

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2009

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	Sean Horst
Bob Hubbard	Lisa Stowe, Clerk Treasurer
Karen Sample	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor
Patrick Woods	

Johnson's absence was excused.

Minutes from the September meeting were read. One change was noted, where Sample was recorded as seconding the motion for minutes but she was not at the meeting. Hubbard moved to accept the minutes as amended and with a second by Horst the motion carried.

Stowe read the September warrants, numbered 2678 through 2694. Payroll and tax warrants, including quarterly taxes, totaled \$5263.67 and all others were \$1253.25 for a grand total of \$6516.92. There was no warrant for Allied Waste as it was paid last month. Hubbard asked for clarification about the Chase Card Services warrant.

During public comments Marcel Maddox with the US Census Bureau presented information on the 2010 Census. This included historical background and that people this year will be filling out a short form with only ten questions, rather than the long forms, which will be done through random surveys. He asked for help from the Council and for a liaison to assist with the information flow between residents and the Census Bureau.

Resident David Cameron asked Maddox if past problems with mail delivery to rural homes had been fixed. Hopefully it has, but that will remain to be seen. That is one of the reasons Maddox is hoping to have a local liaison.

Horst asked if the Index area was going to be more or less difficult than the past Census. Rural areas were a challenge last time, and Maddox hopes this one will be easier because of the partnerships that will be in place.

Sample asked what those partnerships will entail. These can be whatever the organization wants them to be, and Maddox says most will be low to no cost, and will be mainly assisting in getting information distributed. Sample then asked if there was something in place to count the homeless population, which there is.

Resident Dana Starfire brought up safety. A recent murder of a Census employee makes this a real concern but Maddox says people will not be traveling alone and will be identified by badges and reflective wear. He also hopes local partnerships will help.

Albert proposed listing Stowe as the local liaison, with Sample as backup.

Under other public comments, resident Alex Gibb has been trying to resurrect the Haunted House, but he is having problems gathering interested people so it's not clear that this event will happen. He's aware that if it is held on public and town owned properties, the group would have to apply to the town.

Under council comments Sample has had interesting conversations with people regarding high speed internet, including a Verizon employee who has not called her back. Her calls to Verizon seem to carry some weight since she's calling in an official capacity, but it still sounds like bringing it in would be cost prohibitive. Since she's getting different reasons why it won't work from each person she talks to, she's continuing to call Verizon. She is also researching satellite service, and has talked to the city of Stevenson about how they handle offering service. Albert suggested she speak with the Washington Utilities Trade Commission if nothing is forthcoming from Verizon. Stowe suggested she speak to local Douglas Rupp who has put in considerable work on the

same issue and has dealt with Verizon and WUTC. Sample asked if the town would be willing to invest money into this project, and if so did it need to be decided for the upcoming budget. Stowe said it would be simpler to wait until there's more information and then do a budget amendment if needed.

Hubbard would like to see signs along 5th Avenue requiring parallel parking as people are angle parking in front of the park, making it difficult to get past. A crosswalk sign is also needed, and Stowe will get an estimate on both.

Horst thanked resident Sue Cross for the recent scarecrow competition in the community garden. There will be a Heybrook Hoedown October 23rd as a fund raiser for creating trails within Heybrook Ridge.

Woods had a hard time not dressing up as a scarecrow and waiting in the garden.

The Planning Commission continues to work on revising the Comprehensive Plan, going through the Utility element at their last meeting.

During the maintenance report, Cross said the sandbag section of the berm that was in need of repairs has been fixed. He also did a preliminary riprap review and feels that the foot in deeper channels in a couple spots will eventually need some work.

Albert presented the interlocal for Jail services and reviewed the fees involved. While expensive, it is cheaper than if there was no interlocal in place. A concern is how quickly costs could escalate if an inmate got ill during incarceration. Stowe will research insurance possibilities. He said if the Council elected to not sign on with this interlocal, the town would have to fix up the two jail cells in the town hall. Horst moved to sign on with the interlocal and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Albert attended the community transit board meeting and the representative for this area is now Steve Slawson, a council member with Sultan.

There has been a significant increase in illegal dumping along Reiter Road. Albert asked people to call 911 if they see it happening.

A contract has been signed with Pacific Ridge Excavations for placing the armor stone in the river. The bid was very reasonable and the Council will see the bills for it at next month's meeting.

Index has received a Loss Control grant in the amount of \$1,000 for limbing and removing dangerous trees.

There were no business or land use applications at this time. One amendment was received but sent back for further information.

Sample asked if there was a way to return a drinking fountain to the park. It is possible Wojnich estate funds could be used, but vandalism would have to be addressed. Cross will research this.

As there was no further business Sample moved to adjourn. Horst seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 2nd day of November, 2009.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer