

Index Town Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
December 1, 2008

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Index Town Council was called to order at 7:05 PM by Mayor Bruce Albert.

**COUNCILMEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Bruce Albert	Sean Horst
Dean Johnson	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor
Karen Sample	Lisa Stowe, Clerk Treasurer

The absences of Hubbard and Woods were not excused.

Minutes from the November meeting were read. Sample moved to accept the minutes as presented and with a second by Johnson the motion carried.

Stowe read the November warrants, numbered 2483 through 2502. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4193.59 and all others were \$6227.02 for a grand total of \$10420.61. Johnson moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Horst the motion carried.

During public comments Ed Boress asked permission to use the Town logo on tee-shirts he plans on selling on his website gift shop. The Council had no objection.

Cross commended the mayor and the Council for doing their jobs so well, on top of their paid jobs.

During Council comments, Sample said the holiday school program will be December 11<sup>th</sup>. Resident Etta Hunter has a decorated fake tree she is donating to the Town for the park. Stowe asked if there would be any problem if the tree walked away, but Hunter is not concerned with that. There will be no tree lighting ceremony, but Albert, Cross, Horst, and Johnson will string lights in one of the park trees.

Horst said the high water events went well and Albert thanked him, as well as everyone else who helped. Albert appreciates people taking time away from paid jobs to pitch in.

The Planning Commission did not meet as there was no quorum.

Cross may need to hire a plumber to help with the park bathroom. He would like to have Albert shimmy up the flag pole to release the cable so a new flag can be hung.

Albert presented a letter from Valley General Hospital asking for someone willing to sit on a Community Advisory Board.

The sheriff interlocal hasn't been signed yet as the final price for joining the SERTZ program hasn't arrived. The current contract expires the end of the month and Albert would like to renew it with the understanding that Index will negotiate the best price for the radio system. The issue is double dipping as residents already pay the annual fee through fire department taxes. Albert will send a letter with the contract asking for a response to the question about fees. Sample asked if signing the contract at this point would allow the County to set new rates without Index having input. Albert said the rates are spelled out in the contract and won't change. At issue is a separate paragraph about the radio program. He also said the deputies have been going the extra mile for the town, and we have been getting first rate service. Johnson moved to have Albert sign the interlocal and with a second by Horst the motion carried.

The railroad has billed the Town for rent for water mains running on their property, and the bill has had an enormous rate increase, from \$80 to over \$700. Albert is reviewing a contract from 1977 and it appears the railroad thinks they still own Crescent Trail. He will put issues into a letter.

Amendments to the land use ordinance were presented for a first reading. Lawyer comments were included in the Council packets. Changes include the list of SEPA exemptions, which should be in the SEPA ordinance rather than the land use one, the process of having the Council review applications, which isn't illegal but may not be the best way to work, and the creation of a fee structure. As complexity goes up, Stowe is spending more time on applications and it's time for developers to start paying for that. Albert asked the Council to do some close reading of the draft in preparation for next month's action. Fees for the process can be done through a resolution and Stowe will come up with a draft fee rate.

Last December Albert called an Executive session to ask the Council about paying performance bonuses to employees. Afterward he decided spending funds should be done publicly. He presented Resolution 08-06 proposing to pay employees a \$100 bonus for performance above normal job descriptions. Sample moved to adopt the resolution as presented and with a second by Johnson the motion carried. Resident David Cameron said it was money well spent.

Johnson asked if water test results had come back yet after the previous unsatisfactory Coliform test. All tests have come back satisfactory.

Albert has been shopping for a backhoe. According to RCW's there are three ways such a large sum of money can be spent, through advertising for sealed bids, through purchase at an auction, or having the Council waive competitive bids due to a unique market situation. The bid process becomes difficult when a used machine is purchased because of the difficulty in creating a level playing field for comparisons. Auctions run the risk of resulting in a machine with problems. Albert has found two machines that might work, and asked the Council to approve a resolution enabling him to make the best deal.

Horst asked if there was a rough idea how much the Town spends annually renting similar equipment. Backhoes have been rented for snow removal, which is hard on the Town truck, for repairs on water lines, and other minor repairs. Stowe said the Town paid a lot to rent equipment for repairs after the 2006 flood, and that expense was almost as much as what the cost of purchase was going to be. This backhoe would not be able to do the heavy riprap repair work that Pacific Crest did for the Town, but would be able to do work such as the shoulder and right of way repairs. It can also be used for alley work where Cross currently hand shovels and spreads gravel.

Sample asked if the cost for the backhoe was already budgeted. It was budgeted two years ago and has been carried forward into the current budget each year. She also asked if it would be smarter to spend more and buy a new machine, but that would take a huge chunk out of the Town's funds, which have been kept almost sacred. Because of that the Town is doing better than many in the County.

Boress asked if there was any kind of warranty and said it might be worth purchasing a two year warranty on the machine. Albert will be looking into that.

Sample moved to accept Resolution 08-07 for the purchase of a Town backhoe and with a second by Johnson the motion carried.

A request was made to the Town for a resolution in support of renaming SR 529 the Veteran's Memorial Highway. Horst moved to accept Resolution 08-08 in support of renaming the highway, and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Ordinance #400 relating to animal control was presented for a first reading. The draft is in Council packets along with comments. Albert asked the Council to review it carefully for action next month.

Ordinance #401 relating to salaries for 2009 was presented for action. Stowe added a section providing a salary for an on-call clerk position. Johnson moved to accept the Ordinance as presented and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Ordinance #402 relating to the budget for 2009 was presented for action. Johnson moved to accept the Ordinance as presented and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Ordinance #403 relating to an increase in garbage rates was presented for a first reading. Council members may choose to change the draft from projecting costs out until 2012. Sample asked about the health of the water fund. Water rates have not been increased in several years and the fund is healthy. In the future water mains will need replacing and at that point rates may need to be looked at, or grants obtained. Albert said the Council may want to include a garbage rate ordinance each year with other end of year ordinances, due to the volatile economy.

As there was no further business Horst moved to adjourn. Sample seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009.

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

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