

Index Town Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2011

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Index Town Council was cancelled due to Labor Day. The rescheduled meeting 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 | Bill Cross, Maintenance Supervisor |
| Patrick Woods | |
| Pete Gott | |
| Sean Horst | |

Mayor Albert presented a card from the Index Arts Festival group in thanks for the town's assistance.

Albert reviewed the process and conduct for running and attending a council meeting, including having to be recognized by the chair, addressing comments only to the council, and commenting only on the topic before the council.

Minutes from the August meeting were read. Three amendments were noted. Hubbard moved to accept the minutes as amended and with a second by Woods the motion carried.

Stowe presented the August warrants, numbered 3149 through 3166 and manual check 990001. Payroll and tax warrants totaled \$4829.95 and all others were \$4059.09 for a total of \$8889.04. Hubbard moved to pay the warrants as presented and with a second by Gott the motion carried.

Under public comments resident Yvonne Lawson thanked the town for helping with the Arts Festival.

Sgt. Martin was not able to attend. Deputy Hager reported on the camping area outside of town and the possibility of Reiter Road reopening in a month.

Under Council comments Gott received a letter from Allied Waste. Because the letter was late, most of their points were moot. Sample called Waste Management and it appears they are ready for more services. She said they have other options available to residents, including a 20-gallon can for \$18.10 a month with recycling.

Resident Peggy Zimmerman asked how garbage pickup would be compelled. Sample and Gott are creating an ordinance that would compel garbage service and include enforcement. Albert asked that the garbage service be resolved by January in order to allow residents time to prepare prior to the contract with Allied expiring in February.

Gott commented on recent council action on business licenses. He reminded the council that they have the right to rescind decisions.

Sample said it appears Index-Galena Road will not be fixed as soon as the County has said, and that there is the possibility it will be kept closed and campgrounds built on either side of the washout.

Horst has been helping Peterson and Stowe on water issues including the Sky Country Club contract. Albert thanked him for showing up to help with broken water lines.

The Planning Commission had a productive meeting, working on the creation of a commercial district ordinance. They hope to have a draft ready for legal review after next month's meeting. The Planning Commission still has one open seat.

Under the maintenance report, Cross thanked the Arts Festival group for cleaning up after the event.

Under the Water Manager's report, Peterson submitted a report in council packets. She asked the council to review it although it is not yet ready for action. She would like them to start thinking about how to handle the sale of water outside of town limits. This issue is important because of the recent Dept. of Health review, and recent repairs. The Dept. of Health feels people outside of the town limits should not be paying the same rates as town residents.

Peterson is preparing a proposal for riprap maintenance work.

Peterson received a letter from the Dept. of Ecology stating that they are not happy with a piece of the Shoreline Plan draft. Peterson has been unable to get more information as the person sent the letter and went on vacation.

Albert asked for council permission to proceed with maintenance on the riprap. He and Peterson met with the town's habitat biologist and with the new engineer for this region. The engineer said the riprap cannot be naturalized and that the bridges aren't wide enough which contributes to the flooding impacts. He is in full support of riprap maintenance. Horst asked if grants were available, but Peterson said no. Between funds drying up and the philosophy changing to naturalized stabilization, there are no funds for riprap work, even though the engineer says naturalization won't work in Index.

Albert presented an interlocal for jail transportation. Horst moved to authorize Albert to sign the interlocal. With a second by both Sample and Gott the motion carried.

Stowe presented an email from a company offering to install speed cameras. Albert said he thought something similar could be obtained from the sheriff's department for no cost.

Under business and land use applications, Albert received a request from Blair Corson regarding the Bush House, which has now gone into receivership. The Corson request included one for easements on Index Avenue and 5th Street. Albert consulted with the town attorney and learned that the town cannot grant easements. The town can only vacate rights-of-way or grant a street use permit. The permit can only be granted if the town has a street use ordinance in place.

A portion of the Bush House is on town property. Albert met with Corson and covered what the town could and could not do. Albert then received vacation requests from an attorney, and an adjoining property owner on Index Avenue. Both were returned as they did not meet the requirements for such a request.

Corson also requested permission to proceed with building permits to repair the Bush House. This was returned because Corson is not the legal owner or an agent of the legal owner. Corson also requested a permit for a septic line to cross 5th and to dig perk holes. The letter of response was in council packets.

Albert met with the new receiver of the Bush House and will be sending the receiver the vacation process. The receiver would also like to make essential repairs prior to winter, and Albert will get them information on this.

Because it is clear the town needs a street use ordinance, Albert asked the Planning Commission to create one. This also means the town will have to correct easements granted in the past. Albert would like council assistance on this.

Albert presented information from the town lawyer regarding the proposed changes to flood plain management. After working on creating Ordinance #419, the lawyer said that most cities and towns are electing to take Option 3 instead. This includes the adoption of a resolution where applicants must gain approval from the National Marine Fisheries Service first. Because of this, Albert rescinded Ordinance #419 and presented Resolution #11-06, FEMA Option 3. Gott moved to adopt Resolution #11-06 as presented and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

Ordinance #415 adopting amendments to the town's Comprehensive Plan was presented for action. Hubbard moved to adopt Ordinance #415 as presented and with a second by Sample the motion carried.

Ordinance #420 increasing business license fees was presented for action. Horst moved to adopt Ordinance #420 as presented and with a second by Gott the motion carried.

Ordinance #421 creating an administrative fee for two-month late water payments and increasing the late fee for three-month late water payments was presented for action. Horst moved to adopt Ordinance #421 as presented and with a second by Sample the motion carried. Stowe will post in town that she will create a bulk email list that will go out the end of each month reminding people to pay their utility bill.

Ordinance #422 streamlining land use fees into one Municipal Code was presented for action. Sample moved to adopt Ordinance #422 as presented and with a second by Gott the motion carried.

Ordinance #423 increasing flood hazard permit fees was presented for action. Albert asked why these fees were not added to Title 14 with other fees. Stowe said it was because these are connected specifically to the flood plain management ordinance. Horst moved to adopt Ordinance #423 as presented and with a second by Hubbard the motion carried.

Resolution #11-05 revising the Transportation Improvement Plan for the years 2012-2018 was presented. While the Plan is for six years, it is updated annually. Sample moved to adopt Resolution #11-05 as presented and with a second by Horst the motion carried.

Hubbard noted that the town has not raised rates in several years while other cities and towns have, in order to help residents. That has finally caught up with the town, resulting in these increases. Albert said a lot of the increases were needed because the work has become more complicated.

Under other business, resident Barb Twardus said garbage rates for her condo were reduced when they were given the option of separating food waste.

Woods said a group of coyotes has been seen in town and that the raccoon and cat populations are decreasing.

As there was no further business Horst moved to adjourn, and with a second by Woods the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Adopted by the Index Town Council this 3rd day of October, 2011.

Signed: _____
Bruce Albert, Mayor

Attest: _____
Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer