

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 4, 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	Sean Horst	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor
Dean Johnson		

The absence of Woods was not excused.

Minutes from the July meeting were read. Horst moved to accept the minutes as presented and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried. Sample asked if she could vote since she was absent last month, which she can.

Stowe read the July warrants, numbered 2412 through 2428. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4205.71 and all others were \$5941.12 for a grand total of \$10146.83. Johnson moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried. There were two warrants for the Sheriff's Department as one is for the annual Drug Task Force fee and one is for 2nd quarter calls. The large warrant to Ogden Murphy Wallace was for legal fees relating to the letter received stating the Town's land use practices were illegal. The process is legal in a large part, and the land use codes will be updated anyway.

As this is the mid point in the year, Albert updated the Council on the budget. Funds are okay, but not as endowed as they could be. There are problems with the garbage fund, and Stowe is waiting to hear back from Allied Waste as it appears the Town is being charged more than it should be per the contract.

There were no public comments.

During Council comments, Sample apologized for missing last month's meeting.

Horst reported the sale of Heybrook Ridge has gone through. Music in the Park went well, and there will be another September 6th. He also presented a draft letter to the Department of Natural Resources regarding Off Road Vehicle use.

Albert questioned the wording of one paragraph, as he didn't feel ORV use made it difficult to hike that area. ORV areas are limited, while hiking areas are not. Hubbard said the impetus of the letter was less about hikers as limiting cars in the area, as the purpose of the road was to allow the general public up there. There are plans to log in the future, and the road would be improved then, and Hubbard feels the intent of the letter should be geared toward preventing an improved road from being damaged again. Horst agreed and said he hadn't made that clear enough in the letter.

Albert and Sample have both used that road for over twenty years, and it has always been impassable for cars past Deer Creek. While Albert is not an ORV user, biking and hiking the area instead, he has had zero problems and feels 95% of the problems are caused by 5% of the users. The question is bringing use into line rather than refusing to allow use. ORV users have the right to be in the area, but environmental problems need to be addressed.

Horst took on writing the letter as a way to better educate himself about the problem and is willing to have suggestions about the draft. Sample said perhaps the Council can agree on all but the third paragraph, and put more emphasis on the watershed and erosion. Then individuals could address the use of the road. She personally would like to be able to get a wheelchair over the bridge.

Horst feels it is good timing to put in personal opinion. Hubbard agreed, talking about erosion and the health of the forest.

Albert has a map showing the one year transport area where subsurface water takes a year to get to the Town's well. The boundary of the water shed is roughly sketched in. He proposed communicating that the Town doesn't want to see vehicular traffic past the watershed area from Deer Creek out. The whole topic will come up once the plan for recreational activities is finished, and it goes through the SEPA review process. At that point there will be concrete things to comment on.

Sample would like to see access limited according to the buffers on the map. A letter now saying what the Town would like to have considered will limit problems during the review process.

Hubbard moved to accept the letter as written with no changes. Sample seconded the motion, and the motion carried with three in favor and one abstaining.

The Planning Commission did not meet. Stowe mailed members results from the Comprehensive Plan survey for review.

Cross will be on vacation during the week of the Art Festival. McKibben will take care of the parks, but may need help with garbage from the Festival. Cross is replacing porch roofs over doorways of town buildings, and will be painting soon.

Albert had nothing to report this month.

Stowe gave Councilmembers an invitation from two residents and copies of the Comprehensive Plan survey results. Albert said the Plan is intended to mirror the wishes of residents, expressed in the survey. Once the Plan is revised, the Zoning ordinance then needs to be brought into compliance with the Plan. Zoning is currently vague and while zoning issues in Town are not complex, they would be better served if better addressed.

A business application for Lan Lan's Edible Art Cart was reviewed. Chelan Soper is in the preliminary stages of gathering her permits but is hoping to be able to serve the Art Festival, and then have the business itself more solidified for next summer. Albert asked where the physical location would be. Chelan will be using the cart in the areas of the park and the bridge, and the cart will be similar to a rickshaw that can be pushed or towed with a bike. She is hoping to offer lunches.

There are not a lot of sidewalks in town and Albert pointed out the possibility of the cart being in front of people's homes or other businesses and asked how she proposed dealing with that not becoming an issue. Chelan won't set up in front of homes or businesses.

Horst asked what would happen if someone got sick since the cart would be on Town right of ways. Chelan does not feel the Town could be held liable if she has all the required permits and insurance from the County.

Since the business would be on public property, Albert feels the Town should be entitled to a written agreement. Chelan asked what sorts of rules are followed for other festivals and events. Albert said this is an ongoing commercial enterprise that is treading virgin ground as the Town has never had a similar request.

Johnson moved to approve the Lan Lan's business application for sixty days. With a second by Horst the motion carried. This will allow Chelan to serve the Festival, and the Town time to research the issue.

As there was no further business Hubbard moved to adjourn. Horst seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 2nd day of September, 2008.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer