

# Town of Hamilton

900 S Wayne St – PO Box 249

Hamilton, In 46742

DRAFT – NOT YET ADOPTED

November 9th, 2017 Town Council Meeting

7:00 pm

## **1. Council President Tina Bosse called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.**

Roll call: Councilors Tina Bosse, Steve Blum, Mary Vail, Danny Lingo and Sandra Biegas were present. The Clerk Treasurer, Hester Stouder was present to record the meeting. Town Manager Brent Shull & Town Attorney Dan Brinkerhoff were in attendance. Attached is a list of audience members.

## **2. Reading and Approval of September 5<sup>th</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 minutes**

Councilwoman Mary Vail motioned to approve the September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes. Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried. Mary Vail then motioned to approve both sets of October minutes. Steve Blum seconded the motion, motion carried with Council President Tina Bosse abstaining due to her absence from the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## **3. Clerks Report - *The clerk has submitted financial EOM statements and payroll to the Council.***

- A. Claims – Councilman Steve Blum motioned to approve the claims as presented. Councilwoman Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried.
- B. Delinquent Accounts – Councilman Danny Lingo motioned to approve the delinquent accounts, Councilman Steve Blum seconded the motion, motion carried.
- C. Insurance – Clerk Treasurer Hester Stouder explained the changes to the employee health insurance policy for the upcoming year. Previously, in 2017 the deductible was \$3,500 with 100% coverage after the deductible was met. In 2018 it will be increasing to \$3,750, due to a federal calculation for cost of living. If the Town wanted to decrease the deductible the plan would no longer be 100% covered, instead it would switch to an 80/20 coverage after the deductible was met.

The Clerk said the Council budgeted to absorb up to a 10% increase in insurance costs while still contributing \$550 annually to employee HSA accounts. However, the Town's cost increased by less than 3%. The Clerk asked the Council how they wanted to handle the increased deductible, suggesting they could forgo the 1% raise they previously approved for 2018 and instead contribute another \$250 to each employee's HSA accounts.

The Council discussed many options and decided not to increase the HSA contribution to avoid employees expecting an increase anytime insurance may change. They also revisited the raise they approved for 2018. Understanding the budget allowed for up to 3% and they approved 1% with the possibility of also providing a bonus in 2018. The Council talked about the potential problem with always providing bonuses instead of a raise, citing it will eventually put them in

a position of having to readjust pay to stay competitive with surrounding communities. After thorough discussion about insurance, raises and bonus pay Councilman Steve Blum motioned to keep the 1% raise and \$550 contribution to employee HSA accounts, making no changes from what was previously approved. Councilman Danny Lingo seconded the motion, motion carried with unanimous approval. The Council did note they would like to revisit the topic in the springtime.

#### **4. Reports**

A. *Town Manager* – Town Manager Brent Shull is working on the downtown parking lot. When attempting to get quotes from paving companies they were reluctant to do so without it first being engineered. Brent has reached out to Engineering Resources to get this done.

Brent is also working with the Clerk and Street Superintendent to get road projects prepared for the 2018 Community Crossings Grant.

The RDC has pledged to help with the public docks by using \$15,000 from their budget. *Please see attached report*

B. *Street Department* –*Please see attached report*

C. *Police Department* –The Police Department would like to obtain a boat thru a Government program that allows them to take ownership of the used boat at no charge. The only cost involved is the travel to and from Florida where it is located. The Council had no objections to acquiring the boat, but were concerned with liability risk by having a reserve officer drive to pick up the boat. Councilman Danny Lingo felt the risk was no different than having reserves on active duty with guns and responding to calls in our community. Councilwoman Tina Bosse felt it was in the best interest of the Town to have the vessel shipped rather than picked up. After further discussion, the Council decided it should be shipped, if possible.

Councilwoman Mary Vail motioned to approve up to \$600 to have the boat shipped to Hamilton. Councilman Steve Blum seconded the motion, motion carried with Councilman Lingo voting opposed. *Please see attached report*

D. *Water Department*-No questions were asked, instead Council President Tina Bosse complimented the department on their functionality during the recent 36-hour power outage. She said the water quality wasn't compromised, no one was under a boil water advisory and the towers maintained contact with the plant without problems. She also thanked them for their help in setting up the warming center. *Please see attached report*

#### **5. Old Business –**

A. Fire Truck purchase – award bid – The Council discussed and agreed to accept the informalities they found in each bid packet. Councilman Steve Blum then motioned to award the bid to Sutphen Corporation with a preliminary price of \$475,873.00 which made them the lowest bid received. Councilwoman Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried with Councilman Danny Lingo abstaining due to his active status as a volunteer firefighter. At the December meeting the

Council will sign the contract and approve which payment option they would prefer. Each option will provide a separate discount off the original price of \$475,873.00.

## **6. New Business –**

B. Emergency Center and Preparedness – As a result of the recent 36-hour power outage the Council would like to see the Town Hall become the focal point for a warming center and location used to accommodate medical devices that may need charged. They would like to see Brent consider generators for the building and possibly some portable ones. A generator would hopefully provide power, so the restrooms could work, if not they would like a contingency plan with Dilts portable restrooms.

Brent said he had been in contact with Dilts during the recent event and they agreed to be on standby should something similar happen in the future. Brent also noted they donated the restrooms that were brought up during the recent power outage. The Council expressed their appreciation and asked Brent to extend their thanks to the owner.

Brent said he had priced out some generators already and thought the price would be around \$7500.00. With that being said, Councilman Steve Blum motioned to approve up to \$10,000 be spent on generators to accommodate the Town Hall as an emergency center. Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion passed. If the cost goes beyond \$10,000 Brent will bring it before the Council for further approval.

The Council thanked everyone involved in preparing and staffing the warming center and making sure the Town and its residents were taken care of during the power outage. They felt everyone worked well together and came away with positive suggestions for ways to improve when handling future emergency situations.

## **Public Comments/Questions concerning ADA or other items of Business –**

With no other comments or items of business, Councilman Danny Lingo motioned to recess the meeting at 7:45 and reconvene in executive session. Councilwoman Mary Vail seconded the motion, motion carried.

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Hester Stouder - Clerk Treasurer

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Tina Bosse –Council President