

Milford Town Council

Monday, July 9, 2018

7:00pm @ Milford Town Hall

Present: Doug Ruch, Dan Cochran and Bob Cockburn

Jay Rigdon

Dan opened the meeting with the pledge of alliance and prayer.

The first item on the agenda was the review of all of the minutes from the previous meetings. Bob moved to approve as written with Dan 2nd and all agreed.

Town attorney Jay Rigdon presented Ordinance 2018-4 Garage Sales during Milford Fest and Ordinance 2018-5 relating to no parking on east side of Main Street beginning at the intersection of North Main St. and 4th St. for a distance of 369 ft.

Bob moved to adopt the Garage Sale Ordinance 2018-4 with Dan 2nd and all agreed. Dan moved to adopt the No parking Ordinance 2018-5 with Bob 2nd and all agreed.

Public Input:

Richard Miotto appeared before the council introducing himself as the new owner of Lizard's Bar. He asked for the town's support and stated he is a community minded business owner and will be participating in the Town's activities.

Emily Bishcoff of 511 N Serton St., was requesting no objection to the way she placed a shed on her property, council reviewed and had no objection.

Lamar Bost , possible new owner of the HomeTown Lanudry property, he was asking for a variance, after review of his plans, the council had no objections.

Tricia Gall, Lion;s representative was on hand to give a wrap up report regarding Milford Fest. She gave the council a thank you note for the role they play each year.

Next was Ross Hagen, council requested he come to discuss utilities rate increases. He presented the council with agreements which totaled \$13,000 to do such a study. The residents present resisted the idea of raising the rates again. Some thought the town needed to focus on cutting spending instead of raising rates. Doug stated between State mandates and rising operating costs and the fact that the Wastewater fund must get out of operating in the red (state mandated), the town was left with very few options. There was discussion of why we need rate studies, where are we in comparison with other towns our size and salaries of those being too high. Ross stated he could send the town a comparison study done that will show where Milford falls. Doug moved to table rate study til next month with Bob 2nd and all agreed.

There were several residents from Waubee Lake present with more questions regarding the tabled discussion of the proposed sewer to Camp Mack. Rhonda Neibert asked when a decision would be made? Doug stated discussions were

tabled at the May meeting, the next step would be for Camp Mack to come forth with a financial commitment, which has not happened, so no decision can be made.

The group again stated they did not want the town to go into debt for this project, Pam Dwyer asked Joellen a question regarding comments made after the May meeting stating the Town could pay for the project with Riverboat funds. Joellen clarified by stating, "the Town used Riverboat funds to pay for the study, but we could use Lit Econ. (Cedit) funds to pay our share of the project so town would not go into debt." Pam asked "how much money was in Lit Econ, and Joellen responded, "over \$700,000. "

Pam also asked where were the 14 identified parcels were that the Study pinpointed for future service connections. Joellen stated, the study did not identify and she would contact Ryan and ask.

Police:

Lt. Tim Miller, stood in for Chief Marsh and presented four items to be addressed. He requested the final pay increase to \$43,000 for Brandon Shipp since he had finished all of his requirements. Dan so moved with Bob 2nd and all agreed.

Lt. Miller asked the council to set exact hours of the Park as the Dusk to Dawn was too ambiguous. Dan moved to use the hours 7am to 9pm May to September and 8am to 5pm October to April. Bob 2nd and all agreed.

This will be effective as soon as new signage can be prepared.

He reported that we have 4 Reserve candidates going thru the application process.

The last item to be addressed was the approval of the SRO officer. He will be paid out of the Police budget for 9 months out of the year and in the summer and snow days and vacation days he will help with Park security, snow plowing and any other jobs needed and will be paid from those funds. The SRO officer is already trained and could begin at the beginning of the school year. After a lot of discussion Dan moved to provide the Milford Elementary/Middle School with a School Resource Officer pending the Wawasee's approval at their meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2018. Doug 2nd and both agreed. Bob abstained since he is an employee of the school.

Several residents had questions for Lt. Miller regarding the crime rate in Milford, how many officers and what is the curfew? He responded and interacted with those residents.

Wastewater:

Operator Mark Brubaker stated he was looking for quotes to fix the sampler from others beside BL Anderson.

Construction on the buildings for the upgrades are moving along on time.

Utilities:

Steven presented a proposal for Christmas Lights from Herman's Christmas Land for \$4151.00. He stated we would take pictures of the wreath's and put them out on the members lists and try to sell to help offset the cost of the lights. Steven budgeted for them, so Bob moved to purchase the new lights with Doug 2nd and both agreed. Dan voted NO.

He reported that USI finished their assessment for the 2018 Community Crossing Grant program, Joellen and Steven will go to Ft. Wayne the end of July for a meeting regarding this year's Community Crossing grant.

Railroad is behind in it's schedule, will watch daily as they get closer to Milford.

Steven reported they would be flushing hydrants on Wednesday, 11th at 7:00am.

Steven reported the warranty issues he is having with meter heads, stating it is taking 4-6mo. to get them back. He is questioning whether to keep buying heads or switch heads, to get started would be \$11,461.36. That includes Badger Heads, engagement fee, user's license and monthly user fees.

He stated there are 606 meters in Town. Councilman Dan will contact our Representative and the company and report back to the council.

The item was tabled until the next meeting.

Park:

Special thanks to Ben Wilson and sons for helping the town get the park ready for opening in May, they volunteered to pick up sticks and rake.

He reported the cameras are paying off and have been very helpful.

Resident Jay Urban asked the council what we are doing to deal with Davidhizer, referring to the house in his neighborhood? Doug told him we would have to check with Jay.

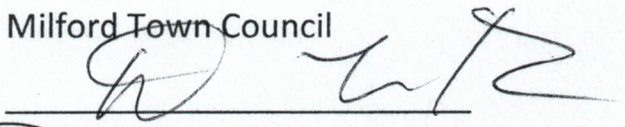

Clerk:

The Clerk gave the first reading of the proposed 2019 Budget. She explained the budgeting process to the residents and answered questions. She gave the timeframe of second reading in August, meet with the State in August, Public Hearing in September with adoption in October.

She presented the accounts payable vouchers for approval, Bob moved to approve with the additions, Dan 2nd and all agreed.

Since there was no further business, Bob moved to adjourn with Dan 2nd and all agreed.

Milford Town Council



Robert C. Cobbe

Attests:

