

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2008

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
Sean Horst		

Johnson's absence was excused.

This meeting was dedicated to the memory of Russell Lawson, resident and artist, who recently passed away.

Oaths of Office were administered to Hubbard, Horst, and Woods.

Minutes from the December meeting were read. There were three amendments, including correcting spelling, making a complete sentence, and changing the word "locals" to "residents". Sample moved to adopt the minutes as amended. With a second by Woods the motion carried.

Stowe read the December warrants, numbered 2286 – 2305. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4475.40 and all others were \$4916.17 for a grand total of \$9391.57. The voucher report used to report warrants did not print out payroll, but Stowe estimated the payroll amount and stated the payroll was normal with no extras. The figures here represent the correct voucher report with payroll. Woods moved to pay the warrants, and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

During public comments, several people spoke on the issue of the Index Sportsmen's Club and trap grounds. Last month the Forest Service was accepting public comments on reopening the shooting range. The Council had been prepared to discuss the issue with Debbie Cople, but ended up in another flood event. Because of flooding during the day it was anticipated the Council would be unable to cover anything but the bare minimum and so the issue was delayed. At the time of the meeting however, the flood work was under control enough that a regular meeting was held. The Council members discussed the Trap grounds, realizing the deadline for public comments was the next day. Now the issue is off the table as the Town has no jurisdiction and the public comment period is over. It appears the Town may still be involved over the issue of access, but has no say in whether the club should be reopened or not.

In spite of no jurisdiction, many supportive comments were received from numerous long time residents as well as non-resident members of the club, including the Cople's, Corey Whitcomb, Kenney Lindgren, Ron Pederson, the Ace Johnson family, Jay Hanson, Pete Davis, and a resident of Sultan. These comments included the following. The club is a good resource for the Town and in the past has provided many services for the community, including weddings, picnics, reunions, baseball, the haunted house, etc. It is also a group that has had multi-generational involvement over its history. It provides opportunities for parents and children to share activities, and has raised funds for Town events such as the Art Festival.

Noise has come up as a concern for many residents. Cople clarified that the times set were included because of the need to meet County standards in the paperwork, but in reality she is working on a

compromise that will be neighborly and meet concerns about shooting at night and early Sunday mornings.

Safety was another concern addressed. Club members feel, based on reports compiled, that it would be unlikely pellets would travel through foliage to the area hikers use.

Access to the Club is an issue the Town will respond to once the Forest Service has submitted the question in writing. The question came up because the Town owns the Crescent Trail, which runs between Reiter road and Forest Service land. Pete Davis said the Club would have access rights under adverse possession, but it was clarified that adverse possession does not apply to government entities.

Council members responded to the many comments. Sample wanted to make it clear that when this was discussed last month there was a lot of mixed emotion on the issue. Personally she appreciates the club, but she cannot represent herself as a Council member. She represents residents, and there wasn't a clear majority opinion. As well, while the Council can have an opinion, reopening the club is not their jurisdiction, but the Forest Service's. The access question has not yet come before the Council and so cannot be addressed. She appreciates that everyone came to the meeting, and hopes they remember that while the Council is hearing their comments, the Council has no stand except for access.

Horst has grown up hunting and shooting and values the educational aspect, in a safe environment. As an elected official he did have people come to him with concerns, mainly over the times shooting will go on. He is sure this problem will be worked out.

Hubbard feels the club is good, but has also heard concerns about noise and compares it to second hand smoke. He thought the range should move further out from where people live, for safety as well as noise. He also reiterated that he thinks the Sportsmen's is a wonderful club.

Oddly enough, Woods misses the sounds of shooting from the club. He also misses everything the club has done for the Town in the past, like assisting with the Art Festival.

As mayor, Albert says he is not supposed to grind his own axe, and has rarely found this as difficult as it has been with the Sportsmen's issue because he whole-heartedly supports the club. If there is anything he can do as an individual to help, he will.

Also during public comments, Steve Higgins has been hired by Jay and Yong Kim to assist them in remodeling the upstairs of the general store into living quarters. They are currently working with an engineer and the Health Department to see if this is feasible. If so, they will be approaching the Town to go through the application process.

Albert thanked Higgins for keeping the Council informed, and reminded everyone that if formal questions come up on any issue, they should be submitted in writing.

During Council comments, Sample would like to remove the noise ordinance from the table in order to revise it.

Hubbard is working on the dog licensing fees.

Horst had nothing official to report, but has finally recorded an album, using art for the cover created by Woods.

The Planning Commission managed a quorum finally, and reviewed the SEPA application for elevating the Woods house. They recommend approving the work.

There was nothing to report for Maintenance except for lots of snow plowing.

Cross met with representatives from the Department of Emergency Management and Snohomish County Surface Water Management. The outcome of the meeting was information on possible grants for studies on how to mitigate flooding. One potential solution was to raise Avenue A, but a study would have to be done to see which solution would be best. Higgins thanked Hubbard, Cross, and Albert for taking the effort to look at flood issues. Albert has received some grant information from DEM and Surface Water.

Albert received a call from a member of the Department of Natural Resources, who would like to open more recreational opportunities in the Reiter area. He said the Town would want to scrutinize anything that came up.

The Town will be moving ahead on the purchase of a backhoe. Cross and Albert will hopefully be getting water manager training from Peterson under her license, in order to have more people available.

Fireworks is an issue Albert would like dealt with before the next Fourth of July. Sample needs to talk to the Sheriff's department, and will be working on a draft.

Albert asked the Council to put serious thought into an issue that has come up twice in the last month, where comments were made by Council members, and mistakenly construed as being official Town opinion. He reminded the Council that if they identify themselves as a Council member, their opinion is then considered as being that of the Town's. It is important to think about this when expressing opinion, and if it is the opinion of the Town, there should be substance behind it. These comments were not intentional, but could have caused an impact for the Town. Sample asked where Bruce was headed with this, and he said he would like the Council to think about what they would like to do about this issue.

The Town of Index has once again received an "A" on their Loss Control report card. This means there is no deductible for insurance coverage, and the grade helps keep insurance rates down. The report card is related to work the Town does to mitigate potential lawsuits from injuries, as well as the number of lawsuits a town has.

The Association of Washington Cities is looking for a member to serve on their advisory council. This could be a very interesting position. Council members have the letter in their packets, and the deadline to apply is tomorrow. The letter arrived too late for last month's Council meeting, which is why there is a short turn around time.

The Town has received a small Loss Control End of Year Grant that will pay for warning signs for the kennel area where impounded dogs are held. Recently a potentially dangerous dog was impounded and someone reached through the fence to remove the dog's collar. Signs will be posted in order to hopefully avoid that in the future, and prevent bites.

Community Transit is looking for Council members to attend their meetings. Historically the Town has elected to not attend until Community Transit comes to Index. Stowe was not sure if the Council wanted to continue this policy or not. No determination was made.

Stowe reminded Council members to lock Town hall doors behind them. She and Cross have both come in over the past month to find the front door unlocked, and once, the back door standing open.

The SEPA application for elevating the Wood's home was presented for action. No public comments were received. The Planning Commission found it complete and acceptable. Sample moved to accept the application as presented. With a second by Horst the motion carried, with Woods abstaining from voting. Albert reminded Stowe that a Shoreline Application will need to be done, but this shouldn't hold up the SEPA process.

Albert complimented the people who came in support of the Sportsmen's Club. They were a nice group of people.

As there was no further business Woods moved to adjourn. Horst seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 4th day of February, 2008.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer