

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 1, 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 Foster, Animal Control, On Call Clerk
Bob Hubbard	Sean Horst	
Dean Johnson	Lisa Stowe, Clerk Treasurer	
Karen Sample	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor	

This meeting was dedicated to the untimely death of Steve Higgins, who, while not a resident, worked tirelessly for several local causes. He will be missed.

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

Stowe read the May warrants, numbered 2605 through 2618. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4673.28 and all others were \$3015.69 for a grand total of \$7688.97. Hubbard moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Johnson the motion carried. The warrant to Allied Waste was lower than normal because they had once again overcharged the town. The reimbursement should make up for the coming charges for the Spring Clean Up. Horst asked what the bill from Chinook Lumber was for. This was for lumber to repair the rotten decking on the Town trailer.

During public comments Albert welcomed Sgt. Martin and the Council congratulated him on the birth of his son. The Sheriff's Department will be hosting a National Night Out on August 4th at 6:30 in Gold Bar. There will be a bouncy house for kids and a barbecue. Sgt. Martin said the recent burglaries in the area are still being investigated and reminded people to report anything in town. Albert stressed that it doesn't help matters if something goes unreported. A person can call 911 for a non-emergency request for a call back from a deputy. If the incident is valued at less than \$1500 a resident can fill out a form at the town hall and mail it in, or fill it out online at the Sheriff website.

Resident Pete Gott asked if any money had been brought in during the Spring Clean Up. Stowe said donations totaled \$115, compared to \$85 received last year.

Susan Susor thanked Albert for his letter delineating the issues brought up at previous meetings between the Susors and the Finleys. She asked if there would be follow up to make sure what was listed in the letter actually gets done. Albert said there was no request from either party for follow up measures and there would be no regular inspections, but someone will check in occasionally.

During Council comments, Sample said she was not able to do research on the noise ordinance due to her work load.

Horst was curious about the 4th of July and wondered if there would be a set up similar to last year with Wave Trek. Pete Gott said they are willing to assist and will talk to Albert to find out what can happen under the new fireworks ordinance.

Woods apologized for missing last month's meeting.

Johnson will not be filing for reelection for his Council seat although he will finish out his term. Albert said he hated to lose Johnson but understood the demands on his time.

The Planning Commission was unable to meet on their regularly scheduled night of the 27th and rescheduled for the week prior. At that time they were unable to make a quorum and rescheduled again for the original 27th. They were then able to have a quorum and worked on the Comprehensive Plan. There is still an open position.

There was no maintenance report as Cross was not present during this part of the agenda. Albert said someone knocked down the stop sign at the intersection of Avenue A and 5th, gave Wave Trek money for repairs, they will fix the sign.

Resident Peggy Zimmerman commented that someone has been playing around street signs in the vicinity of 6th Street so that the signs are not readable.

Sample asked if the Town could repaint the crossing lines at the school, which will be done.

Albert wanted to recognize people in the community who have committed their time to train as new volunteers for the fire department. This included D.J. Wickstrom, Ray Krona, Dave Repnick, Norm Johnson, Sabrina Grafton, Carrie Schumaker, and Steve Gillies.

A Water Service Policy was presented. Albert said this is for upgrades and enhancements such as sprinkler systems. The policy falls as interpretation and application of the existing water ordinance so this was presented as information only with no action required. The policy will be used only where there is an existing water service.

Albert presented Resolution 09-07 relating to indexing public records. Cities are required to keep an index of public records. The law states that if this presents a hardship a city can opt out. With Index not having an opt-out resolution, it means if someone requests the index and one did not exist the Town could be fined. Sample moved to accept Resolution 09-07 for opting out of the public records index and with a second by Johnson the motion carried.

Albert continues to follow and research the law suit FEMA is involved in and should have more information next month.

Resident Peggy Zimmerman presented a Special Events Checklist for activities on the 4th of July. Albert thanked her for her work over the last couple years. Horst moved to accept the Checklist and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

Stowe gave out packets with election information. The mayor's position and two council positions are open, and Declarations of Candidacy need to be submitted prior to June 5th.

Bob Foster sat in on the Council meeting as he will be taking the Clerk's job during the July meeting when Stowe is on vacation.

Iron Goat Networks submitted a proposal for a bank of computers under a grant they are applying for. Under the proposal, ten computers would be set up in the Old Fire Hall with broadband access. After discussion it was decided that there were too many issues not addressed to be able to take action. The grant deadline was June 19th and as the Council received the proposal for the first time at this meeting, there is no time to gather further information. Concerns included the proposed hours the Hall would be open, no information regarding staffing or security, no information on what happens after the two year timeframe, no information on how to monitor what the computers are used for, and no information on how to fit the computers into space that is full during meetings.

Sample wondered if it might be better to approach Verizon for upgrading the Town. She said the proposal was a lovely thought but computers wouldn't last long in the Hall. Albert said there are a number of options including researching the Town offering broadband as a revenue source.

Peggy Zimmerman said the garbage driver knocked down wires and she was concerned about safety. Stowe said the driver immediately reported the incident to Cross, who was working on getting them fixed.

SEPA and JARPA applications, along with a Determination of Non-Significance, were presented for the bank armor project. The applications were sent out to the Department of Ecology, the Army Corp of Engineers and Fish and Wildlife but no comments have come back. This is to place three large rocks in the river to help prevent scouring, and is a requirement by FEMA as part of the Town's riprap repair project. Sample asked if the

Town would be responsible if the project did not have the intended effect or if it made things worse. Albert said the Town was told to do this as a condition of approval for the riprap repair and since this came down from a federal level, all federal environmental reviews had to be met, which has been done. Hubbard said placing rocks would stabilize the unstable soils under the gravelly loam. He moved to accept the applications and Determination and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Ordinance #398 relating to noise was presented for action. Albert said this illustrated a dilemma he has faced as a mayor. There is an ethical responsibility to be a good neighbor and citizen but those principles are evident less and less in society. Issues before the town are things that twenty five years ago would have been settled with common courtesy. What we see now are people who don't feel, see, or care that way. A concrete example was the dog that barked all night recently. Now there are situations where you hope people will be reasonable but they throw things back in your face and when that happens there has to be a law. Hubbard agreed and likes the idea of approaching a neighbor, but it can escalate to calling the police or becoming violent, and he prefers having a law as an intermediary prior to violence.

Sample said this ordinance was used recently and the police were called to ask people to be quiet. She asked Sgt. Martin if the police would have responded if there had been no ordinance in place, which they would have. She said if the police respond anyway, why have the ordinance? Sgt. Martin said deputies cannot take enforcement action without an ordinance and cannot go through locked gates to gain entrance without a legal reason.

There was discussion about citations and warnings. Deputies don't have to give a citation even if an ordinance lists citations for a first offense. Woods said it's great when people comply but the problem is when they don't. Sgt. Martin said the main objective is to solve a problem and it doesn't serve a purpose to write citations.

Stowe has problems with the phrase 'unreasonable' as it cannot be measured.

Hubbard moved to adopt Ordinance #398 relating to noise and with a second by Horst the motion carried. Ed Boress clarified that this version does not have a sunset clause.

As there was no further business Johnson moved to adjourn. Horst seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 6th day of July, 2009.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer