

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

July 15, 2014

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the June 17, 2014 meeting were introduced. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #693 - #795 were presented for payment. Larry made a motion to approve the claims; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Ordinance #2014 -11, A Transfer Ordinance, was introduced. Julie explained Henry is requesting a transfer of \$5,000.00 in the EDIT appropriations to pay for small items needed for the industrial park. Bill moved to adopt Ordinance 2014-11; Paul seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Brett Konarski, of Jones, Petrie, Rafinski, gave his monthly report to the council. He announced the two companies who will be constructing the industrial park sign are under contract and will be finished by the beginning of September. Kline Excavating has begun work on the Long Dr culvert. He advised there is a potential issue with a layer of concrete they were not expecting. Brian asked if a change order will be needed. Brett stated it depends on what we have to do; he hopes we can move our culvert. Henry noted the contract has to be done by September 17.

Tony added road closures are necessary to complete the work; the road will be closed tomorrow.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia reported we need a replacement on the Kosciusko County BZA. Meetings are held twice a month in the morning; board members are paid \$85.00/meeting plus mileage. A Syracuse resident is preferred.

Henry reported the Syracuse Redevelopment Commission met recently and approved \$30,789.53 in expenditures from the Oakwood TIF funds for sewer, street lights, and paving. Paul moved to approve the expenditure of \$30,780.00 as recommended by the Redevelopment Commission; Larry seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry reported work continues on the Harkless Pedestrian bridge. Completion was delayed due to the storm cleanup.

Henry stated there is a new state law that requires a report to the Town Council from the Syracuse Redevelopment Commission. As of December 31, 2013, the balance in the South Benton TIF is \$55,869.65; \$20,000.00 of that balance has been approved for marketing the Industrial Park. The balance in the Oakwood TIF as of December 31, 2013 was \$0.00, and the Syracuse TIF had a balance of \$33,364.73.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello reported there were 449 calls for service in June. There were 12 crashes, 3 of them were personal injury. There were 12 criminal arrests; 3 of the arrests were felonies, and 9 were misdemeanors. The 4th of July went well. Officer Longmire will be attending the Law Enforcement Academy starting July 28; he graduates November 7.

Bill asked if Tony had a chance to check into PERF. Tony explained he has inquired about costs; he is still waiting on the figures. He noted the majority of officers who have left have done so for pension reasons.

Tony would like to give "kudos" to Jeremy and his crews for their work on the storm clean up.

Brian asked if there were any ADA complaints; there were none.

PARK

Chad Jonsson, Park Superintendent, reported the 4th of July was busy. The Tour des Lakes bike ride had 180 riders. The Farmer's and Artisan Market continues on Wednesday and Saturday; Wednesday is produce only from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Chad announced the Park Department is accepting names for the Community Wide Garage Sale that will be held July 31, August 1, and August 2. The baseball games at the ball field are done except for the travel teams. Football will start in two weeks, and the lights are on at the fields.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Director, reported the street department filled 200 to 250 dump trucks with debris from the storm.

Jeremy advised he received quotes for the sewer point repairs at Oakwood; he noted the point repairs need to be completed before paving can begin. There are about 20 spots that need to be repaired. Geiger Excavating estimated an average of \$2,580.00 per site, for a total cost of \$51,600.00 without the asphalt repair. The quote from Niblock was for \$69,000.00; their quote included \$5,000.00 for asphalt repair. Niblock can do the asphalt repair since they are already doing work in the area. Jeremy asked the council to approve a quote; Geiger can start in two weeks. Larry asked if any part of Oakwood had to be closed. Jeremy stated some spots may be closed temporarily, but there will not be any problems with the sewer. Jeremy estimates each repair will take about 30 minutes.

Brian asked where the repairs would be paid from. Jeremy noted there are three projects that will be done; they are decorative lights, sewer point repairs, and paving. The projects will be paid from the Oakwood TIF, the Zoned Rate, or Henry's Oakwood line item. Once started, it should take ten to fourteen days to complete the point repairs. Larry asked about the timeframe for paving. Jeremy responded he will do the paving bids next month; the paving would be completed by Halloween. Larry made a motion to approve the quote from Geiger Excavating for \$51,600.00; work is to be completed by August 31. Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Larry moved to have Niblock complete the paving repairs by August 31; Kathy seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy discussed radio read meters. The water department is almost done installing the new meters in Oakwood. Jeremy proposed allowing him to purchase radio read meters as needed and as they have time to install them; there is money in depreciation to pay for it. Jeremy explained if we agree to purchase 1,000 meters over two years, the supplier will hold the price for two years. Jeremy was asked to bring numbers to the next meeting.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline had nothing further to report.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Vern Landis had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Due to the number of people present to speak on two topics, Brian asked the groups to designate speakers. Larry suggested those present complete a sign-up sheet with their name and phone number.

Andy Mohr, of 6002 George St., stated there are serious and significant problems with loud music coming from Oakwood. Fifty homes are directly impacted; the noise interferes with sleep. He stated the noise is 75 to 110 decibels, and it happens four to five times per week. They have talked to Oakwood management several times; he feels there is no noticeable change. They would like existing rules enforced. Mr. Mohr distributed and read from the Syracuse Noise Ordinance and the Kosciusko County Ordinance. He feels the ordinance states loud noise is prohibited at any time. Brian asked if they have a solution; Mr. Mohr answered they can move the band inside. Brian pointed out if all loud music is eliminated, the Lake Area Band could not play in the park. Mr. Mohr said that's different; it's during daylight hours. Larry noted he hears the church services in Lakeside Park at 8:00 a.m.; we also have Music in the Park. It is hard to single out one organization; the ordinance applies to everything. We are trying to find a resolution. It was also noted that Boat In Worship could also be affected.

Paul asked if there is a decibel level that is considered to be too loud. Dan Harstine, of 5940 George St, also spoke about the noise from the Oakwood music. He gave examples of decibel levels. He read from the Syracuse ordinance and stated the time frame has been exceeded several times; he asked how many fines have been assessed. He added Brad Jackson, Kosciusko County Commissioner, encouraged them to come to the council meeting.

Brian stated we will check into this; Bill stressed we can only promise to look into it.

Tony reported there have only been two complaints since the ordinance was adopted that are documented by dispatch. The police are doing the best they can; we need to find a resolution that is beneficial to everyone. Mr. Mohr stated he feels any loud music at anytime is prohibited per the ordinance; Tony stated we will look into it.

Residents from Medusa St were present to discuss train whistles. Brian asked if anything has changed; until we have a donation of \$1 million, there's not much we can do. Van Young stated 20 cities in Indiana have or are working on quiet zones. Brian stated the last he knew, the committee was looking into directional horns. Mr. Young stated we can get a loan from FRA to install drop paddles that will save a lot of money on the cost. Larry asked who will pay the loan; Mr. Young stated CSX also has funding available. He would like a committee formed to work with the Town Manager. Larry stated only four of the train crossings are in town; they would have to work with the county for the other crossings that are close by. Van Young stated he does not want the double gating, which is more expensive. He wants a paddle system.

Paul noted the primary roadblock previously was the cost. The previous committee also said there will be engineering costs.

George Krabbe, of 306 E Medusa, explained the paddle system. A barrier would be put up down the center of road starting at the gate, and then back about 40 feet. Brian suggested he meet with Mr. Krabbe. Mr. Krabbe stated there is an economical way to do all of the gates; he can work with Brian to

request funds. Bill asked about the quiet zone designation. Mr. Krabbe answered once we have the drop paddles in place, we could then request quiet zones.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian advised the Fire Territory Board met last night. He reported he and Bill tried for a \$275,000.00 levy for the Equipment Replacement Fund, but the other three members voted in favor of a \$400,000.00 levy for the Equipment Replacement Fund. Brian stated he feels we need language created on what happens if we disagree; we don't need to break the contract. He believes for the Operations Budget, the township has the final say. Bill stated the Fire Territory Board makes recommendations; it has no power. The increase was 2.1% overall for the operations budget due to the additional PERF.

Larry asked who is tracking the need. A lengthy discussion followed on the town's and taxpayer's share. Paul asked if we can't do anything, why do we vote? We make a decision and they override it; we need to redo the contract. Brian and Larry both stated the Equipment Replacement Fund is the only place we have authority.

2015 BUDGETS

TOWN MANAGER BUDGET

Henry presented the Town Manager budget and went over the various changes. Salaries and Telephone increased. Website and Professional Services decreased, as well as the Oakwood line item. Henry advised we have a few more things to do in Oakwood next year; we may be able to reduce the amount in the future. His total budget was a decrease of 4.35%.

Brian noted the proposed budgets are for 27 pays. Brian stated he and Larry had a discussion about how hard our crews worked during the recent storm. Brian would like the council to consider a 2 or 3% raise on top of the 27 pays. He calculated the wage increase; it is about \$34,929.00 for wages only. He noted we have \$91,000.00 in the various budgets for new equipment. He suggested we could pay for some of the new equipment from the Rainy Day Fund or Riverboat Fund to offset the raise. Larry stated in years past those funds have enabled us to do things. Discussion followed on the increase. Paul likes the budgets as proposed. Larry asked Henry for his input; Henry would like more of a bonus situation. Council members disagreed. Brian stated our crews have worked hard; they deserve a raise. Kathy stated if want to do an increase because of a good job this year, then give a pay increase January 1. The 27TH pay won't be received until nearly 2016. Larry clarified the 3% raise would remain as part of the employee's wages, but in 2016 the employee would only receive 26 checks, so their total pay on their W-2 would be less. He was told that is correct. Julie suggested if the council wants to grant the 3% raise, the council consider other line items in each budget tonight. The budgets could be recalculated with the raise, and a recommendation could be made on the alternate funding for new equipment.

PARK BUDGET

Brian asked Chad about contract mowing and tree maintenance. Contract mowing is used for fertilizing the parks; we do not have an employee who is state certified. Tree Maintenance is for small maintenance items for trees in the park. Chad added the new equipment amount was increased; the

park department would like to replace the gator. The cost would be split among the park department, park foundation, and possibly the trail committee. He noted the current gator was purchased in 2006 and is used every day from April through November.

STREET BUDGET

Jeremy Sponseller explained \$50,000.00 in New Equipment is for a dump truck. He added that would be for a smaller dump truck; a larger dump truck would cost \$80,000.00 to \$90,000.00. For paving, Henry recommended an increase from \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00. Paving was reduced last year, and Henry would like to get the amount up to the old levels. It was the consensus of the council to keep the paving at \$100,000.00.

POLICE BUDGET

Brian asked Tony about health insurance; Tony advised health will be the same.

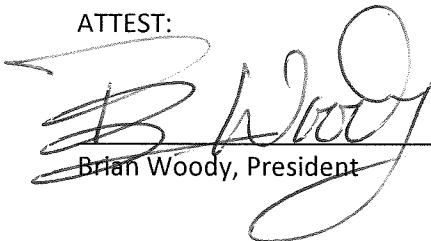
CLERK BUDGET

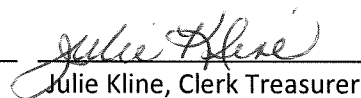
Julie clarified the council would like the budgets revised to reflect a 3% raise. In addition, Julie and Henry will look at alternate funding for some of the New Equipment and keep the total budgets under max levy by \$107,000.00. Council members agreed. The new proposed budgets will be presented at the August meeting.

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

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ATTEST:


Brian Woody, President


Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer