

**Town of Fort Branch Water & Sewer Departments April 20, 2016**  
**THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL** was held Wednesday April 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in Senior/Community Center. The meeting was called to order with roll call as follows: Adam Bledsoe, Scott Michael, Tom Hauschild, Stacy Elpers and Jim McDonald.

Adam Bledsoe requested that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Hauschild motioned to approve and accept minutes on the 03/20/16 regular public meeting and make a change to the 03/20/16 special meeting minutes to read council made the recommendation to move forward with the project and to add Mark's last name. Scott Michael seconded the motion, motion carried. Stacy Elpers wrote in the requested changes.

Scott Michael motioned and Tom Hauschild seconded to approve claims from March 12, 2016 to April 20, 2016, motion carried. The amount of the claims was in the amount of \$371,031.67

It was announced that Fort Branch has been invited to apply for the storm water grant AFTER a visit with the OCRA community liaison and he will be reaching out to us. Scott Michael motioned and Tom Hauschild seconded to apply for a loan through Fifth Third Bank based on the better rate that Fifth Third verbally gave which was about 2%. This is a fixed rate which may change a bit once we are closer to commencement of the project based on market conditions at that time, motion carried. The second bank was German American Bank; this rate was higher and was adjustable each five years to the five year constant maturity treasury index plus 3.01%. Council questioned when would the town pay the documentation fee, Stacy Elpers said she would find out and email council and Jim McDonald when she found out (When loan documents are signed).

Scott Michael motioned and Tom Hauschild seconded to pay the \$1,000 documentation fee out of the storm water funds currently on hand instead of rolling them into the loan, motion carried.

Scott Michael motioned and Tom Hauschild seconded to require Adam Bledsoe and Stacy Elpers signature on all paperwork for the loan, motion carried.

Tom Hauschild motioned and Scott Michael seconded to reschedule next month's regular meeting to May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior/Community Center due to scheduling conflicts for Adam Bledsoe. This will be the date and time for our second storm water public hearing, motion carried. This will get published in the newspaper.

Council discussed a quote they received from Eric Smith from Hydromax on televising sewer lines along Railroad Street and also in Indian Hills. Council had many questions that could not be answered as Eric, from Hannum Wagle and Cline, could not be present at the meeting. Council tabled discussion and ask to invite Eric to the next month's meeting. Jim McDonald said he would invite Eric to the next meeting.

Tom Hauschild motioned and Scott Michael seconded to approve a water adjustment of \$30.64 and a sewer adjustment of \$48.99 on account 2282000. This was due to the meter leaking at the adapter to the yolk in the meter pit. This is a credit we should get back from Vanguard. Water adjustment of \$4.44 and sewer adjustment of \$20.29 on account 6329001. This was due to leak on old setter on customer's side but was the town's responsibility to fix. Water adjustment of \$22.31 and sewer adjustment of \$35.13 on account 2293001. This was due to leak outside at the meter pit. The meter setter has a defect where the meter is coupled to the setter on the customer's side. Fred may have to replace the setter. This is the town's responsibility to fix. Motion was carried.

Tom Hauschild motioned and Scott Michael seconded to approve a sewer adjustment of \$211.40 on account 4696000 due to a leak outside at the meter pit, motion carried.

Tom Hauschild motioned and Scott Michael seconded to approve a sewer adjustment of \$82.54 on account 6274055 due to a leak on an outside faucet that was leaking, motion carried.

Council signed the March 2016 adjustment form in the amount of \$881.57.

Bonnie Cockerham of 7946 S 46 E (Indian Hills) addressed the council concerning a storm drainage line that has collapsed or is collapsing and causing holes along the south east corner of Indian Hills. The holes are getting so bad she is afraid one of the kids in the neighborhood are going to get hurt and she does not know if it belongs to the town or not and if it does is there something that can be done to get it fixed. Dennis does not know if it belongs to the town or not. Jim said he will look at the right of way and see if it falls within the easement and he will contact Bonnie and let her know.

Larry Doerner of 406 N. Polk Street made a complaint to the council concerning the trailer park on Polk Street. He reported there is so much junk sitting outside of a lot of those trailers, he feels they should have to abide by the town ordinances and keep their property picked up just as everyone else and he would like something done about it. Council told Mr. Doerner that pictures will be taken and letters will be sent to the residents that are in violation of the junk ordinance. Rick will get the addresses to the girls in the office for letters to be addressed.

Mr. Doerner also ask for the police to patrol Polk Street as well, speeding vehicles are getting bad on this street.

Kim Lohe of 209 W Vine Street addressed the council concerning a storm water issue she is having on her property. Her fence is falling in her back yard due to the ground that is eroding due to storm water that is not draining properly. Dennis Schmitt said he will look at it and see what he can do to fix it and he will repair her fence as well. Council told Mrs. Lohe Dennis will work on the problem and will work on it until he can get it right.

Roger Holzmeyer put in a duplex at 301 and 303 South Eastview Street and has seeded and strawed for new lawns. Mr. Holzmeyer has requested the council to give him a break on the sewer. Adam Bledsoe told Mr. Holzmeyer that the town already has a built in summer sprinkling credit four months out of the year and he would have to wait until those months to receive the summer sprinkling credit. Dennis Schmitt ask council how that would work since this is a new service. Stacy Elpers said we would have to base his

credit off of 3000 gallon consumption and then look at adjusting later once an average consumption could be attained.

No one attended from the parks board to give the council a quarterly report however; Adam Bledsoe reported that Jim Reid said he was willing to stay on the parks board as the 4 year member. Scott Michael motioned and Tom Hauschild seconded to appoint Jim Reid as the new 4 year member of the parks board, motion carried.

Rick Cunningham, member of the community outreach program addressed the council concerning tree stumps out at the Fort Branch Community Park. There are approximately 8 tree stumps that they would like to have removed from the park. The community outreach got a quote for \$1,000 from Whitledge Tree Service, the Community Outreach will pay \$400 and Whitledge Tree Service will donate the rest of the labor if the town can provide a receipt for the donation. Jim McDonald said the town can provide a letter stating that Whitledge provided the service at no charge. Council thanked the Community Outreach for their work on the removal of the stumps. Dennis Schmitt told Rick that he removed two of the stumps already.

A special thank you went out to the United Way for all the work that was completed at the parks. High School kids partnered with United Way to help out in local communities to beautify the parks. A lot of painting cleaning and mulch was spread during this work day. Tom Hauschild ask that a thank you letter be sent to the school thanking the kids for their work that they done.

The Ulen Street house has been removed on the blight elimination program.

The Johnson Control water meter project is still going on.

Adam Bledsoe said he would check with Gibson Southern High School to see who they went through to purchase their generator they recently purchased. Stacy Elpers told council that Vectren has issued a \$1,000 check for the generator but has taken it back and will not give it until the purchase of the generator is made. This discussion will be tabled again until next month.

Scott Michael motioned and Tom Hauschild seconded to approve to have a street light installed at South Lincoln Street between Strain Street and Walnut Street, motion carried. Scott will call vectren to get this done.

Stacy was ask to send the rental agreement to Jim McDonald so he could look over the agreement due to a customer calling in inquiring about renting the senior community center for a wedding reception for two days. The renter wants to rent the building for Saturday and Sunday and ask if they had to be out of the building by midnight on Saturday if they paid to rent the building on Sunday as well.

Stacy Elpers ask council what sum of money they wanted to use for reporting purposes to state board of accounts on the materiality resolution as most communities were using \$500. Council said \$500 sounded fine with them if Jim felt comfortable with that number.

Jim McDonald is going to send travel policies from other communities to Stacy and the council so Jim and Stacy can work on a travel policy for the Fort Branch.

Internal Controls policy will be coming out at the next meeting, every person that is paid by the town will have to take the webinar or budgets will not get approved.

The following property complaints were brought forward:

303 N. West Street, 204 N. Williams Street, and 407 N. Main Street

All of the properties will be given a letter and given five days to mow their property or the town will have it done for them and invoice them for the work completed. If the invoice is not paid, a mowing lien will be placed on the property.

Rick Sides reported that the "No Parking" sign at 407 N. Main Street has disappeared and needs to be replaced. Dennis said he will have it replaced.

Rick reported that the closure at the park going back to shelter house #3 has been blocked recently and he needs to let the ball leagues know this is a public park and they cannot block the entrance. Dennis said he would let Jason Blackard know.

Rick ask council for clarification on if his department need prior approval before purchasing items for clothing and equipment for his police officers and he was told no prior approval was needed. Rick was ask by council to look into setting up an account at a dry-cleaners to have their uniforms cleaned and get a cost.

Dennis Schmitt reported he hired a new part time street department worker to replace Jim Martin that retired due to health issues. Don Richardson is the new employee and he has been a great asset so far for the town.

Dennis reported to council there is an alley that has never been opened before that a lady called into the town hall inquiring about and Jim McDonald is going to look into.

Glen Weiss reported the fence around the lift station is not quite complete, but the gate at the sewer plant is complete. The two digesters will be pumped out from Terre Haute on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Scott Michaels motioned and Tom Hauschild seconded to extend Kerri Kares contract on the Radio Read project, motion carried. The project is not quite complete and Kerri is in the process of entering all of the customers into access so no customers can be deleted.

Scott Michael motioned and Tom Hauschild seconded to allow Jim McDonald to move forward on the junk ordinance ticket for Anthony Gentry, motion carried. This ticket was dated December 2015.

Jim McDonald stated if anyone knows of anyone that would like to add on properties to the blight elimination program, they are adding people to the list. This does not mean they will get the property taken down but they can be added to the list for consideration.

Gerald Bledsoe, county commissioner, advised the council that the CSX bridge will be worked on beginning Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and should be completed Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

The next scheduled public meeting is set for May 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Senior/Community Center

Tom Hauschild motioned and Scott Michael seconded to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried.

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Stacy Elpers, Clerk/Treasurer

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Adam Bledsoe, Council President