

**CITY OF BEECH GROVE, INDIANA
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 18th, 2014**

Mayor Dennis Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:10 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 August 4th, 2014 meeting were presented to the Board. Sandy Seward questioned the \$2500 invoice from Clerk Treasurer McMillan's attorney that was discussed at the last meeting on August 4th. She believes that the recommendation was to table the payment of this invoice until City Attorney Wiley had a chance to inspect the invoices. She asked what has transpired since the last meeting. She also questioned the statement in the minutes that however many invoices are generated from Clerk Treasurer McMillan's representation will be reviewed and will be paid. Mayor Buckley replied that the entire amount of the docket was approved for payment at the August 4th meeting and the fees that were questioned were to be reviewed by the City Attorney, and then he would advise the Clerk Treasurer to pay the invoice or not to pay. City Attorney Wiley stated that he did review the invoice and the invoice did not show anything related to other City legal issues, so the City Attorney and the Clerk Treasurer worked this out. Clerk Treasurer McMillan stated that he received an email from the City Attorney stating that it was okay to pay the invoice, so he has already mailed the payment. Sandy Seward asked if we are done with attorney invoices, and Clerk Treasurer McMillan stated that we are done with that particular invoice. Sandy Seward said that we would probably just address these invoices as we get them, and Clerk Treasurer McMillan confirmed that there would be invoices on different dockets.

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

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

- **Corporate Claims** – claims in the amount of **\$887,316.80** were presented to the Board for approval.
Sandy Seward questioned an invoice from Bloomington Ford for \$11,434.97. Clerk Treasurer McMillan stated that this invoice is for a new police vehicle. Sandy Seward asked if this was budgeted for, and Clerk Treasurer McMillan replied that this was paid out of the Criminal Investigation Fund and that the \$11,434.97 was the balance after a trade-in. He was not sure what was traded in.
Sandy Seward also questioned a Comcast Cable invoice for \$107.68 for BOPW Telephone & Cable Service for August 2014. She also pointed out that there is a \$1,420.61 invoice from PAETEC for the same thing. Clerk Treasurer McMillan stated that the PAETEC invoice is for long distance service.
Sandy Seward's next question concerned an invoice from Indy Curb Appeal for \$12,500. Clerk Treasurer McMillan stated that this is a Beech Grove business and this invoice was to restripe 9th Avenue. DPW department head Brad Meriwether said that he had gotten multiple quotes and that this company was the low bidder. Sandy Seward thought this seemed really expensive, and Brad Meriwether stated that the other bidders came in at \$13,000. Sandy Seward thanked him for

clarifying and said that this also answers her questions about two other invoices for the same company.

Clerk Treasurer McMillan asked Brad Meriwether to clarify another Indy Curb Appeal invoice. Brad Meriwether explained that the invoice was to repair 3 bad driveways and a curb that were in the right-of-way areas.

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:

Bid Award, 9th and Buffalo Streets—Jeremy Burns from Wessler Engineering spoke regarding the bids that were opened at the July 21st, 2014 BOW meeting. Three quotes were received: Russell Excavating Inc. for \$89,113.00; Calumet Civil Contractors, Inc. for \$125,748.00; and Reith-Riley Construction Co. Inc. for \$131,578.10. Jeremy Burns gave details about this specific project at 9th and Buffalo Streets. Sandy Seward moved to approve the recommendation to award the contract to Russell Excavating Inc. not to exceed \$89,113.00. Ed Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. Mayor Buckley noted that we want to time this so that it comes up for payment at the end of the year so that the stormwater utility will pay for it. Contract documents will be returned to Russell Excavating so that they may contact their bonding company and go through the document review and signing so they can put together their schedule. Russell Excavating will advise when they will start and finish construction, and we will go from there.

Master Vendor's License, Beech Grove Eagles Lodge—Clerk Treasurer McMillan stated that it looks like everything is in order with this application, including their insurance which names the City of Beech Grove as the additional insured. Police Chief Swartz is okay with the application as well. This application is for the annual Beech Party on September 13th on Main Street during the Fall Festival. Ed Bell moved to approve the Master Vendor's License for the Eagles Lodge. Sandy Seward seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

INDOT, Amtrak Amendment—City Attorney Wiley stated that this is the first time he's seen this amendment. It is an amendment to extend to January 31, 2015, the agreement concerning the joint funding of the Amtrak Hoosier State Service. Mayor Buckley confirmed that this will not incur any cost to the city. Clerk Treasurer McMillan read the amendment into the record. Ed Bell moved to approve the amendment. Sandy Seward seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Eagles Street Closing—The Beech Grove Eagles are requesting that Main Street between 7th and 8th Avenues be closed from 8:00 a. m. until 12:00 a. m. on September 13, 2014, for the annual Beech Party. Clerk Treasurer McMillan read the request into the record. Police Chief Swartz is okay with the street closing as long as the music stops by 11 p. m. Sandy Seward moved to approve the request for the street closing for the Beech Party. Ed Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

6th Avenue Street Closing—Clerk Treasurer McMillan read a request into the record. Nicholas David is requesting that the section of S. 6th Avenue from Main Street to Alton Street be closed on August 30th, 2014, from 12 noon until 11:59 p. m. He is requesting this closure for the purpose of the first annual S. 6th Avenue Block Party.

Police Chief Swartz recommends that they should end at 11 p. m. and also that they only block the street off up to the alley, not all the way to Main Street. This would block off S. 6th Avenue from the alley south of Main Street to Alton Street.

Sandy Seward moved to approve the request to block off S. 6th Avenue from noon to 11 p. m. on August 30th from the alley south of Main Street to Alton Street. Ed Bell seconded the Motion; which was approved by unanimous voice vote. Clerk Treasurer McMillan will contact the citizens to notify them of the location and time change.

Jack Quinn—Clerk Treasurer McMillan read a commendation letter from a citizen into the record. Jack Quinn thanked and commended Officer Steve Durbin for his assistance in catching a squirrel in Mr. Quinn's elderly father's house.

Fire Department Update—Fire Chief Cheshire stated that the fire department and EMS have been extremely busy this summer. The EMS averages approximately 345 runs per month. We have been very fortunate not to have the hot, humid days every day that take a toll on the personnel. We have spent a lot of money on maintenance of equipment, reinvesting in the current fleet. The ambulances are on a monthly rotation for oil changes; in addition, those units are put up in the air to check underneath on a weekly basis to check the brakes, etc. We have had some significant repairs to Medic 56, which is 2 years old and has over 70,000 miles on it. Budget time has been extremely busy and we are hoping to have a new ambulance lease in the budget. If that happens, we will have to open up a bid process for a new ambulance. We have one staff member who is in the IP recruit class and he is coming along very well. Ed Bell asked if the maintenance being performed is standard maintenance, and Chief Cheshire confirmed that the ambulances are getting standard maintenance, although one of the fire engines has had some bigger parts that needed to be repaired or replaced. This engine is 12 years old, so it does take more money to keep it running.

DPW Update—DPW department head Brad Meriwether said his department is really busy. Mondays are usually used for miscellaneous things, such as cutting down trees today from a list provided by the Greenscape Commission. The trash trucks purchased in late 2012 are doing well; this has helped with budgeting as we don't spend as much on repair and maintenance as before with the old trucks. We took delivery of a new leaf machine, and it will be put into service the second week of October for leaf pickup. Street sweeping will continue for another 1 ½ months and will wrap up at the end of September. There will be a flyer put out concerning leaf pickup in the next few weeks. We will be busy with all the different projects, including the 9th and Buffalo project in addition to the Safe Sidewalks project. Citizen's Water is wrapping up a lot of their work in different areas of the city. There are several repaving projects by the City that will be starting soon. We got the skid steer, which we have used probably more than any other piece of equipment we've bought; and also the hot patch machine for pothole filling. We are also looking to purchase another leaf machine next year, which is in the budget as of now. For the sign inventory project, there will probably be a pre-construction meeting in October with new signs hopefully going up in November. The 2 INDOT projects are moving along on schedule. GAI is looking into doing some complete streets work out near Arlington and Churchman. That area is really starting to be redeveloped and this will increase our ability to handle all the traffic in that area. Mayor Buckley commended Brad Meriwether and Clerk Treasurer McMillan for their part in working to get and administering grants for these improvements. Brad Meriwether confirmed that DPW will be able to use the stump attachment when trees are cut down as opposed the past, when equipment had to be rented to get rid of stumps.

