

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

August 16, 2011

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul asked for public comment on agenda items; there were no comments.

The minutes of the July meeting were presented. Brian moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #818 through #932 were presented for payment. Larry made a motion to approve the claims; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ken Jones, of Wightman Petrie, updated the council on the progress for the industrial park. The permit submittal to Elkhart County and IDEM will start tomorrow. The town's IDEM permit will be submitted to Mike Machlan, of the City of Elkhart; he is approved to issue IDEM permits to the Town of Syracuse. Elkhart County has agreed to do an incremental review on the street plans for the interior of the park. Wightman Petrie has been working with Mike Reed and Henry on the EDA submittal packet. The Traffic Impact Study has been completed and was delivered to Henry today. Plans will be submitted to Nipsco and Frontier so they can begin the design of the utilities in the park. Nipsco will be asked to look at the lift station plans to make sure there will be no power issues. It was noted the phone provider may be Verizon. A couple unknowns are the fiber optic and the large gas pipeline. The park has been designed so it will not impact the pipeline. Mr. Jones advised as they wrap up the design, they will be providing updated cost estimates. Larry asked if any additional easements will need to be obtained for the fiber optic and pipeline. Mr. Jones stated they already have given rights that we have to respect. He explained the considerations for the pipeline and fiber optic that were included in the design. Mr. Jones explained we are ahead of schedule now, but we have to be to make sure that EDA won't delay us.

Larry asked when the town might receive the updated cost estimate; Ken hopes to have it for the next meeting. The funding resources will be itemized.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia thanked Dan Kreider, of Redwood RV, for providing a free easement for the industrial park.

Henry asked the council for permission to spend \$16,500.00 for the electrical wiring for the new decorative lights. There will be seven new lights in the southern part of town and three new lights on Main St. Larry asked who will do the work. Jeremy advised he has contacted seven electrical contractors and he has received one quote; he is waiting for others to respond. Larry made a motion to

allow Henry to spend an amount not to exceed \$16,500.00 for electrical work; work is to be completed within 90 days. Jeff seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported Attorney Steve Snyder wants the council to know he is very pleased with the work that the town has done on Main St.

For the Oakwood properties, Henry advised Buckingham received approval for the three way liquor license. Henry also attended a hearing before the Area Planning Commission; Buckingham was requesting the property be rezoned from residential to a PUD. The Planning Commission did vote to rezone it as a PUD. Other issues, such as density, will have to be looked at.

Henry discussed the town hall parking lot. The cost to repair the concrete sidewalk and to pave the lot is estimated to be about \$59,000.00. Henry would like to have the parking lot striped and sealed for now; estimated cost is \$1,018.18. The council had no problem with Henry's plan.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported July was a fairly active month; there were 453 calls for service and 17 accidents. There were also 17 criminal arrests; 8 of those arrests were felony drug arrests.

Tony advised the Kiwanis Triathlon went well; there were 184 participants. The Kiwanis and Park Department did an outstanding job. Tony thanked the Warsaw Police and Sheriff's Department for providing the divers and boat patrol. The Chamber held their health fair on the same day; the police department did fingerprinting, identification kits for kids and car seat checks. On August 27, the fire department will again have their annual MDA boot drive. On August 24, the police department will host the prosecutor's update at the Community Center. The Northeast Law Enforcement Training Council will host a 3 day firearms training using our firearms officer Jim Layne on September 19, 20, 21.

The first day of school was today. There were no issues; everything went well.

Tony informed the council that federal funding for meth lab cleanup will be ending. Currently, the State Police perform the cleanup; they only have funds for about one more year for the cleanup. Tony announced he met with the Warsaw Police Department and the Sheriff's department about setting up something in the county. Rep Kubacki has agreed to help find ways to raise funds to purchase our own equipment. Tony has also discussed this with Mickey and the Warsaw Fire Department.

Larry asked Tony about the cost and questioned how decentralizing would be more efficient. Tony explained how the process works now. The estimate to purchase the initial equipment and train people is \$20,000.00. From that point on, we would just need to replenish the supplies. It is estimated that the state currently spends between \$2,500.00 and \$5,000.00 for each cleanup; Tony estimates our cost will be between \$500.00 and \$1,000.00. We will save on overtime by using on duty personnel. Tony explained the current procedure and time involved when the state police do a cleanup. Tony added he is not asking for money from the council; they are looking at ways to raise money from outside sources. Larry asked our replacing supplies; Tony estimates \$2,000.00 per year for the county. There may be police grants to fund this. Tony added the bottom line is he believes it will save time and money.

