

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 2, 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	Kim Peterson, Water Distribution Manager
Bob Hubbard	Sean Horst	
Dean Johnson	Lisa Stowe, Clerk Treasurer	
Karen Sample	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor	

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of Ray Gullickson, a long time, and well liked, member of the community who passed away New Year's Eve. The meeting is also dedicated to Malcolm Rose, original fire chief and another well liked member of the town. Malcolm is currently on hospice at home for anyone wishing to tell him goodbye.

Minutes from the January meeting were read. Hubbard moved to accept the minutes as presented and with a second by Woods the motion carried.

Stowe read the January warrants, numbered 2527 through 2548. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4456.83 and all others were \$7714.21 for a grand total of \$12171.04. Johnson moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

During public comments Albert introduced Snohomish County sheriff Sgt. Rob Martin who is the new supervisor for the East County precinct. Sgt. Martin would like residents to know they can contact him if there is anything he can do, especially with potential issues with deputies or specific problems. He is hoping to organize a Block Watch program with communities, although he said with a community as tight as Index there is essentially one already. He can offer specific trainings and would like to build ties between Index and the sheriff's department. Albert said people have a deep seated aversion to calling 911. Sgt. Martin said basically seven digit numbers cost money and ends up with delays in response time. People can call 911 and tell the dispatcher it is not an emergency, and there will be a quicker turn around time for call backs. Sample asked if there were specific projects in the area, and he said one in the Mt. Index River Sites and one in the Reiter forest area. Johnson asked if there could be a meth training. Stowe reminded the Council that the town had one, and Sgt. Martin said meth is currently being made out of the country and shipped in, and the problem isn't on such a large scale locally any more.

Resident Tom Susor would like Council input on how to resolve an issue with their home. It is on a drainage creek, and there have been two flooding problems this winter, where the edge of the creek is eroding and they need to protect the house. This creek is part of a boundary line dispute, where the line is also the creek. There are allegations of work being done in the creek. The Department of Fish and Wildlife deem the creek not fish bearing so it is not within their jurisdiction. While the boundary line dispute is a civil issue between both parties, the work done in the creek, with or without permits, is within town jurisdiction.

Horst asked if the Susor's saw effects during high water events, from the digging that is moving the course of the creek. Tom said rocks have been put in the creek that dams it, and there is a clear path where the water is going over the bank and under their house. Both flooding and the excavation are causing erosion, so the Susor's want to know what they can legally do to prevent further erosion. He sees this as a two part issue, the work done by the neighbors and what is needed to protect their house. Albert talked about what regulation would be appropriate for a Type 4 stream, and if the classification is correct, since classification determines regulation. Hubbard said the stream was classified Type 4 as the lowest possible classification, since even if the stream is not habitable for fish, it provides food for fish. He said flooding issues also impact the septic systems, and that added to impacts to the house make the issue a priority.

Albert said in 1981 the stream did go over its banks and flooded Avenue A, threatening houses between 6th and 7th. This makes the level of water a concern, and building a dam a town concern. In 1981 there was water added into this drainage ditch from a pipe which no longer flows.

Stowe will notify both property owners that Albert, Cross, and Hubbard will visit the site on Monday the 9th. A final decision will be put into writing for both property owners after the Council reviews the issue at the March meeting.

A Special Events Checklist was presented for action, for an adventure race in May. The race will include mountain biking on Reiter road, a trek to the Heybrook fire tower, and rafting the North Fork. Impact to the town will be mainly at the beginning since participants will feed in during the conclusion. The applicants would like to use the park, part of the street in front of Wave Trek, with an estimated 100 -150 people attending. The park was not included in the original application and Glenn Rogers asked to amend the application to include use of the park. He said this is a low key race, not a marathon, with people traveling in co-ed teams of four. There will be checkpoints including one at the railroad tracks to minimize risk crossing. People will be supplied for checkpoints and traffic control, but volunteers are welcomed. Rogers is in talks with the Department of Natural Resources, the Forest Service, the Parks Department, and Snohomish County to make sure all permissions and permits are obtained. He also has insurance and will get a copy of the certificate of coverage to the town. Horst asked how they will gain access to the fire tower and Rogers said the hope is to go straight up, using orienteering and low impact, but it will depend on the County. Johnson asked about parking. They hope to use the lot across the bridge from town. Rogers said most people will travel as teams so there won't be 150 cars in town. Hubbard suggested overflow parking could be at the Sportsmen's, and asked to be involved in Heybrook access routes. Wave Trek will bring in porta-potties. Johnson moved to accept the Checklist as amended to include the park, the intersection of 5th and Avenue A, and Index Avenue to Reiter, as well as the block in front of Wave Trek, and minimizing parking impacts in town. With a second by Horst the amended application passed.

There were no Council comments.

The Planning Commission had a work session on the Comprehensive Plan and completed a first draft of the Land Use Element, which they will review at the next meeting.

Maintenance for the town has been low this month, although the town truck is getting repairs.

Albert presented information on Federally Funded Infrastructure projects. Peterson has made a spreadsheet and put a lot of work into coming up with potential projects if funding becomes available. Included with the spreadsheet is a narrative about the projects, and a resolution. Projects include the water system, security, broadband, jobs, health services, open space and parks, city training, safety, drainage, the town hall, flood control, and energy efficiency. An environmental restoration component will be added. Peterson said there is no guarantee how funds will be released, but the assumption is that it will be through a grant process with competition for funds. She said anything the town tries to do will require Council approval, so if the resolution is done it documents agreement on the projects. Sample thanked Peterson for the work and the nice job done on the list. Hubbard moved to accept Resolution 09-01 in support of the projects, and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

The City of Sultan has asked Index to sign an interlocal for use of a trailered pressure washer obtained through a grant. While Index supported the grant application to obtain the pressure washer, the interlocal states Index will pay for maintenance based on population rather than use. Since graffiti isn't a large problem for Index, the town would receive bills even if the equipment isn't used. Horst moved to not enter into the interlocal and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Albert met with Darrel Cramer with the Washington Climbers Coalition about the possibility of putting in restrooms at their expense, near the climber's parking lot. The Coalition is looking at some State land, but it may be a wetland, and so approached the town as a possible alternative. This is information at this point, and the Coalition will present a proposal if town land is needed. There was discussion around the type of restrooms, whether the land would be rented or not, and who would be responsible for maintenance and vandalism. All of this will be addressed in a proposal.

Albert has been working on revising the Land Use component of the municipal code. Stowe has come up with a fee schedule. An issue is what the Council wishes to do with regards to signing off on SEPA applications. The town attorney says it is abnormal but not explicitly wrong to have a Council making decisions. If the Council does not, than decisions would be administrative and the town would probably hire someone, with those costs passed on to the applicant. Right now codes around land use are rather hodge-podge, and Albert hopes to have something clearer next month. He asks that the Council read through the draft and consider the question of decision making.

Stowe presented the Burlington Northern warrant from last month for signatures. Since it was taken out of normal order it did not get signed, though the Council approved paying it.

Pamphlets from the Women's League of Voters with contact information for the government are available.

A resident asked Stowe if there would be a spring clean up this year. The town plans to hold one in May as usual, and Cross will come up with a date for the next Council meeting.

A business license was presented for approval. After reviewing it the Council elected to not approve it as the description of the business directs the Council to a website rather than describing the business. While the Council felt the business would present no problems, they did not want to set a precedent of approving applications without a clear knowledge of what the business entails.

Albert brought up the animal control ordinance. The only comments he received were from Stowe. Based on her comments he made changes to breed specifications. The biggest difference between this draft and the original is the dangerous dog information. He said the sheriff's department suggests increasing the fee rates. The current rate of \$25 puts the town in the hole since the court fee alone is \$30. Albert has modified the rate amounts. The sheriff's deputy asked why the town didn't adopt the County animal ordinance. Albert has not had time to read through it. He asks that the Council read through the draft and come next month prepared to vote.

Last year the town passed the noise ordinance with a sunset clause which comes up in June. The ordinance will have to be presented a couple months prior to that for a decision on renewing. There have been no calls for noise nuisances.

Johnson asked if there had been any reply from the railroad pertaining to the crossing fees. Nothing has come in yet.

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 2nd day of March, 2009.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer