

Index Town Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 2010

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Index Town Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Bruce Albert. Due to the Labor Day Holiday the meeting was scheduled for Tuesday.

**COUNCILMEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

Bruce Albert	Lisa Stowe, Clerk Treasurer
Bob Hubbard	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor
Karen Sample	
Pete Gott	
Sean Horst	

Woods was not present.

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

Stowe read the August warrants, numbered 2908 through 2925. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$5076.21 and all others were \$4340.39 for a grand total of \$9416.60. Hubbard moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

During public comments resident Yvonne Lawson thanked the mayor and the council for allowing the Art Festival to happen. Albert said they did a great job and it was a success even on a rainy day. Gott said there was still a Festival sign up on Galena road. Lawson said they are having difficulty getting it down.

Resident Etta Hunter announced a Block Watch meeting for September 8<sup>th</sup> at her house. Sample has heard people talking about the Block Watch and thinks it is a good presence.

There was no Sherriff's report this month.

Under council comments Gott asked for clarification that he had permission to remove a couple dangerous trees. Albert confirmed this and asked only that the ditch not be damaged. Gott will remove the trees at his expense and will keep the wood.

Gott would like to see the old computer at the town hall set up for use. Stowe reminded the council that there had been a computer previously for the public to use, but that there were conflicts with the internet and improper use of the internet during business hours. Gott was looking more for something council members could use and print from. Albert asked to have the computer set up for that use only, with the understanding that during business hours Stowe has priority for internet use.

Kelly Rose said that she has been working to start a Boys and Girls Club at the Sportsmen's Hall, and once that is up and going computers will be available there. Stowe reminded Rose that the group will have to come to the town hall for business licenses for both their paper and the Club.

Gott would like the council's permission to write a letter to the Forest Service and the Health Department about conditions outside of town where squatters are. Albert wrote a letter to the Forest Service and then accidently ran into Sean Tobin from the Forest Service and asked him to enforce the fourteen-day limit for staying in that area. Albert said the council discussed this issue a year ago and the conditions improved briefly but are now worse. He and Tobin talked about issues of garbage,

sanitation, and long term residency. This area has been a problem for over twenty years but now it is out of hand. Gott asked if the town would be interested in obtaining that property, and that he would be willing to research that possibility. Horst thought it would be good to see the town gain this property and set it up as a revenue generating campground. He has no idea what it would cost to run but would like to see the area something more than it is now. Albert will be talking to Tobin in the next couple weeks and will broach the subject and if there is interest Gott could then pursue it.

Gott asked what could be done on the Galena side of the County bridge to improve visibility, or install a stop sign. Albert said the County insists the signage is sufficient, but he will talk to Sgt. Martin for his opinion. The area is a Native Planting site and so someone can't just go over there and cut vegetation. Stowe calls the County Road Maintenance people every year, but by the time they get to the area fall has arrived and the leaves are down. Albert will take photos and will write a letter to the County requesting a stop sign.

Horst thanked the Art Festival group for putting on the festival. There will be a Heybrook Hoedown October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the River House.

Hubbard wondered if tall willows at the end of the bridge could be replaced with native plants like ferns and salal that wouldn't grow so high. Regarding the camping area outside of town, he thinks it would work if there was a campground on the side of the old trap grounds, with the river side being day use picnic areas only. Gott said clean up of the trap grounds would be a huge issue and Hubbard wondered if fill dirt could be brought in. Albert said the issue is that the town would need income to be able to do something like these proposals.

Sample said there is a reason the area outside of town is in the shape it is, and that's because the Forest Service and State Parks do not have the revenue to run it. She's not sure the town could create enough money from something like this and she has severe fiscal concerns. It's a great plan but she's very concerned that if larger organizations can't maintain the area how could the town. Plus there is the issue of the river plowing through there.

Sample has had no response from Frontier regarding internet but will continue to follow up.

Sample completed a second walk/meeting with DNR regarding ORV use in the watershed, along with Hubbard and Peterson. The original proposed trail that crossed the watershed may be moved to a lower location, but it still crosses the watershed. DNR has not figured out how they plan to cross it and are having specialists look into that. The town suggested signage explaining why the area is limited, and fencing the portion that crosses the watershed. She feels this is something the town will still have to fight for. While she feels things are moving along with DNR, personnel did tell her that they can't find any other way to cross one area and they want to put in a switchback. Peterson told them they shouldn't be in the watershed at all. Sample feels Peterson is doing a great job on the town's behalf. Currently trails are still being designed and once that is finalized DNR will begin the SEPA process and the town needs to stay vigilant regarding the SEPA's. Sample said in theory the town is working with DNR but DNR is still planning on motorcycles riding through the town's watershed.

Albert said the proposed ordinance before Snohomish County allowing ORV use along Reiter road was withdrawn.

The Planning Commission worked on going over figures and language on the Comprehensive Plan draft, and Stowe will review that under the Clerk's report.

Under the maintenance report, Cross is glad bathrooms are working properly again. He said the Art Festival went off with no hitches. Stowe thanked Cross for donating new windows for the Town Hall.

Cross is working on repairing the outside of the Town Hall, returning it to its original drop siding, which will be cleaned up and painted.

Peterson was not able to attend and there was no water report.

Albert clarified the use of the Old Fire Hall. Anyone wanting to use it needs to talk to Stowe as she has the calendar. The Block Watch is a supported institution of the town and as such can use the building at no cost, but they must work around the schedules of paying users. Because the Block Watch has no budget they cannot incur expenses in the name of the town without coming to the town first. Albert asked that if they make copies, they leave Stowe a note with how many. The Art Festival is a desirable and supported event and as such can also meet without charge.

Resident David Meier said that the fire department received a grant to make the building available for public meetings, so if there are ever conflicts with the Old Fire Hall, the fire department may be available.

Albert received a letter from FEMA stating the deadline next year for the town to be in compliance with new federal regulations. He hopes by next month to have a model ordinance available for a first reading. These are new requirements of federal law that tie in with flood insurance and endangered species, so it is not optional on the town's part. Regulations are not getting more lax but more stringent. Likely changes will require biological studies and engineered zero rise studies for any development along the river.

Stowe contacted Harris Software right after last month's meeting, requesting their audit showing the town had to pay back taxes. She has had no response and will not be paying the bill until more information is available.

Stowe presented a thank you card from the Art Festival group to the mayor and council.

The Comprehensive Plan draft was given to council members. It is a strike through version so they can see what was in the previous Plan and what is new. Stowe asked that they read through it looking for grammar and punctuation mistakes, as well as anything they want to comment on. This draft is not yet ready for public presentation. After feedback from the Council, a corrected version will be made available and the public comment process, including a SEPA and public hearing will begin.

Albert reminded the council that they will have a second meeting in October to go over Shoreline material.

The Tacher public hearing was suspended at the applicant's request. They are not withdrawing their application, but are having difficulties resolving septic issues.

Under other business Ordinance #408 relating to junk vehicles, and Ordinance #409 relating to public nuisances on public property were presented last month for first readings. Albert does not feel these ordinances are ready for adoption and would like to postpone them and asked council members for help working on them.

Ordinance #410 relating to a model traffic code was presented for a first reading. Albert has been working with Sgt. Martin on this. Many cities have deficits in the wording of their traffic code that is resulting in fines having to be reimbursed. There is a State model ordinance based on WAC's, and cities may adopt all or part. Albert read through other versions and created this one that excludes some chunks not applicable to Index, such as establishing traffic divisions, parking meters, traffic safety commissions, licensing bicycles, and service parking.

Hubbard said there were RCW's at the town hall but wondered where the WAC's were. Albert said the best place to read them is online, and that the books are very expensive and have to be replaced every two years. He suggested if the second computer is set up, these could be downloaded on the computer.

Albert asked if there were any opinions on the public nuisance ordinance. Sample is concerned about who pays for the junk vehicles, and is also concerned about the definition of 'unreasonable' and 'inappropriate'. She feels those words cannot be defined but doesn't know how to work around it. Albert agrees.

Stowe presented Resolution #10-07 relating to the draft Hazard Mitigation Plan. She told council members about the draft Plan a couple months ago, and the Plan has been at the town hall for them to read. The Department of Emergency Management is concerned about the tight time frame for adopting the final plan, and has asked members to adopt this resolution adopting the draft in order to streamline the timeframe for adopting the final plan. Adopting the draft does not mean adopting the final version and council members will still be able to review that final version. Sample moved to adopt the draft Plan and Horst seconded the motion. Albert asked if the word 'draft' should be added to one portion of the resolution. Sample moved to amend her motion to include adding the word 'draft'. With a second by Hubbard the amended motion carried, with Gott abstaining.

As there was no further business Hubbard moved to adjourned, and with a second by Horst the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010.

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

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