

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 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	
Pat Woods	
Sean Horst	

The meeting was dedicated to the memory of Frank Buckels, the last WWI veteran who recently passed away.

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

Stowe presented the February warrants, numbered 3032 through 3050. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$5397.58 and all others were \$5663.35 for a total of \$11060.93. Woods moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried. The warrant to Reliable Office Supply was for the new fire safe.

The Council agreed to change the order of the agenda to allow members of the Snohomish County Sheriff's Department to present their annual report. Representatives of the Sheriff's Department included Sheriff John Lovick, Lt. Brand, Sgt. Martin, and volunteer Ray Coleman. They gave a power-point presentation that reviewed the contract and included costs, service, 24/7 reactive and proactive responses, and full support services such as search and rescue, special crimes, etc. The contract requires deputies to be in Index for a minimum of fifteen minutes per day, but deputies average 45-55 minutes per day.

The annual report also included trends in crime, the types of calls, and community involvement such as being a presence during the Art Festival, and attending Block Watch and community meetings.

For 2011 there will be a 3% increase in the price per call. Ken Maher asked if that increase was a one time increase or per year. Sgt. Martin said it's per year and Lt. Brand clarified that the increase is connected to annual cost of living increases. Maher then said the increase seemed high in the current economy. Lt. Brand agreed but the increase has been built into the contract since 1994 and some years the amount is closer to 2%, and some years closer to 4% but it makes for a stable contract for budgeting. Maher then commented on the loss of one deputy serving the area, and yet the 3% increase remaining the same. Sgt. Martin clarified that the loss of one deputy due to Gold Bar's budget would not result in any impact to the level of service for Index.

Albert said that Index gets a great deal especially when alternatives are looked at.

Resident Ed Boress asked if the town paid when someone went to jail. Sgt. Martin said that Index pays for jail time for misdemeanors and the amount of jail time is up to a judge. He said the County pays for any felony jail time. Index has an interlocal with the jail. Boress asked for clarification about the interlocal, and Albert said that if they jail our misdemeanor offenders, Index pays. Otherwise Index must furnish jail services as the city is obligated to provide law enforcement.

Lt. Brand said that prosecutors are good at considering city budgets when asking for jail time.

Resident David Cameron asked if recent thefts had been resolved or were still outstanding. Sgt. Martin couldn't speak to specifics but said there was a suspect in fuel thefts but cases were still open.

Sample thanked the representatives for a clear presentation. Sheriff Lovick said they are fortunate to have Sgt. Martin, and that Index had access to all the resources of the entire Sheriff's Department. He then thanked the Council and the Mayor for the work they do. Lt. Brand said that Index has set a model for a Block Watch group in the South Fork community.

Hubbard mentioned the closure of Reiter Road and said a result of that has been the increase in the amount of time deputies are on the highway. He thinks it's good, and that increased time is better and more effective than the sign listing the number of days between accidents.

Resident Etta Hunter said there will be a Block Watch meeting Tuesday night at 6:00 at the Old Fire Hall. She thanked the officers for coming every month.

During public comments Boress asked for clarification on the warrants that were presented. He thought the Council had voted to pay Stowe and Cross the same amount. Stowe said they were being paid the same, but she worked 120 hours a month and Cross worked 85 hours a month.

Under Council comments Sample has some unanswered emails still out to Frontier, but she has been hearing good rumors that she will wait to comment on until she knows more.

The Planning Commission did not have a quorum but held a work session on zoning. There are two openings, although one person has applied.

Under the maintenance report, Albert commented on the good snow plowing work.

Under the Water Manager's report, Peterson is contracting with a man to work on the Pressure Reduction Valve (PRV) in the vault. He will disassemble and repair the valve, and while it won't be cheap it will not be so expensive that it can't be done. The PRV creates consistent pressure for the town and hasn't been functioning as well as it could. Albert asked if the work would result in water shut-off. Peterson said the water will be shut off for up to an hour but there is enough water in the system that people may not even notice.

There will be a Shoreline meeting March 17th at 7:00 at the Old Fire Hall. Peterson is mailing out information to those in the shoreline jurisdiction, but everyone is welcome to attend. The purpose is to get any last comments and ideas to finalize a draft for presentation in June. There will be another meeting in April to explain what the new regulations will be.

Albert received a request for a letter of intent to enter into an interlocal with the Snohomish County Drug Task Force and asked if the Council had any objection to him signing the letter of intent. The Council had no objection.

Last month Albert presented two proposed fire interlocals, one for inspections, and one for investigations. The one for investigations means when there is a fire, the fire marshal investigates the cause and the town pays for the service. It is Albert's position that this service should come with fire protection. He said that if someone is the victim of a crime and a deputy investigates, that person doesn't get a bill from the deputy. If a person is paying taxes for fire services, investigation should be included. Resident David Meier is a fire commissioner and he said there will be a meeting

Wednesday evening and asked if Albert would like him to bring this up. Albert will get a list of questions to Meier for the meeting.

Sample said she thought the Index Fire Chief was an investigator, but Meier said he is investigates for Monroe. She said the interlocal says the town doesn't have qualified personnel and asked if the town had to contract with the County for this service. Albert said no, the town just has to provide the service. Sample has a problem with the wording of the interlocal, including where it says the town expressed interest in this, that the County is not guaranteeing they can get to the town on time, and that there is no Appendix A showing the billing, as stated in the interlocal. She also has a problem with having to pay for an investigator's insurance while in town.

Resident Kem Hunter asked how this was handled for District 28 residents outside of town limits. A person visiting the Council meeting said he worked for District 4, and that if someone is outside town limits the County becomes responsible and the city contracts with the deputy fire chief for investigation services within the town. Hunter said when he was mayor this same issue came up and he responded that people in town voted to become part of District 28 which means they should get the same service as people outside of town limits but part of the District. The visitor pointed out that funds to pay the fire marshal come from the general budget and not from fire taxes, which is why this is an issue.

Regarding the interlocal for inspections, Sample said their business was inspected three years ago; they paid \$175 for a person who basically looked at their fire extinguishers, and hasn't been back since. She doesn't think the town should be involved in that interlocal.

Albert said that applicants are required to do a plan check for fire code and he feels that should be handled at the application approval level at the County, and the applicant billed. He said inspections are sticky because they must follow codes. He feels inspections should be done for businesses. If the town paid for those inspections then the town would have to either absorb the cost or have a mechanism in place to collect the money. Another option would be to have the fire marshal bill the people inspected. The town does not have discretion over who gets inspected.

The Forest Service is applying for a grant for funding to create a boat launch across from the old Sportsmen's Trapgrounds. This would include a toilet facility, restricted parking, a public launch, and with the expenses paid for through the Trail Pass system. The grant requires local participation and in-kind assistance. This could include the town providing help cleaning the bathroom and collecting garbage. The cost to the town would mainly be in labor, but it brings the area much closer to what people want to see. Albert asked the Council to authorize him to send the Forest Service notification indicating support.

Hubbard asked if this might create a job that would be paid or volunteer. Albert said either way but it appeared a chunk could be incorporated into the maintenance job.

Meier said the Friends of Heybrook would be willing to take on some of the tasks but that this project needed the backing of deputies and the Forest Service. When Lynn Chamberlain was cleaning the area the Forest Service involvement was minimal. He said while the Friends were willing to help they would like to see a memorandum of understanding that the Forest Service would hold up their end. Albert said there was a clean sweep of the area last summer and if it got bad again he would lead the Forest Service personnel through by the hand if he had to.

Stowe gave Council members updates for their Municipal Notebooks. She asked them to let her know when they have completed the updates so she can keep track of which notebooks are current. She stressed the importance of keeping them up to date with current laws and regulations.

There were no business or land use applications.

Ordinance #415 relating to requiring no permits for uninhabited structures less than two hundred square feet was presented last month for a first reading. Currently structures bigger than 120 square feet must have building permits. This ordinance would change that threshold for structures outside critical areas to 200 square feet.

Sample moved to adopt Ordinance #415 as presented and Hubbard seconded the motion. Stowe clarified that this was only for structures outside critical areas. Albert said he felt the Ordinance wording was insufficiently clear that this does not exempt structures from other requirements such as flood plain regulation, zoning, etc., and suggested that this go to the town attorney. The Council could then act next month on the lawyer's draft. Sample then withdrew her motion.

As there was no further business Woods moved to adjourn, and with a second by Horst the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 4th day of April, 2011.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer