

TOWN COUNCIL
February 11, 2019

The Flora Town Council met Monday, February 11, 2019 in Board Room of the Flora Town Hall. Those present were; Dawn Seward, Charlotte Moppin, Charlotte Hicks, Josh Plue, Bill McCarty, Rachel Runge, Todd Trent, Jill Clothier, Jessica Young, Jason Burns, Cory Mahan, James Bishop, Susan Scholl, Karla Jenkins, Ron Fritz, Abby Diener, Shane Evans, Sarah Hanaway, Jacob Adams, Darrell Yoder, Vince Seward and Joretta Tinsman.

Vince opened the meeting with welcome. Darrell moved the minutes of the previous meetings (December 21, 2018 and January 7, 2019) be approved as presented; Jacob seconded. Minutes approved. Claims and payroll signed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Commonwealth ~ Rachel Runge presented one payment request for the current water project ~ approved and signed. The well rehabilitation has started and will have new filters in early March. A construction meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13th at 1 PM at the town office with Division A contractor.
- B. Log Cabin at the Park ~ Mark Hufford was present at the November, 2018 town council meeting and presented a quote to relocate the log cabin in another area of the park and restore it in the amount of \$50,000.00 with ongoing maintenance and upkeep taxpayer dollars. The second option Mark has presented is to move the dilapidated cabin to his home near the Wildcat (close to the location it originally came from) and restore it with his funds on his private property at no cost to the town. Council did not feel the cabin was worth the expenditure required to make it usable for the public. Jacob moved to give the cabin to Mark and that it will be moved to his private property for restoration as soon as weather and time permit. Darrell seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Jill Clothier ~ Resident at 603 East Jackson presented a complaint that the storm drain in front of their residence has backed up twice recently causing flooding of their property (once from a rain and once from water main break). Bill McCarty and Ron Fritz are making it a priority to check the storm sewer drain. Bill plans to use a camera in the drain when weather warms up. Mark Frey, farmer owning the property near the Clothier residence, has agreed to do some grade work in his field this spring before the crops go in hoping to improve drainage. Need to do any work needed on drain/grate prior to the paving of Jackson Street.
- B. Charlotte Hicks ~ Resident at 408 South Center was requesting that when the town does snow removal on the streets they also clean the alley at her residence and other alleys as well. She was encouraged to call the town office for help with snow removal when she needs it. The streets take priority to the alleys but the town will be happy to help her with the alley when needed. The town guys try to do alleys following significant snows after they have the streets cleaned.

REPORTS:

- A. Town Marshal – James Bishop reported that department had no stats yet due to the new system but will hopefully have those available in March. Equipment should be installed in new police vehicle (Dodge Durango) within three weeks.
- B. Plan Commission – Issued one building permit in January 2019 to James Weiand on Jefferson Street for a new garage.
- C. Fire Department – Todd Trent reported 19 medical runs and 6 fire runs last month. Todd is seeking ideas to make it more attractive for volunteers and in recruiting new members. Department is experiencing volunteer shortage with only 17 active members (have had 25 in the past) and no applications on file. Several of the current 17 members are retired volunteers who have returned. This is a widespread concern in other counties as well. Todd also asked the council to look at station II (old fire station). The concrete has settled on west bay and there is approx a 1.5” gap between the door and concrete. The east bay concrete floor is sinking and crumbling under the weight of the water tanker.

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- D. Park Department – No one present. Jason Burns reported they will be scheduling a park committee meeting when Atlee Oyler returns from Florida. Jake Adams said park committee is interested in giving north end of park a “facelift” after the log cabin has been removed.
- E. Airport – No one present. Gator reported he had boarded up a window in the administration building at the airport that will need to be replaced. The window was rotten around the air conditioning unit.
- F. Utility Manager/Water Superintendent – Elizabeth Scharre, an electrical engineering student from Purdue is doing an internship with the Town of Flora to help with the mapping, worked her first day today. Council reviewed a quote in the amount of \$17,000.00 to rehab our 2005 model street sweeper that is currently at Brown Equipment Company in Fort Wayne and a \$140,000.00 quote for a new used sweeper from Brown Equipment. Darrell moved to approve the quote of \$17,000.00 (plus additional repair costs if they find more problems when they get the sweeper torn apart) to do the repairs. Jacob seconded. Motion carried. Council approved purchasing 50 new transponders for the electric meters at a total cost of \$3500.00. These are used by the Electric Utility to read meters. Have had two water main breaks on Elizabeth Street within ten feet of each other. Council approved replacing 430 feet of 4” pipe with 6” PVC at a cost of \$6,000.00 through Utility Supply with town employees doing the work.
- G. WWT Superintendent – Bill reported the rain monitoring system has been ordered per T-Bird’s request. Bill will check with T-Bird to see if they have submitted the requested report to IDEM that was due by the end of January 2019 since we have not received a copy of that report. Will ask Coomler Construction to repair the final area at Brookview with their excavator as town cannot get in with the backhoe.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Joretta gave an update on computer conversion to the new software. We have converted Payroll (BUCS) and Accounting (CHIPS). Now ready to convert the Utilities (CUBIC) to the system this week. Support from Frey & Associates has been above and beyond. Things are going well so far.
2. Darrell asked Susan to put a reminder in the Comet for residents to sign up for the free Reach Alert Program. Notifications are sent to residents by telephone call, text and/or email of scheduled changes for recycle and trash pick-up, water main breaks, road closures, etc. We have over 274 residents presently signed on but we would like to have many more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Office closed Monday, February 18, 2019 for President's Day.
2. Next meeting will be Monday, March 4, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

Jacob made a motion to adjourn, Darrell seconded; motion carried.

TOWN OF FLORA

Vincent A. Seward, President

Darrell Yoder, Vice President

Jacob D. Adams, Finance Chairman

ATTEST:

Joretta L. Tinsman, Clerk-Treasurer