

ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD DECEMBER 23, 2013

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on Monday December 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Andrews Municipal Building in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to appropriate notice.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Raymond Tackett and John Harshbarger were present. Clerk-Treasurer William Johnson noted that Council member Michael Rohler was not present. Johnson declared a quorum was present and that the meeting would continue.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES:

Council approved the minutes of the regular meeting on December 9, 2013. The approved minutes were signed.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Council members in attendance and the Clerk-Treasurer signed statements that the individuals had not violated the ethics and/or conflict of interest provisions of the Town Code during the past year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim Guy, representing Huntington Township, presented the Council with a proposal which with Council approval would allow the Township to prepare a contract between the entities that would commit the Town to provide fire protection for the Township. The proposal called for \$50,000 payment in 2014, \$35,000 in 2015 and \$35,000 on 2016. Mr. Guy reminded the Council that the first year would be prorated if the contract was not in effect on January 1, 2014. Council members decided to table the proposal until the full council could review it.

The Towns Grant Committee finalized a draft letter that will be sent to prospective bidders of the Towns planning grant. The draft will be reviewed by Region III-A before submitting to any firms.

Utility Superintendent Bullock reviewed a quote from Butler, Fairman, and Seyfert on a proposal to provide the town with an Engineering General Service Agreement. The proposal also included a project specific letter where the firm would address the issues the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has with the Towns clear well at the Water plant. After a brief discussion, Council instructed the Clerk-Treasurer to seek additional quotes on the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson updated the Council on the status of the lease agreement for the purchase of the new radio read meters. Johnson indicated that he has sent the financial information required and that he and Colin Bullock had verified that all shipments of materials have been received. Johnson stated that he expects the closing to occur in the next several weeks.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Marshal Curt VanOver did not have anything for the Council at this time.

Fire Chief Tom Wuensch requested that the Council reaffirm its earlier decision to purchase a new air compressor for the station from Five Alarm for \$26,000. Council President Harshbarger had some concerns with the quote that the firm provided the Town particularly with the date. Brian Topp, representing Five Alarm, presented the Council with a copy of their updated quote which coincides with the public notice deadline of June 7, 2013. After reviewing the documents and a brief discussion, Council approved the purchase of the equipment. In addition, Council reminded both the Fire Chief and Mr. Topp that future purchases should be handled by the Council. The Fire Department will provide the Council with the specifics of the purchase with the Town handling the advertisement and bid process.

Clerk-Treasurer Bill Johnson discussed the state of the Towns finances at year end. Johnson stated that the Town was able to reduce the tax rate by .007 percent while only losing \$30,000 in property tax revenue. The Towns "cap loss" fell from \$101,000 to \$47,000 due to that rate reduction. Johnson stated that the Towns general cash account still has over one million dollars with both utilities having cash balances of over \$225,000 each. However, Johnson cautioned that the Town faces several issues which will require the use of the funds to address. Johnson believes that between cost reduction and allocation, the Town is in a decent financial position to address those challenges.

Utility Superintendent Bullock updated the Council on the status of the compliance issues with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

CLAIMS:

All claims were approved as presented by a unanimous voice vote after a brief discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Clerk-Treasurer Johnson updated the Council on the cost of the health insurance coverage for next year. Johnson stated that the cost increased by 5.47% and will raise the monthly premium from roughly \$3800 to a little more than \$4000 per month.

Council adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED BY _____ as
JOHN HARSHBARGER COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY _____ as
MICHAEL ROHLER COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY _____ as
RAYMOND TACKETT COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST BY _____ as
WILLIAM K. JOHNSON CLERK-TREASURER