

ST JOHN TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
ST JOHN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MAIN MEETING ROOM
10955 W. 93RD AVENUE, ST. JOHN, INDIANA
September 17, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

(Tape recorder at outset of meeting did not work properly)

Mr. Barenie called the meeting to order at 7:11 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Mark Barenie, President; Michael Forbes, Vice-President; Gregory Volk, Member; Michael Fryzel, Member; Jerri Teibel, Member (left at 8:05 P.M.); David Austgen, Attorney; Steve Kil, Town Manager and Sherry Sury, Clerk-Treasurer. Also present were Fred Frego, Police Chief; Fred Willman, Fire Chief; Bob Pharazyn, Director of Operations and John Mainwaring, Code Enforcement Officer. Absent was Chip Sobek, Parks Superintendent.

New Business

Review of 2010 Municipal Corporation Budget

Mr. Barenie stated that this is a workshop for the budget and questions would be taken from the audience. Mr. Kil gave a Power Point presentation of the proposed budget and the meeting was opened to the floor: (Exhibit 1)

Dawn Pelc, 12701 Rosewood Court – stated that the presentation was too brief. She asked what the Town is spending the money on and that she would like to see more information on where the money is going. Ms. Pelc asked if the Town would be short of funds to which Mr. Kil responded yes and referenced the budget cuts of 2009. She then asked about a media board that was purchased and Mr. Forbes stated that the Town pays \$1,200 annually. Mr. Kil explained the details of the rental agreement.

Tom Busch, 10178 Walsh St – asked how they would make up the deficit for 2009 and how will they make up \$700,000? Discussion ensued regarding the Town's reserves and the borrowing of funds. Mr. Forbes added that they need to make budget reductions for 2010.

Blanca Morales, 11335 W 93rd Ave – referenced the money that is received for speeding tickets and asked why there are no tickets being issued for speeding in the 25 mph zone on 93rd Avenue. She stated that the park at Prairie West has lights on 24/7; they do not need to be on all the time. Discussion ensued. Ms. Morales mentioned the number of 911 vehicles in operation and stated that they have too many. (Tape recorder became functional)

Chief Willman explained that they need a backup vehicle in case another call comes in while the other vehicle is out on a call and Chief Frego addressed the issues of the police vehicles. Mr. Forbes stated that the focus last year and this year; is not to compromise public safety.

Steve Testa, 8518 Heather Ct – asked about the money being spent for the Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion. Mr. Kil stated that they have the money in the bank for the project, and is not part of this budget. Mr. Forbes referenced the town's 20% share in this project and Mr. Kil explained how the funds are raised through the capacity sewage charges under the Sanitary District. Mr. Kil stated that the Cumulative Sewer budget has nothing to do with sanitary sewer; they use that fund for storm water projects.

Janet Brennan, 10151 Delmar St – asked if the PowerPoint presentation, the Form 1's and the meeting agendas could be put on the town website. She stated that Hanover is crowded the same as Lake Central and asked how the Police Department budget compares to those of other towns. Mr. Kil stated that in every single community, without question, the Police Department occupies most of the budget, when he was in Schererville the Police Dept was at one point up to 67% of the budget; the fact that St. John can keep it at under 50% is a success. Mr. Barenie stated that they would look at the Form 1's to see where they can trim the budget.

Ken Koza, 13715 W 92nd Ct – asked if they get some of their revenue based on population from the riverboats. Mr. Kil stated that they do and referenced the funds the town receives based on the population, that the 2010 census will help them tremendously and referenced the timeframe when these funds would be received after completion of the census.

There were miscellaneous questions posed regarding the police pensions, the budgets of the Park & Recreation Department and Town Council (general budget). Discussion ensued regarding the fire hydrant rental fees, the process of the public hearing for the budget and if salary cuts are being considered. Mr. Barenie stated that everything is on the table.

Mr. Barenie closed the public comment section of the meeting and thanked the residents for their participation. He stated that during the past 12 months a lot has been done to cut expenses, the town staff has done a great job and that they have absorbed a lot of those cuts. The most recent Standard & Poor's rating was an "A" which enabled the town to get the lowest interest possible on water revenue bonds. The challenge is the revenue base and that they are looking at a lot of different items and will continue to do that.

Consider approval of License Agreement with BLB St. John LLC – Mr. Barenie stated that this agreement would deed over four or five soccer fields in the Gates subdivision. Mr. Forbes mentioned that there is some verbiage that needs to be changed in the agreement and this needs to be deferred to the next meeting. **Mr. Fryzel motioned to defer to the meeting on the 24th. Seconded by Mr. Forbes. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0.**

Reports & Correspondence

Town Council

Mr. Forbes stated that the next meeting about the Haunted House will be at the Municipal Building on Wednesday, 23rd at 6:00 P.M. He asked Chief Frego and Chief Willman if they could be there to talk to the kids.

Clerk-Treasurer – None

Staff

Mr. Kil stated that the town will be putting together a Complete Town Census Committee and is looking for volunteers. The purpose of the committee is how they are going to market the census and the importance of making sure everyone is counted.

Mr. Pharazyn stated that a St. John resident, Mr. Steve Kovach, who is the Head Estimator for Reith Riley, approached him regarding the grinding materials needed for the soccer fields at The Gates subdivision. Typically the company would take those back to their plant and recycle

the grindings and turn them into asphalt for the work projects. Reith Riley will donate the grindings worth about \$40,000 in stone and haul the grindings free of charge.

Public Comment – none further

Adjournment – Mr. Forbes motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Fryzel. Motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

ATTEST:

/s/ Sherry P. Sury, Clerk-Treasurer