Tony announced that the annual Day of Caring is tomorrow. There are nine jobs in the Syracuse area; there will be sixty three volunteers working.

Tony introduced an ordinance for crosswalks in the Heights. He noted we talked about the crosswalks a couple of months ago; with the new trail, we should have crosswalks at Syracuse Webster

Road, Kinder Dr, Manor Dr and Sycamore. Larry stated he feels it is a good idea; he would like to see ordinances for other crosswalks. Tony added the ordinance was prepared so that a citation can be issued as an ordinance violation or as a state citation. Discussion followed on addressing other areas that have or need crosswalks, and the need to educate the public. Larry made a motion to adopt Ordinance 11-05; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Larry brought up the intersection of Lake and Main. The steps are uneven, people are walking in the roadway, and it is dangerous. Henry, Tony, and Jeremy will look into getting a plan in place.

PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson announced upcoming park events. On August 27, there will be a punt, pass, and kick at the middle school from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Farmer's Market continues every Saturday through October 15. Starting today, the lifeguards will be on duty weekends only through Labor Day.

Chad updated the council on the Athletic Complex. Larry Long has been contacted for engineering on the drainage ditch; the cost will be \$1,600.00. The trees along the creek are being removed; they have found someone who will do it for free if he can keep the wood. A sign and fundraising brochures are being prepared. Chad hopes to have them sometime this fall.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Jeremy Sponseller reported the paving is almost done; the white stripe on the access road helps. Phend and Brown will be back to complete some areas.

Jeremy presented a purchase request. The plate compactor is no longer working; it is very old. The cost for a new compactor is about \$1,980.00 from Southeastern.

Brian moved to approve the purchase of the plate compactor from Southeastern ; the cost is not to exceed \$1,980.00 and it is to be delivered in 45 days. Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy discussed the annual tree removal and pruning. The low quote was from Cut Rite for \$9,375.00; the quote from Wawasee Tree Service was \$10,275.00. Fourteen trees are scheduled for removal and one tree needs to be trimmed. In the past, we have required the contractor to complete the work by Thanksgiving. Brian stated he would like to see us hire Wawasee Tree Service since they are local. Brian made a motion to hire Wawasee Tree Service to do the tree trimming and removal at a cost of \$10,275.00; the work is to be completed by Thanksgiving. Jeff seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline discussed the repair of the Season's Greeting sign; the wiring is old and needs to be replaced. She recommended we not repair it and just have the two wreaths on the building. Council members disagreed; they would like it repaired. The cost is \$650.00 to fix it.

Julie announced the State Board of Accounts has completed their bi-annual audit; no problems were found. The audit should be available online in about 30 days. Last Thursday, the County Council conducted their non-binding budget review; they recommended budget increases of 2.9% or less. Julie spoke at the meeting and explained the Syracuse increases are higher due to the Oakwood annexation.

The first reading of the budget will be at the September meeting.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Bill Musser read the following statement about the purchase of a new ambulance to replace ambulance #6:

The necessity of a new ambulance for Turkey Creek Township and the town of Syracuse has been a difficult choice over the past 7 and a half months. The difference of opinion between the Town Council and the Twp Trustees has taken time to settle. And, everyone must understand that as individuals, on each board, it is not our job to always agree with the proposals put before us. If we all agreed, we'd need no boards or councils. Name calling over differences of opinions is childish and unprofessional and I hope in the future we all understand this. This was not an easy decision and tempers flaring didn't help the situation. But, it's now time to make a decision. It behooves all of us to not be haughty and put any "personal" differences behind us. With ambulance #6 apparently on its last legs, we have only the choice of using two ambulances, or replacing it. With the age (11 years) and the problems with the unit (several) the choice should be simple. If we decide to buy the new ambulance, we then will have to make sure that ambulance #7 is well maintained as we move into the future, using it a backup. And, then, work with Mickey on his future vehicle replacement plans and how we can get more mileage and longer periods of usage from these units.

Having stated my feelings and thoughts, I would like now to make a motion that we trade in #6 on the purchase of a new ambulance for our fire territory. Larry seconded. Brian reiterated the trade in portion of the motion; Bill advised he has already talked to Mickey about it. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian announced he will not be at the September meeting.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

Paul Stoelting, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer