

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

January 19, 2010

Brian Woody, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Cassie Cowan, Bill Musser, and Paul Stoelting. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Mike Reed, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present. Councilman Larry Siegel was absent.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

No members of the public were present to make comments.

The minutes of the December 15th meeting were presented. Paul moved to approve the minutes as written; Cassie seconded. Three voted for the motion; none against. Bill Musser abstained. The motion carried.

Claims #1 through #126 were presented for payment. Cassie moved to approve the claims; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ken Jones, of Wightman Petrie, updated the council on the utility design for the North Industrial Park. Mr. Jones advised he will provide a written copy of the update tomorrow. The utility design for the park is 100% complete. All permits have been applied for; he hopes to have the permits procured in 30 days. INDOT has requested a site visit. We are in good shape to go to bid in the near future if the council chooses. We will need easements from nine properties for sewer and water; all are located south of County Line Road. At this time, Ken and Henry are trying to clarify the EDA rules on acquiring easements. After that is determined, they will begin contacting property owners. Mr. Jones advised we may need a special work session for the land acquisition in the future. We must also determine what part of the sanitary sewer south of County Line Road qualifies for EDA funding.

Mr. Jones brought up the "potential for the council to consider that some of the work being done by Wightman Petrie is outside the original scope." He added the project is under budget on permit fees. He reminded council members the sanitary sewer south of County Line Road was not included in the original scope; it is estimated the additional engineering cost for that section of work is about \$13,300.00. He stated he is not asking the council to make a decision at this time, but he will ask the council to consider it at some point. The cost of the easement documents north of County Line Road is part of the original scope. For the nine parcels south of County Line Road, the cost of obtaining those easements is also not included in the original scope. Wightman Petrie has accrued about \$1,500.00 in costs to date. The total cost for acquisition depends on what EDA requires. Julie asked Mr. Jones to e-mail her with projected costs so she can make sure the funds are appropriated; Mr. Jones agreed to do that. Mr. Jones advised we are proceeding through the EDA process; there is no guarantee the project will get funding. He added if we bid in the next 30 to 45 days we will get good pricing. Cassie asked if we can award a contract before we have the funding; Mr. Jones stated the State Board of Accounts does not

allow that. Discussion followed on having a funding model. We could possibly award a contract pending EDA funding, but we would not be able to spend any money. Bill asked about the timeframe. Ken Jones advised it is a good clean project; we will get a lot of interest from contractors. He added if we can bid by the end of March, we will get good prices. EDA approval is a slow process; MACOG and our federal elected officials may be able to help move the project approval along. Bill asked how much easement we will have to buy. Ken Jones advised it is a small parcel that is less than ¼ acre, however, INDOT will require a driveway.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia advised we received a donation from the Harkless Foundation in the amount of \$3,250.00 for beautification; he asked the council to accept the donation. Cassie moved to accept the donation; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Henry advised he sent a thank you letter.

Henry reported that economic development activities in the county may be changing. There will be a meeting in the future to determine this.

Henry asked the council to make a decision on the colors for the website. Council members decided on the background with blue clouds.

Henry announced we will be hosting a KLA meeting at the Community Center on February 2 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The speaker will be Mike Kubacki, President of Lake City Bank. He will speaking on the financial status of Kosciusko County.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello advised there were 321 calls for service in December. He will be presenting an annual report at the February meeting that will include the last five years.

Tony announced this Friday will be Shrine Circus Day for all the third graders in Kosciusko County. There will be about 1650 people attending including the third graders, police escorts, shriners, etc. He also announced that ID cards for police personnel and other town departments will be redone. Kosciusko Emergency Management will be redoing the cards; they will come to Syracuse to do this.

Tony approached the council about creating a Traffic Safety Commission. This commission would include a representative of the police department and public works, the town manager, a local business representative, and a local citizen. Tony would like to have more than one person making decisions about stop signs and other traffic issues. This commission would make recommendations to the council. Council members like the idea.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson was not present; Henry made several announcements about Park activities. The Winter Carnival snowmobile drags have been moved to 775 East and 1330 North. Upcoming Community Center events include the Winter Carnival Dance this Saturday, Daddy/Daughter Dance on February 6, and Indoor Yard Sale on February 27.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller announced the new heater in the press room is installed as of today. Jeremy thanked the police department for notifying public works after hours when the roads need attention. He also thanked the public works employees for working all hours to take care of things. Brian stated he feels they are doing a fantastic job plowing.

CLERK TREASURER

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline made several announcements. Our insurance renewal was \$243.00 instead of the \$850.00 amount we were originally given. Our code supplement was also less; it was \$644.00 instead of \$840.00. Bill is interested in knowing how often our website is accessed; Julie will check to see if this information is available. She also reported there was no shortfall in our property tax distribution we received the end of December. She noted the state is experiencing a revenue shortfall and some of our revenue, such as MVH, is from the state. She advised cities and towns have been told there is an 18 to 24 month lag on the revenues they receive from the state; we can expect a shortfall in those revenues in 2011.

Julie presented a list of checks that are over two years old that she will be voiding.

The 2009 encumbrance list was presented for approval; the total amount was \$146,324.67. Paul moved to approve the 2009 encumbrances; Cassie seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie advised we received another subordination agreement for a resident with an owner occupied rehab loan who is trying to refinance. Cassie moved to authorize Brian and Julie to sign the subordination agreement #2a and #2b; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against.

Julie explained we are getting to the point where some of the loans for the owner occupied rehab and emergency housing will be paid off. She asked the council if they wanted her to bring each loan before them for permission to release the lien or if she should go ahead and release them when they are fully paid. Council members agreed Julie could release the liens as they are paid without council approval.

Paul asked if we will know by budget time what the potential shortfall might be. Julie stated what she could provide is a report of how much revenue for each budget comes from state funds.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill asked about census forms. Cassie advised census forms will be going out the end of February to be filled out in March; if it is not filled out a second form will be mailed. Census workers will come to the house if they still do not receive a form. Discussion followed on residents who are out of town for the winter. Julie advised we are supposed to have a "Complete Count" box in the town hall for those people who do not receive a census form.

Council President Woody appointed Paul Stoelting as Vice President of the council for 2010.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting; Cassie seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brian Woody, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer