

Town of Hamilton

7750 S Wayne St – PO Box 249

Hamilton, In 46742

DRAFT – NOT YET ADOPTED

June 6th, 2011 Town Council Meeting

7:00pm

1. Council President Will Nuttle called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll call: Councilors John Damron, Will Nuttle, Jeff Bireley, Larry Grantham and Brent Shull were present. The Clerk Treasurer, Hester Stouder was present to record the meeting. Also present was Town Manager Milton Otero and Town Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff. Attached is a list of audience members.

2. Reading & Approval of May 2nd, 2011 Minutes – Councilman John Damron made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Brent Shull seconded the motion; motion carried with majority aye votes

3. Clerks Report -

- A. Claims –Will Nuttle asked what the IUPPS charges were? The clerk responded and said they were for locates that customers called in when needing their water lines marked. Brent Shull made a motion to approve the claims presented. Jeff Bireley seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the claims were approved.
- B. Delinquent Water Accounts– Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder presented the list of delinquent water/garbage accounts, Jeff Bireley made a motion to accept the delinquent water/garbage accounts. Brent Shull seconded the motion; motion carried with unanimous voice aye votes.

4. Reports –

- A. Town Manager – Mr. Milton Otero is still working with the engineer and INDOT on the spillway project. Milton is still trying to locate the pier owners to notify them of the removal and permitting process when being re-installed. Because the council made no changes, Milton has given IDNR the go-ahead with the plan they presented. He provided a timeline and will continue to keep the board informed as the project moves forward.

Milton will be an additional point of contact for the boardwalk project that will be under construction in conjunction with the spillway project.

Due to the recent intense rains and natural disasters across the country Milton will be communicating with the Plan Commission about amending our current ordinance to support temporary mobile homes should FEMA need to come to Hamilton.

Milton said he looked into wireless access for the council. The cost was \$49.99 to purchase and between \$35-50/month. Brent Shull made a motion to not move forward with the purchase, saying it was too expensive. John Damron seconded the motion, motion carried. *(Please see attached)*

- B. Street Department – *(Please see attached)*
- C. Police Department – Council President Will Nuttle asked about a policy for the K-9? Marshal Jeremy Warner said he sent it to the council a couple of months ago, but would resend it. Mr. Nuttle also asked if the SOP book for the Police Department was still being worked on? Marshall Warner assured him this too was still in the process and being updated. *(Please see attached.)*
- D. Water Department –The roof is being repaired at the well house after a tree hit it during a storm. An adjuster has been out to complete the insurance claim, when approved the entire roof will be replaced. Quotes will be received for replacement of the roof. The board will be updated, as those are available. *(Please see attached)*

5. Old Business –

- A. Ordinance 2011-2 – Town Manager Milton Otero said 2 speed limits (from lane 280 to 600 S and 600 S to the corporate limit) on page 3 of the ordinance should be reversed. John Damron made a motion to amend this portion of the ordinance. Brent Shull seconded the motion, motion carried. John then made a separate motion to suspend the rules, adopt the ordinance 2011-2 as amended on 2nd & 3rd reading. Brent seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion carried without opposition. The ordinance will be published and take effect 30 days after publication.
- B. Engineer for Street Maintenance Plan — No engineer will be hired. The street superintendent along with a reputable paving professional will assess the roads and provide a priority list to the board.
- C. Safe Route To School – This was discussed at the June 2nd meeting and will be discussed further as more information becomes available. Mr. Otero did determine that we could be reimbursed as we go. We will have to submit paperwork and if approved should get reimbursed within 30-60 days.
- D. Full Time Firefighter Position – Fire Chief Rodney Snyder presented to the board information and figures on hiring a full time firefighter. He said the reason they have a vision for this position is because volunteers are down due to more training requirements and fewer jobs allowing people to leave when calls come in. He also said the number of reports and paperwork required has increased drastically. Mr. Snyder and the clerk were able to communicate the range of cost the Town would incur if approved. The amounts ranged from \$13,555.48-19,109.76 in addition to the Towns \$57857.06 annual contractual amount. The clerk said the Towns funding is not increasing and the board had a very difficult decision to make and would have to cut from the general fund in order to afford the position. She also said the Town would have to consider the possibility of fully funding the position if Trustees are dissolved. After Mr. Snyder's presentation the board began asking questions. Brent asked how many surrounding towns had full time positions? Hudson does due to a grant, Angola has several and Fremont has 2. Jeff Bireley asked if there were lobbyist working for the Volunteer Fireman advocating the need for more money and less restrictions? Rodney said yes, but they are working against lobbyists who

promote more training and it seems like they get nowhere. John Damron asked if the department got reimbursed for medical runs? Mr. Snyder said it equaled about \$3,000 last year and that is from the County for assistance. John then asked if the department had applied for the grant Hudson was awarded? Rodney said no, but one is coming up this year. Councilman Damron said he would love to see them apply for that and if awarded that would eliminate the immediate need for funding. The board asked about number of runs per year. The chief said there were 348 in 2010 and 80% of them were medical. The board talked about splitting the position with the Town, days off, insurance, contractual agreements and responsibility. Because the Fire Department is separate and has their own board, the council would not be the overseers of this position. Any agreement for the position to be split with the Town would have to be contractually and could interfere with statutory guidelines on dual lucrative positions. More would have to be looked into prior to the agreement being finalized. In conclusion, John Damron said he loved the idea but was concerned about the rough financial times, Larry Grantham said he could understand the concept but didn't elaborate, Jeff Bireley said it was a hard decision and it seemed as though we were robbing Peter to pay Paul. He felt like lawmakers were key in helping the situation better in the long run. Brent said he knows something has to be done, but wanted to see a benefit to the Town for the amount that would be invested. The council asked for a job description and said they would like to still think about the decision. Mr. Snyder asked if Will would copy the information given to him at the Fire Board meeting for the rest of the board to review, Mr. Nuttle agreed. The board thanked Rodney for his time and presentation. No decisions were made at this time and the topic was tabled and will be on the agenda at the June 15th, 2011 budget meeting.

6. New Business –

Elwood Water Bill - The clerk requested the council's approval for a customer to be billed for water usage dating back to April 2006. The previous owner paid the tap fee, but the current owners have never been billed for water. The water department discovered the error, read the meter to get an accurate amount of usage to determine the amount that would be owed and the problem was corrected. The customer has now started receiving bills. The clerk presented to the council, the breakdown due to changes in water rates and taxes, totaling \$1,058.72. The clerk and water department have been in communication with the customer and they are aware of their responsibility for the water used. The clerk emphasized she wanted to bring it before the board so it was on record and they knew of the situation and approved the charges. The board asked if the customer would be allowed to make payment arrangements? The clerk said yes, as long as the amount was paid by 12/31/11 for year-end balancing purposes. John Damron made a motion to approve the amount owed and allow the customer until 12/31/11 to pay the balance. Brent Shull seconded the motion, motion carried.

Mr. John Damron said he would like to see an executive session scheduled for June 15th, 2011 immediately following the regular scheduled meeting. Mr. Larry Grantham said after attending the last executive meeting, he was appalled at how the meeting was handled and that if it was conducted in the same manner, he did not want to be a part of it. He went on to say it felt like a witch-hunt and was a negative discussion. He said the council might want to do some soul searching before the next executive session and take a good long look in the mirror. Will Nuttle said it was a disgrace and if someone could walk on water, he felt it still wouldn't be good enough. He also said that people should call or stop in, not just walk by the Town Hall. Mr. Grantham then said effective management came from encouragement and help and felt both parties were responsible for problems that were discussed. Mr. Jeff Bireley said the concerns discussed had been a talking point with the council for sometime and they needed to evaluate when they were beating a dead horse or not. Mr. Grantham said sometimes the ones doing the beating were the dead horses. Mr. John Damron said he agreed with Larry about the need to communicate effectively and felt like more needed to be discussed. He emphasized that he has always felt it was the goal of the councils to have good employees who served best in their capacity and in order to insure those expectations were clear he wouldn't be opposed to meeting weekly or even daily, whatever it takes. He then said he was merely asking to schedule another executive session, that's all. The clerk asked if one should be advertised? A majority agreed to schedule one for June 15th, 2011 at 7:30pm at the Town Hall.

Public Comments/Questions –

None were asked at this time.

With no other comments or items of business, the motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry Grantham and seconded by Brent Shull the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Hester Stouder - Clerk Treasurer

Will Nuttle – Council President