

Index Town Council  
Monthly Meeting Minutes  
July 5, 2011

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Index Town Council was rescheduled to July 5<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday, and 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	Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor
Pete Gott	
Sean Horst	

Woods absence was not excused.

Mayor Albert thanked Peggy and Joel Zimmerman for their work in creating a very nice 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and event for the town.

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

Stowe presented the June warrants, numbered 3108 through 3131. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$5669.43 and all others were \$6380.66 for a total of \$12050.09. Hubbard moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Under public comments Yvonne Lawson asked for permission to hang an Index Arts Festival banner in the park. The Council agreed.

Sgt. Martin was not able to attend due to a conflict in scheduling.

Under Council comments Gott thanked Stowe again for the simplified budget report.

Horst received a response from Snohomish Councilmember Somers for the letter he sent out regarding the DNR Reiter Foothills project. Horst gave copies of the response to the mayor and Council members. Albert asked Horst about his work on water issues, specifically the Sky Country Club contract. Horst will meet with Stowe and Peterson and report back at the next meeting.

The Planning Commission finally had a quorum and addressed public comments on the Comprehensive Plan. Responses should be compiled by the next Council meeting. At that point a public hearing will be held, with potential adoption at the September meeting. The Planning Commission still has one open seat.

Under the maintenance report, Cross will not be using the prison crew the next two months. Albert asked Cross if it would be possible to move the generator from the Old Fire Hall. Some are smelling gas when they enter the building. Albert also asked Stowe to contact the AA group and ask them to remove their propane heater for the summer.

Under the Water Manager's report, Peterson asked residents to not water the streets and to save water during the summer months. She is still waiting for a response from the Dept. of Ecology and no Shoreline work will be done until responses are received.

Albert said the owners of Wes Smith's house pulled a demolition permit, removed a few boards, and have done nothing more. He asked Stowe to contact the family for information.

Albert thanked Cross for cleaning up the debris on the public right of way at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

There has been no response to the letter sent regarding hazardous conditions at the Bush House. Albert asked Cross to research economically fencing off the hazards. The property will have a lien placed on it.

Albert attend the Snohomish County Planning Commission meeting regarding a proposed ordinance exempting Off Road Vehicle trails from portions of current code. In spite of concerns, the group voted to approve the ordinance and now it goes to Snohomish County Council. With the Town Council's permission, Albert would like to meet with a County Council representative as the Town needs accountability regarding the water system. Sample, Horst, and Hubbard offered to attend, and Albert will inform them of the meeting time.

Stowe presented plaques from AWC Loss Management for not having insurance claims in five years.

The Phoenix Payroll maintenance program annual fee is due and Stowe asked the Council to approve researching other payroll software options before paying the bill. The Council approved.

A business application for A&S General Services was reviewed. Sample moved to approve the application and with a second by Horst the motion carried.

Ordinance #417 increasing the garbage rate was discussed again. Albert began work on creating a Request for Proposal but due to the work involved thought it might be simpler to increase the garbage rates. Gott does not want to raise rates and prefers to step out of the garbage business. Horst would like to look into other options, as long as someone other than Albert has to do the work. Albert said someone would have to come to the Council with a completed Request for Proposal. Hubbard also preferred the cheaper option of not offering garbage service. Sample agreed but fears postponing decisions further will add to the debt. She asked about raising rates during the time period that other options were researched.

Peterson said a franchise isn't the only option, it just allows some leverage. The town could choose to just walk away and tell people to call garbage companies.

Albert pointed out that a portion of Stowe's salary is paid by the water and garbage funds because of billing and accounting. If the town gets out of the garbage business revenue will be eliminated that currently pays for that portion of her salary. The work level, however, will stay the same so getting out won't diminish the work load. Gott said water rates could be raised to cover the salary. Gott then moved to table Ordinance 417 for a month. Hubbard seconded the motion in order to open debate. He feels it makes more sense to dump garbage and raise water rates. Stowe pointed out the number of months left to raise revenue for garbage if the Ordinance was tabled again. With no further discussion the motion carried.

Ordinance #415 for adopting the Comprehensive Plan revision was presented for a first reading.

Ordinance #419 for revising the Flood Plain Ordinance was presented for a first reading. This revision allows the town to remain part of the Flood Insurance Rate program. Passage of this draft, or of something more restrictive, is required. Albert asked Council members to review the Ordinance before the next meeting. Because it's a long Ordinance he also asked members to retain their copies in order to avoid making further copies.

Sample asked how this draft worked with the Shoreline Master Plan. Peterson said that this has to be adopted first, and then the Shoreline Plan decides if the rules include the 200 foot Shoreline buffer, or the whole flood plain. She has concerns about the wording around a channel migration zone as one has never been mapped for Index, and doing so will cost at least \$27,000.

There was discussion around channel migration zones and how they pertain to armored banks as found in Index. Hubbard pointed out that railroad companies aren't required to pull out tracks in migration zones, so the town should not be required to pull out riprap.

The issue of garbage service was discussed more as there was no clear consensus on how to solve the issue. The town can continue as is, can franchise, or can back out with or without a requirement that people have garbage service. Albert asked if there was an agreement that garbage needs to go. The Council agreed. Albert then asked if there was an agreement that garbage service should be compulsory. Gott said no and that he had the right to haul it the way he wanted. Albert then asked if that meant he had the right to leave it to accumulate.

Sample weighed the differences between not wanting garbage to accumulate against the rights of private property. If the town did not make it compulsory then action can only be taken if it becomes a health issue.

Hubbard felt it should be compulsory somehow, as in limits to what can build up. He suggested the Council research this and come back with viable options rather than continuing to debate the issue.

Sample suggested raising the rates and continuing the discussion. She said that unless a decision about garbage service was reached next month, rates will have to go up. She is not interested in renewing the contract with Allied as the cost is too much, especially when there is proof that people across the river pay less for the same service.

Albert reiterated that a viable option will be needed from the Council next month.

As there was no further business Horst moved to adjourn, and with a second by Woods the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2011.

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

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