

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, July 16th, 2012

Mayor Dennis Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

ROLL CALL: Board of Works Members Dave Harrison, Sandra Seward and Mayor Buckley were present. Also in attendance were Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan and City Attorney Craig Wiley.

MEETING MINUTES: Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan presented the July 2nd, 2012 minutes to the Board of Works Members. Sandra asked for an update on the Clerk's office since someone had resigned. Clerk McMillan stated that he has filled the position with a part-time person. Clerk McMillan said he had stated previously that he would advertise the opening and that what he actually did was review the applications he had on file and was able to hire someone with all the qualifications needed. This individual had applied for a position in December and an ad had been run at that time. Sandra Seward moved to accept the minutes as presented. Dave Harrison seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS: Mayor Buckley gave a brief description of the claims.

Dave Harrison questioned claims for Public Safety. Mayor Buckley and Clerk McMillan explained these were PERF payments for Public Safety and employees. Mayor Buckley also mentioned the electric bills and water bills. Sandra Seward asked about the Paetec claim on page three. Clerk McMillan explained that Paetec is for long distance service for the entire city and it is appropriated through the Board of Works. The bill is for \$1099.04

Sandra Seward asked about the following: Medville Corporation in the amount of \$1200.00 and \$1500.00. Medville does the billing for the ambulances. Business Art and Design Banners were paid for out of the Mayors donation fund, not the General Fund. \$1000.00 dollars was spent for trees cut out at Sarah Bolton Park. Indy Truck Sales for \$1100.00 dollars is for parts for DPW. United Consulting in the amount of \$10,846.00 dollars is for engineering for paving the city is getting ready to complete. Leigh Hansom in the amount of \$1580.91 is for aggregates that the DPW purchased. Hartford Construction is for a sump pump in the basement of the Police Station. Waymire is for Police Department.

- Manual Claims in the amount of \$ 512,946.23 were presented to the Board for approval. Dave Harrison moved to accept the claims as read. Sandra Seward seconded the Motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Regular Claims in the amount of \$71,089.54 were presented to the Board for approval. Dave Harrison moved to accept the claims as read. Sandra Seward seconded the Motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Fire Chief Cheshire presented a Letter of Recommendation to promote Scott Johnson to fill the position of Engine Operator, which was created by Don Oakley's retirement. Scott was the next promotable person on the list and there is money in the budget for the position. Sandra Seward asked what an Operator does. Chief Cheshire called upon Operations Chief James Pierce to explain. Chief Pierce explained that an Operator drives the Fire Engine. He is in charge of the Fire Engine the entire time he is assigned to it. He is responsible for ensuring the pumps are operating, and hose pressures are correct. Scott has completed a State Certification Class for a Driver Operator, a Department 16 hour course, an application process, and a field internship. Scott was previously a Greenfield Firefighter. Sandra Seward moved to approve the promotion of Scott Johnson. Dave Harrison seconded the Motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. Chief Cheshire introduced Scott to the Board. Scott thanked the Board and stated he is looking forward to serving the citizens of Beech Grove. Mayor Buckley congratulated him and the Board applauded him. Scott then introduced his family.

Fire Chief Cheshire presented a Letter of Resignation from Civilian Paramedic Andrew Bates. Andrew has accepted a position as a Firefighter in Springfield, Ohio. This is a good move for Andrew. Andrew and his wife are expecting their first child. Everyone wished Andrew the best. Sandra Seward moved to accept the Letter of Resignation. Dave Harrison seconded the Motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chief Cheshire also requested permission to hire someone to replace Andrew. This is not a merit position, so the Fire Chief can move forward and fill this position. Chief Cheshire stated that he has someone in mind who has been with Rural Metro for five years. Mayor Buckley asked the Board for a Motion to allow Chief Cheshire to move forward with the hiring process. Sandra Seward moved to accept the recommendation. Dave Harrison seconded the Motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Firefighter Aaron Jeanette reported on the Accreditation Process for Beech Grove. It is a three (3) year Accreditation. The team looked at policies and procedures in place to make sure they are in accordance with State Law and Industry Standards. Beech Grove reached the highest level of accreditation that you can. Mr. Jeanette commented that Beech Grove was the first department in Indiana to receive this Accreditation, and is one of few still remaining. Mayor Buckley stated that this is a great thing for the Fire Department. They received their first Accreditation in 2003 and received 100% Accreditation this year. Hats off to the Beech Grove Fire Department.

