

**CITY OF BEECH GROVE, INDIANA  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2014**

**Mayor Dennis Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:13 p. m.**

**ROLL CALL:** Board of Works Members, Ed Bell, Sandy Seward, and Mayor Dennis Buckley were present. Also in attendance, were Clerk Treasurer Dan McMillan and City Attorney Craig Wiley.

**MEETING MINUTES:** The meeting minutes from the October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting were presented to the Board. Sandy Seward moved to approve the minutes as presented; Ed Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:**

**Corporate Claims** – claims in the amount of **\$1,249,075.47** were presented to the Board for approval.

Sandy Seward moved to accept the claims as presented; Ed Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS:**

**Sandy Seward** – Sandy Seward thanked Fire Chief Cheshire for the updates that he provides when there is a major fire in Beech Grove. The emails are very informative and much appreciated.

**Fire Chief Cheshire** – Fire Chief Cheshire reported that the month of October was very busy for the fire department, as there were 3 significant fires. The first one was on North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The fire at Beech Grove Firearms took a lot of man hours and he thanked Fire Operations Chief Pierce for investigating this fire. There was a lot of outside help with the investigation in addition to assistance from DPW in removing the debris. The most recent fire was at 86<sup>th</sup> N. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and involved a fatality. This was a challenging situation as there was a lot of clutter and debris inside the house. He praised Fire Operations Chief Cheshire and the police department for their work on this arson investigation case. The fire department has also been receiving instruction from both the CDC and local health officials on how to treat a patient who has Ebola. Protective equipment has been placed on all apparatus to keep personnel safe from Ebola. There have been some maintenance issues with some of the apparatus that had to be repaired or replaced.

Mayor Buckley asked about the heroin runs, and Chief Pierce replied that without having exact statistics with him tonight, he can say that the number of those types of runs has increased. He said that there have been at least 30 runs dealing with heroin, and that they have other runs that deal with other substances resulting in quite a few overdoses. That type of data is compiled on a county-wide basis rather than by individual departments. On a different note, Chief Cheshire added that Medic 57 should be ready to be picked up tomorrow and Medic 56 will be going into the shop this week. Without a backup ambulance, this will decrease service ability.

**Police Chief Swartz** – Police Chief Swartz stated that there were only 3 people at last week’s Public Safety meeting. They discussed checking smoke alarms, calling in about suspicious activity, and the slowdown in compliance issues because of the onset of fall/winter weather. The Compliance Department will continue to be out checking for any issues. The police spent a lot of time directing traffic during the BG Firearms fire. They are concerned that the building isn’t sealed up very well and there is a lot of ammunition there, so they constantly check on that building. The fatal fire on N. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue is suspicious and detectives continue to investigate it. He stated that one person has been arrested for involvement in home burglaries and they are looking at two other individuals. This is an ongoing investigation with a lot of property identification and evidence gathering involved, which takes a lot of time. There were approximately 15-20 homes in Beech Grove that were broken into by these individuals, and approximately 30 more homes outside Beech Grove. The meeting with Motel 6 went well. They seem to be willing to do whatever it takes to make their property a better citizen for the City of Beech Grove. City Attorney Wiley, who also attended the meeting, concurred with the police chief’s assessment of the meeting.

In relation to the fire department’s overdose runs, Ed Bell asked if there are a lot of drug dealers within Beech Grove, or if people are going outside the city to buy drugs. Chief Swartz stated that our problem is mainly with the users. The dealers that the police department runs into are mostly outside the city.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Ed Bell moved to adjourn. Sandy Seward seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p. m.

The next Board of Works Meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

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**Dennis Buckley, Mayor**

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**Dan McMillan, Clerk Treasurer**

Prepared by: Mary Duffer