

Special Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 3-15-10

The Town of Ethan board met in special session on March 15, 2010 at the Town Hall at 7:09 pm after the Board of Equalization meeting. Members present were Nancy Schoenfelder, Robert Fitzgerald and Josh Franks. Member absent was Chad McGuire. Personnel present were Sonya Hespe and Brett Scott. Others present were Kim Sinkie, John Hart, Gallus Thill, Fred Hassel, Chris Lingemann and Camden Hofer.

Chairman Schoenfelder called the meeting to order.
All motions were unanimously voted as aye unless stated otherwise.

Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to approve the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Schoenfelder went to a county commissioners meeting to request the intersection on 2nd and Elm by the school become a 4-way stop. The county said this should be discussed with the school as well. Further discussion will be tabled until the school board can meet to talk about this.

The drainage project on Ash Street was reviewed again. Camden Hofer from SPN showed another option they drafted that would involve clean out & regrading the ditch instead of all of the pipelines. This option was roughly \$40,000. Schoenfelder asked about just re-opening half of the block on Ash between 2nd and 3rd. Camden said it might work for a while but would end up being the same result we have now but maybe in a different location. After more discussion a few changes were presented. Camden will have another engineer working on the project put together a new presentation for this idea. Camden also asked the board about the wastewater project. He suggested the board look into alternative discharge routes and submit their ideas to him so he can draw up a new cost proposal.

The topic of the new building was tabled again because Dan Boehmer from the lumberyard was not able to attend the meeting. Chris Lingemann asked if the town and Legion have talked to each other about moving the city office and community room to the Legion. No one from the town board had talked to a Legion board member.

NEW BUSINESS

A new meeting procedure was presented. There has been some small talk about ways to make the meeting time shorter. One idea was to have people that wanted to talk stand up and address the board. Another was to keep the time they are allowed to a minimum. The matter of the meetings being tape recorded was also talked about. Under the advice of the city attorney, the board should be the only one to tape record the meeting. If anyone wants a copy of it they can get one from the office. Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to purchase a recording device and CD's. At this time there will be no charge for a copy but the board will review this later if need arises. Copies will only be given to residents that live in city limits.

The city-wide cleanup that is usually in April will be scheduled at a later date. It will more than likely be too wet and muddy yet so the decision was made to wait and see what the weather does before a date is scheduled.

Hespe informed the board that the State water department recommends charging ourselves for water usage at the city office and park. Currently the water used in those locations is just being paid for in our bulk water billing. The general fund should actually have a meter reading and payment for the usage. This will also help when calculating the water loss averages. The hydrant at the park was talked about again in the fact that it should have a meter on it. A spicket could also be placed on the side of the concession stand that goes through the current meter in the stand. This would allow the water to be metered and the hydrant would then stay locked. Scott will get cost estimates on what this would cost and present it at the April meeting.

There will be a special meeting on Friday, April 16 to canvass votes from the election on April 13. A time will be set later.

Executive session was on the agenda but not held.

Fred Hassel suggested that if a contractor comes into town to do work a city representative needs to be there to oversee their work so they don't leave things unfinished or a mess. The board agreed with this.

Meeting adjourned.

Sonya Hespe
Finance Officer

Nancy Schoenfelder
Chairman