworks during the centennial. She said there were lots of shotgun blasts coming from a residence. Albert will talk with her for more information.

The Planning Commission had no business and did not meet.

There was nothing to report for Maintenance.

Albert congratulated Woods on a successful Art Festival and thanked everyone for help with the Centennial.

FEMA funding for the remainder of the riprap repair is being pursued. We have had the permit since December 1<sup>st</sup>, and as of this date, FEMA has not been able to hold up their end before our permits expire October 15<sup>th</sup>. The rock needs to be fixed before the next high water season in order to avoid potential loss of Avenue A. The repair is on the list of authorized money, which has been replenished, and Albert would like to use that now to fix the riprap. The estimated cost is between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Sample asked if we had that kind of funding. We took money out of savings and did a budget amendment for it, spent that on riprap repair and got it reimbursed, so the funds are still in the flood account.

Sample asked if this repair was separate from creating the permanent berm. This work would be repair and replace only, to what was damaged during the flood event. The berm will not be part of that as it is new work and has to be engineered. Albert would like a motion for this expenditure as it is possible FEMA will not reimburse the expense.

Sample moved to have the Mayor take money to use in repairing the riprap in as many places as possible as soon as can be done. With a second by Horst the motion carried.

Hubbard questioned whether long term care for the riprap might include plantings. Discussion about planting riprap followed and this will be covered again in the spring as anything planted now would just wash downstream.

Stowe asked the Council for suggestions on using names in minutes. Years ago resident names were printed in the minutes, but that practice has changed with time. While meetings are public and on record, Stowe isn't sure about using personal names. Residents at the meeting said people who aren't willing to put their names on record shouldn't be commenting unless they ask to remain anonymous and have a legitimate reason for doing so. Albert said people also need to understand speaking during a meeting is on record and comments become credible if names are attached. Stowe will begin using names.

The SEPA application for a deck remodel was presented for action. There was no discussion and no concerns about the project as it is clear the owners know the lower deck is fine and the upper deck will need a permit. Sample moved to accept the SEPA for the Grafton deck remodel. With a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

A vacation request was received from Susan Williamson and Dwayne Vanepps, for a portion of Third Street. Index Municipal Code sets forth the process and steps include paying a filing fee and obtaining signatures, which has been done. The Council must set a hearing date by resolution, so no debate is in order at this meeting, but the Council must pick a date so people have a chance to speak on the proposal. Albert had a draft resolution setting the public hearing during the next Council meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Sample asked if this assumes the Town is willing to entertain the vacation request. She thought the Town wasn't doing vacations. Albert said he is not aware of an official position on vacations, but by law the Council has to hold a hearing and make a decision based on criteria. Woods moved to adopt Resolution 07-04 setting the hearing date for the October Council meeting. With a second by Horst the motion carried.

As there was no further business Johnson moved to adjourn. Hubbard seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2007.

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

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