

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
April 4, 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
Pat Woods	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor
Pete Gott	
Sean Horst	

Sample's absence was excused.

Albert passed around a card for council members to sign for resident Betty Johnson who was injured and is in a cast.

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

Stowe presented the March warrants, numbered 3051 through 3070. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$5704.93 and all others were \$9816.24 for a total of \$15521.17. Hubbard moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Gott the motion carried. The quarterly taxes were due, the warrant to the Washington Association for Floodplain Management is for a staff training, the warrant to Berkadia is for the water bond, the warrant to Northwest Hydrotech is for work done on the pressure relief valve, the warrant to Snohomish County Public Works is for work done under the Shoreline Grant and will be reimbursed, and Stowe's check was more than normal due to extra hours under the Shoreline Grant, which will also be reimbursed.

There were no public comments at this time.

Sgt. Martin was unable to attend the Council meeting, and Deputy Hager filled in for him. Albert had a packet of material from Sgt. Martin regarding legislation for legalizing marijuana, and that information is available for Council to review.

Deputy Hager talked about the camping situation near the old Sportsmen's Trapgrounds. Deputies will watch the area and pick up trash, although they cannot guarantee cleanliness. Horst asked what was allowed for camping. Deputy Hager thought a person was allowed to camp six to seven days, although Albert believes the Forest Service allows up to fourteen days. Deputy Hager said those he finds camping, that are drunk or disorderly, will be given a 24-hour notice to move. He also said fires are allowed if built up off the ground. Albert thanked him for his work cleaning up the area.

Deputy Hager has followed up with Animal Control Officer Bob Foster regarding a barking dog. He reiterated the importance of calling 911.

Hubbard brought up problems with the Reiter Road closure and how it hurts the town if the highway is closed and Index has an emergency. He asked if the Deputies had keys for gates to take back roads. Deputy Hager has those keys and suggested verifying that the fire department does, too.

Under Council comments Woods asked Deputy Hager about the barking dog issue. It appears the dog may have been abandoned. Albert and Foster are monitoring the welfare of the dog.

Gott asked about getting rid of tree stumps in the park and offered to call around and get quotes.

The Planning Commission did not have a quorum but held a work session on zoning. Albert appointed resident Chris Henson, who has a background in construction. Members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. Hubbard moved to accept Chris Henson as a Planning Commission member, and with a second by Horst the motion carried.

Under the maintenance report, resident David Cameron asked if there would be a Spring Clean Up but that will be discussed later in the agenda.

Under the Water Manager's report, Peterson had the Pressure Relief Valve repaired and water pressure should be stable and regulated, with pressure now delivered to State law requirements.

Peterson has held two meetings for the Shoreline Master Plan update. The Town attorney is looking at portions of the Plan, and the Town is on track for having a draft Plan available by June.

Regarding DNR and the Reiter area, Peterson, Sample, and Hubbard have not been able to look at the proposed path due to weather. A meeting was held but Peterson did not receive notification until the night before and was unable to attend. At that meeting though, there was discussion that if Reiter Road does not get repaired before the ORV Park opens, Index will bear the brunt of traffic coming through town. Another SEPA should be coming to the town once all the public comments that DNR received are addressed, and the Town may then want to address traffic impacts again. For now, Albert already addressed traffic concerns in the letter sent as response to the original SEPA. Hubbard pointed out that construction vehicles and materials would also be coming through Town. Horst thanked Albert for the thorough letter he'd sent.

There are three Council positions coming up for election, and Albert said that while it isn't always a fun position to be in, if the Town wants to remain a Town, it needs people to step up. He thanked the current Council for all they have done, no matter what their decisions are on running again.

There was a declared dangerous dog in Town that bit a County employee outside of Town limits. Due to the history of biting, the owner chose to have the dog euthanized, so there should no longer be problems although Albert was sorry things ended this way.

The Town passed ordinances for controlling litter and regulating unauthorized vehicles. As a result, Albert is sending out letters. One will go to the Smith family regarding the dangerous house, requiring the family to either fence off the place or demolish it. One letter will go to a family south of the Smith house, giving them thirty days to clean up the huge amount of debris on Town property. The third letter will go to a local who has been storing construction equipment on town property. While he is one of the nicest people you could meet, if he is going to make a business use of the property, then he should obtain a business license from the Town. The Council had no objection to those letters.

Stowe gave Council members a packet with dates for filing for the open Council seats.

Stowe reported on the financial status of the garbage fund, which has been running with a deficit for a few years. The Town has reported to the auditor over those years on why this has been happening, and on the solutions the Town has applied, but the fund is now at the point where more drastic help is needed. Stowe said that if the Town does not hold the Spring Clean Up, and cuts expenditures from the fund to the bare minimum, the fund may come out ahead by roughly \$450 this year.

Stowe asked Skykomish how it works with them providing their own garbage services. They have large commercial accounts, and only have to drive a couple blocks to dump solid waste. Index would have to purchase a dump truck, hire two people, and drive further. Albert will look into what kind of costs would be associated with the Town hauling its own garbage. Peterson wondered if Skykomish would consider picking up Index's solid waste. Stowe will ask them.

One option is to charge residents for the Spring Clean Up, although that won't reduce the deficit. Another option is to raise rates. Albert said bills are being paid, but the deficit, after accruing over past years, is roughly \$8,000 and is owed in an accounting sense as the money to pay bills had to come from somewhere. Gott asked what kind of timeline was required to decrease the deficit. Albert said if changes are implemented now, the fund should break even at the end of the year.

Resident David Cameron pointed out that fuel surcharges will be going up. Albert asked Stowe to contact Allied Waste to find out if they will be adding increases for fuel.

There were no business or land use applications.

Ordinance #415 relating to requiring no permits for uninhabited structures less than two hundred square feet is still being reviewed by the lawyer.

Ordinance #416 amending the 2011 budget was presented for a first reading. The amendment will reflect reductions to the garbage fund.

Ordinance #417 increasing the garbage rate was presented for a first reading. The amount is left blank, and Council members will come up with amounts for the next meeting. A \$2 increase could give the Town a surplus of roughly \$2,000 next year.

Stowe presented a Special Events Checklist from resident Peggy Zimmerman for the annual 4th of July parade. Horst moved to accept the Checklist as presented and Hubbard seconded the motion. Stowe reminded the Council that they have been requiring events that use town property to obtain special events insurance. She does not think this event qualifies, but it should be addressed to be fair. Since there are no fireworks, extra traffic or out of town participants, the Council felt insurance was not needed, although it may be in the future. With no further discussion the motion carried, and the Council asked Zimmerman to pass their thanks on to Peggy.

Resident Ed Boress asked if the Town had considered purchasing a used dump truck for solid waste. Albert said he'd worked with used dump trucks and they needed a lot of maintenance.

As there was no further business Gott moved to adjourn, and with a second by Hubbard the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 2nd day of May, 2011.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer