

# **Town of Hamilton**

7750 S Wayne St – PO Box 249

Hamilton, In 46742

DRAFT – NOT YET ADOPTED

March 10th, 2010 Town Council Meeting

6:15pm

## **1. Council President Brent Shull called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.**

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

## **2. Street Department -**

A. Compost Site – Town Manager Milton Otero discussed hours of operation for the compost site. He explained several options including changing the hours or using comp time instead of overtime. After presenting the options he asked the council for input. Questions were asked about the use of the compost site and how members of the Street Department felt. In conclusion, the council agreed not to reduce the amount of hours or days the site is available to the public and will continue to pay the department overtime for the hours they work on Saturday's. They also agreed to make a definitive decision on ways to cut the overtime expense for the compost site during budget discussions for the 2011 budget year. The council talked about cutting future expense for a seasonal employee and instead focusing more on educating the public about bringing leaves to the curb and other items to make the leaf collection process more efficient. The council talked about dividing the Town into quadrants and developing a schedule that would identify what areas would be picked up and when. A schedule for limb collection was also suggested. The street department and Town Manager will put together a proposal about doing the things mentioned and ways to get information out to the community. They will present it to the board when completed closer to budget meetings in June or July of 2010.

## **3. Water Department -**

A. Capital Plan – Town Manager Milton Otero and Water Superintendent Justin Stouder went over potential adjustments to the capital improvement plan. They talked about projects that will require funds to be set aside but not spent until 2012 and other projects that could wait until the capital fund is built back up. In discussing funding and the time it would take to have the money available it was obvious to the council that regardless of how much was saved by cutting costs internally, a rate increase would be needed to accommodate for the years the Town has gone without one. The 24% rate increase was recalled, and all members agreed that was not something they wanted to have happen again. Umbaugh has recommended a rate increase, explaining that it would help

accommodate for the annual rise in materials that are purchased to maintain the department. In doing so it will allow the department to maintain a cash reserve to help fund the capital improvements. The council agreed a service line insurance fee would be practical and would provide additional protection to the customer if something should happen to their water line. They also talked about a 2% annual increase from 2011 until 2021 to start making up for the 6 years since the last one was done and to be proactive going forward. In 2021 it will be re-evaluated. More details on this information will be discussed and made available during upcoming council meetings.

The council addressed proposals before them for the purchase and replacement of the department's trucks. These quotes were first brought before the council at an earlier meeting. When looking at money available and the quotes provided, the council agreed the prices were too good to pass up and they would save money if the purchase were approved. After additional discussion and financial planning, John Damron made the motion to approve the purchase of the 2 Dodge trucks as quoted and get the other items needed to outfit them for the department, in his motion he included a freeze on all other capital projects, except for the purchase of meters until funds are saved, reviewed and approved by the council. (Most of the equipment can be transferred to the new trucks). Council President Brent Shull stated that he would be abstaining from the vote. Jeff Bireley seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken.

John Damron- aye

Will Nuttle – aye (he voted in favor after additional questions were answered)

Jeff Bireley- aye

Dick Bacon- aye

Brent Shull – abstained

Motion carried.

Council President Brent Shull informed the council that the paperwork to transfer the M-16's to Kendallville as discussed was completed and should be finalized this week. He also mentioned Marshal Warner would like to use the money received from a local drug bust to fund the purchase of new guns for the department. The council should be seeing details on the cost and purchase this month.

Councilman Damron was approached by a group of young adults who would like to volunteer their time and clean up the banks along the former trailer park area. The council agreed this was a great idea but would like to see the group get together with Milton and discuss details. Councilman Damron will relay this message to the volunteers.

With no other comments or items of business, the motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Bireley and seconded by John Damron. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.