

## **Board of Works & Safety Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 6, 2012**

**Mayor Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.**

**Roll Call:** Board of Works Members Dave Harrison, Sandra Seward and Mayor Buckley Present. Also, in attendance were Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan and City Attorney Craig Wiley.

**Meeting Minutes:** Clerk Treasurer, Dan McMillan, read the January 17, 2012 minutes into the record. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

**Meeting Minutes:** Clerk Treasurer, Dan McMillan, read into the record the minutes from the January 25, 2012 Special Joint Meeting with the Parks Board and Board of Works. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

### **Reports:**

Fire Chief, Rob Cheshire, Reported:

Medic 102 was involved in an accident on January 30th. The lady that was involved in the accident, crossed over 2 lanes of traffic, and struck Medic 102. Police report she had fallen asleep at the wheel. The lady was transported to the hospital via ambulance, and it was reported later that evening, she received surgery for extensive orthopedic injuries, she had suffered from the accident. One City employee was transported emergent to Methodist Hospital. The second city employee was seen later that evening at the hospital. Both are recovering from this terrible accident, and both were back on the job within a couple of days, sore, but thankful, to have not received serious injury. Extensive damage has been done to the Medic 102. Unfortunately, we are now running with the backup ambulance, and that is 2000. We are working with the insurance company so that hopefully we will be able to purchase a new ambulance.

February 7<sup>th</sup> - Firefighters responded to a run at 2009 Southern Avenue. It was an attic fire caused by a faulty electrical fan. The Firefighters were able to quickly contain the fire and decrease the damage to the property. The Fire Department conducted a quick knockdown, and extensive overhaul using tarps, in an effort to try to minimize the mess for the resident, because of the insulation. Damage estimate was set at approximately \$20,000.00. Chief Cheshire, spoke to the resident a few days after the fire, and he expressed his appreciation to the Beech Grove Fire Department for a job well done.

February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Firefighters responded to what was initially a burglary alarm at 5240 Elmwood Avenue, and that changed quickly to a fire alarm. Smoke was seen in the southeast side of the building, so the call was upgraded to a working fire. An electrical panel was the cause for this fire. Besides the electrical fire, other hazardous materials such as a vehicle, and other storage were found inside the building. Damage estimate was \$120,000.00. The building is valued at approximately 1.5 million. Beech Grove Fire Department received mutual aid from Indianapolis on this fire. There were approximately forty Firefighters working the scene. Again, Chief Cheshire, spoke to the owners within a few days after the fire, and they were very appreciative of the work the Firefighters performed.

Beech Grove Fire Department was busy Super Bowl weekend responding to local runs. Everything was very well organized and the Chief stated he was very happy with the outcome of that weekend.

Police Chief, Mark Swartz, Reported:

On January 1, 2012 the Police received a call to the 5200 block of Churchman Avenue, Parkview Apartments. Early in the am an officer was following a vehicle and that vehicle turned out to be stolen. The suspects fled the vehicle on foot. Three to four Officers engaged in a foot pursuit The K9 Dog and Officer caught both suspects. No Officers were injured.

There was a robbery at Village Pantry. The suspects ran into the apartments at 25<sup>th</sup> and Albany. The manger assisted in leading the police to the suspects that were hiding in an apartment. The two suspects were apprehended. A taser gun had to be used on one of the suspects and he suffered minor injury. No Police Officers received any injury.

On January 18, 2012 another incidence occurred, again at Parkview Apartments, where a complaint was called in that men were carrying in rifles. When Officers arrived on the scene the two suspects fled in a stolen car. The pursuit was short, and the suspects returned to the Parkview Apartments and began to flee on foot. The suspects were apprehended. One of the suspects dropped a pistol while fleeing. Rifles and AK – 47's were recovered in the vehicle and the

apartment. It was a very dangerous situation. It was similar to the Officer Toney incident that occurred years ago. Both, the car and rifles had been stolen earlier that day. The apartment in Parkview Apartments was being used for storing stolen guns.

Mayor Buckley stated he wants the Citizens to hear these reports, so they are aware that Beech Grove is no longer the "sleepy town" it used to be. Crime occurs here both day and night. He wants to see more Officers and Firefighters on the street.

**Approval of Claims.** Mayor Buckley gave a brief description of the claims. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, asked if the front loader could be moved from the General Fund to MVH or Public Works. Clerk Treasurer, Dan McMillan, stated he would look into it.

**Manual Claims in the amount of \$235,455.01** - were presented to the Board for approval. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, made a motion to accept the claims as read. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

**Regular Claims in the amount of \$74,143.6301** - were presented to the Board for approval. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, made a motion to accept the claims as read. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:**

- Chief Cheshire presented the write-offs for ambulance runs. Most are Medicaid and Medicare runs. Mayor Buckley explained that some are due to Bankruptcy, Contractual Agreements, Death, Workman's Comp, Errors in Billing, and Financial Hardship. Mayor Buckley also stated ambulance service has never been decided on a persons' ability to pay, but always by need. This practice will not change, and will continue. This is just something we have to do as a city, stated Mayor Buckley. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, made a motion to accept the write offs as presented. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.
- Fire Chief, Rob Cheshire, presented a Letter of Resignation, from Ryan Freeman, effective January 20, 2012. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, made a motion to

accept the Letter of Resignation as read. Board of Works, Member Dave Harrison, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

- Fire Chief, Rob Cheshire, presented a Letter of Recommendation, to approve the hiring for two positions, which will be created from two firemen retiring. There is money in the budget to support these positions. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, made a motion to accept hiring two new Firemen. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.
  
- Police Chief, Mark Swartz, presented a Letter of Recommendation, to hire one new Police Officer, to fill the vacancy created by, Former Police Chief, Rich Witmer's, retirement. There is money in the budget to support this position. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, made a motion to accept the Letter of Recommendation as read. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.
  
- Public Works Director Brad Meriwether presented a Letter for Approval to hire a part time secretary, Alma Risch in the Public Works Department. Alma will not be paid more than \$10.00 per hour and she will not work more than thirty two hours per week. Since Parks Director, Tom Hannon, has moved his office back to the Parks Department, there is a need for assistance, with answering phones and performing administrative duties. There is money in the budget to support the position. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, made a motion to accept the Letter for Approval. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.
  
- Public Works Director, Brad Meriwether, presented a Letter of Recommendation for a promotion for Sam Hurre. Board of works member, Sandra Seward, asked if there are salary caps in place for each of these positions. Yes there are. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, made a motion to accept the Letter for Approval of Promotion. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.
  
- Police Chief, Mark Swartz, presented a request to approve a lateral transfer within the Detective Division, of Scott Ferrar, from Road Lieutenant, to Lieutenant of Detectives. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward asked how many Detectives the Beech Grove Police Department currently has. They have 3 detectives this would make four. There is sufficient funding to support this change. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, made

a motion to accept the Letter of Recommendation as read. Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

- Police Chief, Mark Swartz, informed the Board Members that the Position of Major of Operations is being eliminated in the Police Department.. Therefor he is requesting that Major Dave Heineger be reassigned to the position of Road Captain. The reason he cited is this position is too much “fluff” in the Department’s Budget . This assignment can be reassigned to other Majors and other Officers within the department and save the department some money. Mayor Buckley stated the position of Major or Sergeant within the Police Department is made at the sole discretion of the Police Chief. He stated the Battalion Chief position in the Fire Department operates the same way. Board of Works Member Dave Harrison, made a motion to approve the lateral transfer. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, seconded the motion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

**Comments from the Board:** Board of Works Member Sandra Seward thanked Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan for the receipts he provided them with. They are an explanation of expenses on the dockets.

**Miscellaneous: The next Board of Works Meeting Monday is February 21, 2012 at 6:00pm.**

**Adjournment:** Board of Works Member, Dave Harrison, made a motion to adjourn. Board of Works Member, Sandra Seward, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.

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**Dennis Buckley, Mayor**

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**Dan McMillan, Clerk Treasurer**