Police Chief Swartz presented the IDAC Agreement with the Speedway Police Department to the Board for approval. Until Beech Grove can get their own system up and running, Speedway has agreed to take care of it. Beech Grove dispatchers used to handle this for the city. Sandra Seward asked what IDAC is. Chief Swartz explained that it is short for Indiana Data and Communications System. It collects data on wanted individuals, stolen items, etc. It is also associated with NCIC. The Police Department has to have it. Dave Harrison moved to accept the agreement. Sandra Seward seconded the Motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

[ADA Compliance Agreement](#)

This fee proposal is for an ADA Transition Plan, pursuant to the 1990 Disability Act.

Mayor Buckley stated that we have to have a plan in place by December of this year. This is part of the 2012 GO Bond issuance. This agreement is for \$28,500.00 dollars with Crossroads Engineering and they understand this will not be paid until the funds are available, through the bond issue. This Agreement will be available on the website for public review. Dave Harrison moved to approve the agreement. Sandra Seward seconded the Motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment: Chris Duffer spoke in opposition of approving the emergency measures on the bond issues. He asked why these orders are being presented to the Board of Works instead of the Council. Mayor Buckley stated that the Board is the only governing body that can enter into an agreement. The council appropriates the funds.

Mr. Duffer questioned the emergency for these purchases, but he does not question the need. He stated that there is no doubt that these items need replaced, but he believes bids should be collected for the purchases. He recalled when the fire engine was virtually destroyed and Chief Pierce worked very hard to get it replaced, but the insurance company refused. He asked if any efforts have been put forth with the insurance company to get them to assist with the purchase of a new Fire Engine, and or repairs, since Chief Pierce was correct and the insurance company was wrong.

Regarding the roofs, Mr. Duffer stated that we haven't had any rain in a month, and the erosion on the creek bank has been happening for more than 15 years. Because of the economy, businesses are more willing to make good deals. He also asked if we are getting bids for the financing on the bond. Clerk McMillan stated that yes, we are. Mr. Duffer then explained that it will take 30 days to get bids on the bond and we should be working simultaneously to collect bids on the projects and save taxpayers money. Mr. Duffer then stated that while running for office the following information was available on Mayor Buckley's website; " I intend to create a rotating lease program for the purchase of vehicles. This would be achieved at 25% of the cost of capital purchases. Ambulances would be on a 5 year rotating lease program and Fire Engines on a 10 year lease program, in an effort to provide the city with the best equipment possible, and insure that all equipment is covered under warranties. To do anything otherwise would be irresponsible spending. It would also eliminate spikes in the budget. There should be nothing to hide. If decisions are being made to represent the spirit of the people's interest, then there is no need to avoid public scrutiny. Policy or laws made behind closed doors are nothing more than special interest and personal agendas with little consideration for the greater good". Mr. Duffer again asked the Board to deny the request to allow these projects to move forward on an emergency basis without bids being taken. He believes waiting 30 days and getting bids will not compromise these projects any further and, in fact, could save the taxpayers money.

Mayor Buckley stated that in 1991 the Aerial Fire Truck tipped over and the city moved forth with an emergency purchase to replace the fire truck. This is not the first time, nor will it be last time. Mayor Buckley stated that when he was Fire Chief he made a commitment to replace the fire trucks and ambulances every five years. Before he retired he tried for three years to get them to replace the fire truck. It was due to be purchased in 2007. "We got in a bind", he stated. We should have had two fire trucks in this bond but we are going to take delivery of this fire truck. In ordering them, now we can get performance Bonds and lock in prices that could save the taxpayers \$20,000 in rebates for the Fire Truck and \$15,000 for the ambulance, respectively. This is being frugal. Mr. Duffer commented that if the Mayor has been waiting on this Fire Engine since 2007, then he can't imagine what a difference 30 days would make. Mr. Duffer also asked what about leasing the vehicles. Mayor Buckley stated if we would have stayed to that pattern we wouldn't have been in this bind. Mr. Duffer stated that we did not. Mayor also stated that today he was in budget talks with both Fire and Police and he discussed with them getting on a program of replacing equipment every four to five years. Mr. Duffer stated he does not disagree with purchasing the equipment and keeping it up to date but, he does think they need to be put into the bid process and let the taxpayers see some bids. Sandra Seward commented that she believes it causes a greater risk to the public to rely on faulty and dangerous equipment. She stated that when she calls for an ambulance or fire truck she does expect them to show up and she does not want to have to worry about whether a pump has gone out or the ambulance is on another run. She stated that she appreciates what Mr. Duffer is saying, but there are other things that need to be considered. She also stated that the repairs on this equipment have been costly to the taxpayers and she believes the citizens would be shocked if they knew the

condition of our public safety equipment. Mr. Duffer still believes that bids should be taken and he reminded everyone that we are in a cooperative agreement with surrounding Fire Department's so someone would respond. Mayor Buckley stated that just last week when we had to lease an ambulance and pay mileage because our ambulance was being repaired once again. This is an embarrassment for him as Mayor, considering he is a former Fire Chief. Insurance does cover it, but it should not have gotten to this point. Mr. Duffer agrees the equipment needs replaced, but he doesn't think collecting bids for projects is a bad thing.

