

Index Town Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
November 7, 2011

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	Lisa Stowe, Clerk Treasurer
Bob Hubbard	Kim Peterson, Water Manager/Flood Plain Coordinator
Karen Sample	
Patrick Woods	
Pete Gott	
Sean Horst	

Mayor Albert thanked Woods for his years of service on the Council. Albert appreciated his doing the job and fulfilling his term, and said that Woods has always been worth listening to.

Mayor Albert also thanked Sgt. Martin for his service to the town. He's been a great asset, has done a great job, and the Town thanked him.

Minutes from the October meeting were read. One change was noted regarding the planning commission. Woods moved to accept the minutes as amended and with a second by Gott the motion carried.

Stowe presented the October warrants, numbered 3183 through 3201 and manual check 990009. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$5039.62 and all others were \$13333.03 for a total of \$18372.65. Hubbard moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Gott the motion carried.

Under public comments resident Kem Hunter talked about the Index Business Alliance. This includes the formation of a local newspaper. The Alliance plans to review the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning. Hunter also said he is frustrated with the way land use has been enforced and will be a sounding board for complaints. Albert is the responsible official for administering land use and the bulk of the Town's code was written by lay people and is outdated. Plus land use continues to get more complex. Sample hoped those people concerned with these issues would consider joining the planning commission when there is an opening. Sample asked Hunter when the next meeting was, and he said it will be Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. A time and location was not given.

A letter was received from seven people outside of Town limits who receive Town water in response to a proposed resolution for pro-rating repair costs to homeowners for work done on water lines. This option exists in Town code but up until now has not been enforced. Albert explained that Sky Country Club is their own system handling their own repairs and maintenance, and homeowners to the east of Town limits also are responsible for the same. This group of homeowners is the only one outside of Town limits that does not. The Town has to look at financial security for the system. The letter requested a forum, and Albert said he would be happy to meet with the people who signed the letter.

David Gowey asked for more information in order to understand why this issue has come up. He asked the Council to not finalize anything for sixty days. Albert said he would be happy to table it and proposed that Albert, Peterson, and Horst as the Councilmember involved with public works, meet with the homeowners.

Gott proposed increasing water payments for everyone in order to make the water fund financially stable. The proposal included a slightly higher increase for people outside of Town limits in order to avoid those people receiving large repair bills. Horst thanked Gott for working on this. The Council is faced with coming up with money and is looking at the best options including changing garbage service. Gott pointed out that even with the increases over time people would still be paying less than Gold Bar.

Blair Corson asked about street use permits. Albert said that was on the agenda. Corson said something needed to be figured out regarding the Bush House sitting on the street. Albert said that, as they had discussed

previously, there is no adverse possession against a government and the street sits as it was originally platted. He feels a solution, as already discussed, might be to vacate a sufficient width to accommodate the structure, but that this would be up to the Council. He offered to help Corson create a petition, and that, along with a filing fee, would get the petition on the agenda for the next Council meeting. At the December meeting the Council would review the proposal and set a hearing date at the following Council meeting. Corson said this did not address issues with the leaking roof. Albert told him to get a letter to the clerk requesting a roof repair. She then will respond with a letter that they can take to the County to get a roofing permit. Albert said he thinks one of the biggest hurdles will be that there is no certificate of occupancy.

Sgt. Martin had nothing to report.

Under Council comments Hubbard apologized for the lack of speech and photo in the elections pamphlet. He did not want to be seen as a candidate that did not care enough for the position to submit. He did submit both but for some reason they were not included.

The Planning Commission did not have a quorum.

There was no maintenance report as Cross is on vacation.

Under the Water Manager's report, Peterson said the riprap maintenance project is complete and there were no major water line breaks this month. There is the possibility of submitting HUD grants for riprap repairs or to relocate the water main that is currently in the flood plain. Both include environmental issues that might delay the process. The application process will take 20-30 hours of Peterson's and Stowe's time. There was no objection from the Council.

Next month will be the water retention hearing required by the State.

Peterson has sent two messages to DNR and received no response. Reiter road is shut down west of the proposed foothills area so if that area is opened traffic will come through town. Albert has also sent an inquiry to the County asking what still needs to be done to reopen Reiter road. He, too, has had no response. This is a concern with flood season coming since the road is needed during high water.

Albert talked about the HUD grants, and how funding is down for such things. He would like to see the Town pursue grant funding for moving the water line. He and Hubbard talked briefly about locations to move the line to. Moving the line would be an alternative to losing the water main.

Albert received an email from the receiver of the Bush House, who is working on a sale agreement.

The riprap maintenance was completed under budget but the toe is not as robust as when it was first constructed. Work in the water would involve more agencies and could cost \$100,000.

Stowe presented two letters from the fire department relating to creating a gravel parking area on Town right of way, and removing trees on recently acquired property. The Council had no issues with either activity. Albert reminded the fire department that the water main is less than two feet underground in that area.

A business application was presented for A Stone's Throw Bed and Breakfast. Woods moved to accept the application as submitted and with a second by Gott the motion carried.

Ordinance #424 relating to garbage regulation was discussed again. It is the Council's wish to proceed with stepping out of the garbage business. To formalize that, the Council needs to make a motion, and stemming from that the Town needs to notify the current provider, the new provider, and residents. This should be formulated before the first of the year.

Bill Boardman asked for an explanation so Albert reviewed what has been discussed in several Council meetings regarding the proposed changes in service.

Etta Hunter again expressed concern about garbage piling up. The draft ordinance compelling service was presented last month and is on the table for further discussion. The draft has violation penalties included although Gott would like to see those higher.

Bill Boardman felt garbage haulers would jack prices up but the prices are regulated at the State level through the Washington Utilities Trade Commission. Gott said the Town has been losing \$2,000 a year by providing garbage service and if the Town continues doing so the rates are going to have to go up.

Sample said that rates may go up with a new provider, but if the Town stays in the garbage business rates will have to go up immediately, and higher. The bigger issue is not economics but enforcement and there are already people in town who stash garbage even with guaranteed pick up. She said if there was an issue with neighbors it should be brought to the Town.

Ordinance #427 relating to wages and salaries for 2012 was presented for a first reading. Wages and salaries will remain the same as in 2011.

Ordinance #428 relating to the budget for 2012 was presented for a first reading. Revenue is down significantly.

Ordinance #429 relating to right of way use was presented for a first reading. Albert asked the Council to read through it and get comments to him within two weeks in order to send it to the lawyer for review.

Resolution 11-08 relating to property taxes was presented for action. The general fund is looking at a shortfall of \$5,000 and there are not many ways to impact that. The Town has not increased property taxes since 2002. Sample moved to adopt the Resolution 11-08 version with the fully banked 13.75% increase, and with a second by Gott the motion carried.

Resolution 11-09 relating to property taxes was presented for action. Sample moved to adopt the Resolution with the figures changed to reflect the increase in Resolution 11-08. With a second by Horst the motion carried.

Gott moved to adjourn the meeting but withdrew the motion in order to allow for any other business.

Sample had considered requesting a three month moratorium on business applications until the process is looked at, but decided to table this. Stowe told the Council there is a process in place strongly recommended by the Town's insurance carrier, on how to instate moratoriums. The current business license code is close to arbitrary.

Bill Corson felt a lot of time has been spent trying to get the Bush House up and going and the Town needed to get behind the project. Albert said he was not aware of any opposition to something good happening to the building.

As there was no further business Gott moved to adjourn, and with a second by Horst the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.

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

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