Special Meeting Public Hearing on Rate Increase on Waste Water

January 20, 2015

President Jeff Lipinski called the meeting to order. Vice President Don Parvin, Council Member Rob Hewitt and Attorney Corbin King were also present for the Council.

President Jeff Lipinski explained why the rate increase was needed to make the Waste Water more sustainable and that we have been losing money for years. He read the bills and charges that were incurred by the plant to help explain the cost of the operation

Don Parvin informed everyone that we had two qualified WasteWater operators and their hourly rate is $20 per hour plus benefits. As the cost of wages and operating the plant have gone up so much that without the rate increase it would be very difficult to do repairs or make improvements to the system and to keep quality employees and that we are operating the Waste Water as a business.

Jeff Lipinski stated we have to keep the plant running in a sufficient manner and in compliance with the State or they could come in and take us over or fine us.

Rob Hewitt stated that this increase has to be done to keep up with the cost of operating.

Jeff Lipinski said that Dave Wagner was present to answer any questions.

Jeff Condo asked why we were going across the board with a rate increase and not by usage.

Jeff Lipinski stated that we are still using usage but it was necessary to have an across the board increase so that we could stay in the black and not be using the general fund to support Waste Water.

Mike Kanable asked does the rate increase have anything to do with New London. Jeff Lipinski said no that New London was separate from Russiaville.

Don Parvin asked Dave Wagner to explain what we had done in the past and where we are today with the plant and why we needed this rate increase.

Dave Wagner stated that Russiaville had spent around one million dollars on improvements to lift stations, sewage lines being lined to prevent infiltration, improvements at the plant and that the rate increase was necessary so that Waste Water could operate on its own and to build up a little cushion for repairs.

Don Parvin thanked Dave Wagner for all the help that he has given to Council and employees.

Jeff Lipinski stated that we would carry this over for a vote with the full Council on Monday February 16.

There being no further the meeting was adjourned.

Town of Russiaville, Indiana

Town Council Meeting

January 20, 2015

The Regular Town Council Meeting was opened by President Jeff Lipinski with Vice President Don Parvin, Rob Hewitt and Town Attorney Corbin King also present for the Council.

The election of Town Council Officers was held. Don Parvin made the motion to elect Jeff Lipinski as President seconded by Rob Hewitt. A vote was taken and Don Parvin, Rob Hewitt and Jeff Lipinski voting yes the motion carried. Rob Hewitt made the motion to elect Don Parvin as Vice President and seconded by Jeff Lipinski. A vote was taken Rob Hewitt, Jeff Lipinski and Don Parvin voting yes the motion carried.

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented and approved.

Mike Kanable, Executive Secretary of the Planning Commission reported issuing a permit to Bob O’Neal for a garage.

Don Parvin made a motion to elect Mark Fulk to the Planning Commission and second by Rob Hewitt, a vote was taken, Don Parvin, Rob Hewitt and Jeff Lipinski voting yes the motion carried.

Roger Waddell asked if he could look for someone to take the vacant position on the Board of Zoning Appeals and report back to the Board on his finding at the February meeting and the Board agreed.

Bill Evans asked had all the work been done to the Interurban Station and had all the money been paid out. Jeff Lipinski said that they had received an email from Marsha Berry with a punch list that has to be completed and to contact her or the Board would find out by the next meeting.

Josh Welch presented the following officers for approval for the Park & Tree Board for 2015: Josh Welch, President, Ashley Wyrick, Vice President, Laura Redding, Secretary and members Reba Casler, Travis Wyrick, Erica Parvin, Sabrina Vary, Rick Homkes, Matthew Johnson and new member Jill Newby. Don Parvin made the motion to approve the officers and members for 2015 for the Park & Tree Board. A vote was taken and Don Parvin, Rob Hewitt and Jeff Lipinski voting yes the motion carried. Josh Welch presented a project plan for 2015 per Don Parvin’s request as follows: (1.) Provide seed for the grading and seeding of the lot. (2.) Finish tree removal/planting at Interurban Station. This project is tied to the IDNR Grant which expires June 30, 2015. (3.) Install landscaping at the circle area in front of the Community Center. This project is tied to $3,000 dollar Howard Community Foundation matching grant. (4.) Install landscaping at Police Station we hope to use Western Seniors on Community Day. (5.) Maintenance plan for Community Center landscaping and weeds this would include shrub trimming, rose pruning, regular weed spray and maintenance. Travis Wyrick would do this maintenance for $500 dollars. Jeff Lipinski said the Council would take this into advisement. (6.) Install concrete connecting walk on southeast corner of Community Center. We hope to use rock from Community Center circle to create a new landscape bed around south east corner of the Community Center. Our eventual plans are to connect the sidewalk to future gazebo area. We would like to install approximately 20 feet of sidewalk here to act as a natural landscape border for rock. Additional plans we hope to work on more grant-writing this year to help with raising more money for walking trails at the Park. Jeff Lipinski said the Council will look at these items. Planning questions for the Council from Josh– will any proceeds from Indiana American Water sale be applied to the parking lot or walking trails-this is our biggest priority to improve rentals. Will Indiana American Water be making a donation or grant to help us in building the new park? Jeff Lipinski –we do not know about Indiana American Water’s intentions on donations or grants. Josh Welch asked about the contract involving Summer Fest, Tractor Pull and Park Board. Corbin King stated he is still reviewing it.

The Streets, Water and Wastewater Report was given by Craig Thompson. Don Parvin asked about sprinkler system at the Community Center that had caused water damage. After a discussion concerning the sprinkler system the Council asked Craig to have it inspected. The Council thanked them for a great job clearing the streets of snow.

Jeff Condo asked how much money the Town was planning to spend on street paving with the money from the sale of the water utility. Jeff Lipinski stated that the Council was thinking about forming a committee to determine what and how to spend the money to best serve the Town. Jeff Condo stated that he would like to see a list of streets that needed to be paved numbered 1 thru 10 and published by April. Don Parvin stated that we do not number the streets that need to be paved 1 thru 10 that we had always numbered them 1 thru 5 and that each Council member is responsible to go out and rate the roads and then we meet an determine which streets are in the most need of paving according to how much money we have to use for paving as has been said In the past. As far as being published by April this could not be done because we will not receive any money until the sale of the Water Utility is done and may take 3 to 6 months. When we determine which streets are to be paved this is discussed at regular monthly meetings and put in the minutes as to which streets we are paving.

Roger Waddell presented the Marshal’s Report. Roger reported that the Russiaville Little League Parade will be on May 9 and that the Community Center should not be rented on that day. Severe Weather Day will be March 19. Also in-service training has changed and it will now be done on line with a cost of around $400 dollars and that this could be done at home.

Jill Newby stated that Western Senior Community Day will be on Monday May 18.

Jeff Lipinski signed the agreement with Waste Management that had been approved by the Council at the special December 2014 meeting.

Don Parvin made the motion to allow Jeff Lipinski and Linda to sign documents for the Gene and Wilma Parks Estate Funds to be invested in the Howard Community Foundation. Second by Rob Hewitt-a vote was taken Don Parvin, Rob Hewitt and Jeff Lipinski voting yes. Motion carried.

Comments from guests and Town Council were requested. Claims presented and the meeting adjourned.

Jeff Lipinski, President Don Parvin, Vice President