City Attorney Wiley commented that this is a process and we cannot just say we want a new Fire Engine and go to Hubler to buy one. It takes months for this equipment to be built and proper decals put on them. Chief Cheshire and other Firefighters testified before the Council on the poor condition of the equipment. We have an ambulance on lease. Regarding, the creek banks, engineers are telling us there is a possibility the road could collapse into the creek. Mr. Duffer said "engineers said two years ", and he does not consider two years an emergency. Regarding the roofs, Mr. Wiley stated that the roofer and Mr. Meriwether said there is a serious threat of an electrical fire. Reasonable minds can differ, said Mr. Wiley, but he considered all of these under state statute and believes they are an emergency. The decision will be up to the Board of Works. Mr. Duffer asked Mayor Buckley why he changed his mind on leasing vehicles. Mayor Buckley commented that he did not realize how bad it was. The last two ambulances and fire engines have been purchased with bonds.

[Declaration of Public Safety Emergency - Fire Engine](#)

City Attorney Craig Wiley stated that he prepared four separate letters on these issues. We have been listening to testimony since January on these issues and we are all aware of the poor condition of the equipment, including the Fire Truck that was wrecked and had to undergo a total frame rebuild. Travelers Insurance insisted on paying \$212,000.00 to repair the truck rather than replace it. Chief Pierce worked very hard on this trying to get Travelers Insurance to replace it, but they would not. Insurance dictates how claims will be handled.

City Attorney Wiley also stated that he doesn't believe the city has a building that does not have a leaky roof.

The burning bushes are being lost because of creek erosion.

Fire Chief Cheshire testified how extremely important it is to get this equipment replaced. There are always repairs being paid for on this equipment. The Chief also encouraged citizens to stop by the Fire Stations. The Firefighters love to talk to the citizens and so does he. Their doors are always open. He believes accepting bids would place delays on receiving the equipment, and that lowest bids are not always the best. Oftentimes low bids do not meet specifications. This Fire Engine is a "no frills" Fire Engine. The safety of the Firefighters and the public is their number one consideration. They designed a truck that will last 10 years and were fiscally responsible. Sandra Harrison moved to accept the emergency purchase. Dave Harrison seconded the Motion, which was approved by unanimous vote.

[Declaration of Public Safety Emergency - Ambulance](#)

Fire Chief Cheshire reported that Medic No. 102 is back in service. It is the front line unit and is 12 years old. In June all four tires were replaced on the unit, and the Chief is expecting repair bills to begin rolling in. Medic No. 102 is a rolling billboard for this city. Often time's family members are transported in the front seat of this unit. The seats are all ripped and conditions in the unit are deplorable. This high heat also takes its toll on a unit that is 12 years old. City Attorney Wiley asked about the additional run time now that St. Francis Beech Grove is closed. Chief Cheshire commented that the run time is definitely increased as well as the mileage, which causes a strain on old equipment. Mayor Buckley asked for a Motion to approve this emergency purchase. Sandra Seward moved to approve the emergency purchase. Dave Harrison seconded the Motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

[Declaration of Emergency - Municipal Roofs](#)

Mayor Buckley asked for a Motion to approve this emergency purchase. Dave Harrison moved to approve the emergency purchase. Sandra Seward seconded the Motion which, was approved by unanimous voice vote.

[Declaration of Emergency - Lick Creek Erosion](#)

This agenda will be voted on at the August 6th Meeting.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD:

Sandra Seward commented that when Mr. Duffer was speaking, she saw his point about the creek. It says within 2years. That could be in two years or that could be tomorrow. It was a good point. Mayor Buckley and City Attorney Craig Wiley agreed.

MISCELLANEOUS: The next Board of Works Meeting is Monday, August 6th, 2012 at 6:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Dave Harrison moved to adjourn. Sandra Seward seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Dennis Buckley, Mayor

Dan McMillan, Clerk Treasurer

Prepared by: Clerk Treasurer, Dan McMillan, July 16th, 2012