

Index Town Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 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	Patrick Woods
Bob Hubbard	Lisa Stowe, Clerk Treasurer
Dean Johnson	
Karen Sample	

The absence of Horst was excused due to a work conflict.

Albert dedicated this meeting to all those who have helped with the heavy snowfall above and beyond paid staff, including Sabrina Grafton, Kim Peterson, Al King, Roy Hultberg and Bill Boardman.

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

Stowe read the December warrants, numbered 2503 through 2524, and warrant 2526. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$6254.73 and all others were \$49443.52 for a grand total of \$55698.25. Warrants were so high because of end of year dues, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter taxes, and the backhoe purchase. The warrant to AWC for the annual insurance was the same as last year with no increase. The warrant issued to Albert was reimbursement for diesel fuel he purchased for the backhoe. Hubbard moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

During public comments Ray Krona asked if snow removal could include consideration for teachers at the school and for access to the church. Albert said he pushed snow at both places, when plowing on Christmas Eve trying to keep streets open. He reminded residents that snow was piled on town right of ways, and the goal of the town is to keep the streets open. However, he did apologize. He said it would help if the school didn't have vehicles and buses parked in the way of plowing, and he reminded Ray that sidewalks are the responsibility of the abutting property owners. Johnson said there has been an unusually large volume of snow which has added to the difficulty. The Town does try to take care of curls when plowing, which is a luxury most snowplow drivers don't do.

Hubbard offered thanks in general for everyone who has been plowing out late at night and early in the morning. Kem Hunter thanked employees for the amazing job they have done with snow, and said the problem has been finding places to put such large volumes. Sample said Cross has been putting in extra hours plowing and wanted to make sure he and other drivers were reimbursed, which they are. She felt Albert should be reimbursed for plowing time, too. Albert said the best way to reimburse him would be to vote for his opponent. He doesn't take money for his position and doesn't argue about money. Johnson asked if the Town might get reimbursed from the State, which is possible.

David Cameron added his thanks, mentioning the unreal amount of time it takes to remove snow. He asked about the collapse of the Redmen's Hall, and if there was something in place requiring property owners to improve or remove dilapidated properties. There is an old ordinance and under its provisions the Town sent letters to the owners of the Redmen's and the Bush House requesting demolition. At this time the inspector for Snohomish County condemns buildings, through the town interlocal. Residents can initiate calls for buildings but the best way would be to put a concern in writing to the Town first. Stowe suggested contacting the Town prior to the County because in the case of one building, the Town is already in touch with the property owner.

Ray Krona said any person can contact the County, but Albert explained the interlocal the Town has with the County for permitting, where the Town reviews anything prior to County involvement. Ray asked what would happen if the problem involved public health. Someone could call the public health department directly. An added issue is the rights of property owners.

During Council comments, Sample and Woods both added their thanks for the snow plowing.

The Planning Commission did not meet due to the holiday.

Albert requested an Executive Session at 7:30. At 7:45 the Council was called back into session. As a result of the Executive Session, warrant number 2525 in the amount of \$750, written to Burlington Northern Railroad was added to the warrants to be paid. Sample moved to pay the warrant covering the lease of the water line from the railroad, under protest. With a second by Johnson the motion carried.

Ordinances relating to land use and animal control were tabled until next month.

Stowe presented a letter from the Department of Health asking for nomination of a representative. Sample moved to reappoint Sultan Councilmember Jim Flower and with a second by both Hubbard and Johnson the motion carried.

Stowe presented a bill from the Snohomish County Visitor's Center. Last year the Council elected to not pay because the Town had no event listed in their brochure. There was discussion around whether involvement with the Center could be used to increase tourism, but this particular bill covers specific events. While the economic future of Index may rest in tourism, the Town would have to create something else. Johnson moved to pass on paying the fee. With a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

The Town received results from the 2005 audit, and there were no findings or problems.

Ordinance #403 relating to an increase in garbage rates was presented for action. There was discussion around creating an ordinance that has increases for a few years, versus one ordinance for one year, to be addressed annually. It is clear rates must increase in order to cover the cost of solid waste. There is a proposal being worked on in case funds at the federal level become available for public works. If that happens, the Town could apply for a dump truck and create a job hauling garbage. While no garbage has been picked up for a few weeks due to the snow, Allied is making an attempt tomorrow, and plan on leaving a lock box in town. That way if they cannot make it up, there is a collection site. After discussion, Johnson moved to approve an amended Ordinance #403 relating to garbage rate increases, striking 2010, 2011, and 2012, and adding an enacting date of February 1<sup>st</sup>. With a second by Sample the motion carried.

The Washington Wilderness Coalition has requested the Mayor's signature on a Resolution for support of the 2001 Roadless Rule. Woods moved to approve signing and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

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

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2009.

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

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