Police Department—Police Chief Swartz reported that along with the DPW, the police department will be putting up signs from Main Street to the alley north of Main Street on 10th Avenue by the school to restrict parking between 1-3 p. m.

Hopefully this will eliminate some of the traffic that gathers on Main Street. The school hopes that this will help clear out the area. There is one resident who refuses to move off the street, so we think signs are necessary to clear the area for a couple hours and make it safer for the kids and the school buses that go in and out. There isn't a problem in the mornings, but the afternoon is a problem since everyone has the same pickup time. Detectives have been working really hard on the Walmart shooting incident from a couple months ago. They finally got enough information so that there is a warrant for the shooter. They believe he has moved back to Illinois, but at least they have an active warrant for him. As for the recent shooting incident in the park, our SRT team went out today and caught one of the people involved and has a warrant for the actual shooter. They don't have a good address for him, but at least they know who he is. The sheriff's department is looking for him too. Last week our SWAT team went out with the sheriff's department warrants team and served or tried to serve several violent felony warrants and was able to apprehend a couple people with those warrants. Some of our cars are wearing out, but we have it in the budget for next year to buy some new cars and computers. Chief Swartz is going Wednesday to a convention in Louisville, KY to get some prices on those items, so hopefully we'll get the best price we can. Chief Swartz met with 3 representatives from Motel 6, from the manager of the motel up to the Vice President of Operations. All three were very concerned about the problems and were very willing to help in any manner that they could. They understood that they had a lot of runs there, more than any other motel, but they were told that we appreciate their cooperation. As far as the police department, we ask them for something and they are willing to give it and are willing to help out. They know that the people they sometimes rent to are a problem, but they can't control it. They were told that if this ordinance goes through, it is in case that motel or any other one becomes a problem, and they understood that. There have been a few runs to the St. Francis property where there were people in the building. The Chief was not sure if any arrests were made, but they have trespassed people from the property. Heroin has shown a little bit of an influx, taking over from crack cocaine probably because of the price difference. Use of heroin and crack cocaine is about even. There have not been any real spikes in crime other than the two shootings we've had in recent months. The schools are busy. Mark Parker is at the high school, but the schools want to hire part-time police officers into the other schools because Officer Parker is always seems to be at one of the other schools whenever there is a problem at the high school. There was a child on a school bus who had an automatic knife, so that took Officer Parker away from the high school to deal with that. The schools would like to set that up by next month. Mayor Buckley stated that he was dismayed with a recent meeting with Walmart management, as it seemed that Walmart had a confrontational attitude about the number of runs that occur there. It seems as if Walmart feels the police will just have to deal with it and Walmart does not want to do anything about it. On average, there are 3 runs per day there and the police spend 1-2 hours per run. This takes time away from crime prevention. The calls are usually shoplifting or theft at Walmart. Their current security can only observe and not really do anything about it.

Sandy Seward asked about the incident at the park, at the basketball courts, and wanted to know what is being done at this time. Chief Swartz explained exactly what happened with that shooting incident. The first suspect, who had the gun, was a parolee and was arrested today; as a parolee, he will be violated because of the gun and will also face other charges. There is a warrant out for the actual shooter. No one from Beech Grove was involved, these were all Indianapolis people. The basketball rims have been taken down and will be put back up on August 25th. There will be officers assigned there as often as possible to try to discourage any further incidents. Chief Swartz does believe that the Beech Grove parks are safe places for residents to bring their families. Of course incidents like these draw a lot of attention, but he thinks this is the first time in at least a year that there have been any incidents of this magnitude. Ed Bell asked that with the rims going back up, would it be better not to have the basketball goals at all? Chief Swartz disagrees, saying that this would be punishing the majority of people for the actions of two people who don't belong in Beech Grove, and eventually they'll both be in jail. For the most part, a majority of games may get a little rough at times but they don't turn out like this incident.

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ed Bell moved to adjourn. Sandy Seward seconded the Motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p. m.

The next Board of Works Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.

Dennis Buckley, Mayor

Dan McMillan, Clerk Treasurer

Prepared by: Mary Duffer