

Minutes of Regular Meeting, December 21, 2020

The Town Council of the Town of Warren met Monday, September 21, 2020 in a Regular Meeting conducted as a virtual meeting by zoom in accordance with rules of Council and applicable law.

Those present were: Town Council, Ethan Stivers, Carrie Miller, Steve Buzzard, Tavis Surfus. Clerk-Treasurer, Marilyn Morrison; Greg Guerrettaz of Financial Solutions Group, and others.

President Stivers opened the meeting at 5:03 noting that the meeting was being recorded and that quorum was established.

Kim Hostetler of Huntington County Community Development entered the meeting. Asking for discussion concerning the planned adoption of Planning Ordinances before the Council and hearing none, Miller moved, seconded by Buzzard to adopt Ordinances 2020-9-18, all pertaining to updating of the Town of Warren Planning Code. General discussion was held and all Ordinances were adopted by unanimous vote.

Mark Wickersham, Executive Director of Huntington County United Economic Development, requested approval of a contract with that entity for the year 2021 in the amount of \$3,000. Noting that the contract had not been amended in any way and that the amount had remained the same as in previous years, Buzzard moved, seconded by Miller, to approve the HCUED Contract for the year 2021. The motion was approved unanimously. Wickersham updated 2020 activities within the County. Stivers requested information as to how minutes and newsletters of the group could be accessed which was addressed by Wickersham.

Morrison requested action on the amount of the HSA to employees which is generally paid the first pay period in January. Although discussed at a previous meeting, Council had not approved an amount for 2021. Currently paid at \$3,000 per employee, Surfus moved, Buzzard seconded, that the amount remain the same for 2021. The motion was approved unanimously.

Buzzard, maker of a motion during the last meeting of Council in which vision insurance for employees was not approved, Buzzard made a motion to reconsider. Stivers, Buzzard, and Surfus voted in support with Miller voting against. The motion carried. Morrison reviewed a financial report of Vision Insurance cost to each department of the Town noting that the additional total cost per month would be \$59.22 split between five departments, \$6.58 per each employee, with vision being added to a policy already in place which provides dental, term life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment coverage and short term disability. Following discussion, Buzzard moved, seconded by Surfus, to approve addition of vision insurance to Companion Life already in place. Stivers, Buzzard, and Surfus voted in support with Miller voting against. The motion carried.

Greg Guerrettaz discussed the transfer of energy purchase from AEP to Wolverine Power in May noting that a restructuring of rates within the Electric Utility which has not been done since 1984 was scheduled for 2021. No rate increase is anticipated but terms of the rate structure should be updated. Guerrettaz also stated that there would need to be some additional meetings with Council going forward due to the development and the approval of a financing package to support the Water Grant which had been awarded to the Town through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. He confirmed that scheduling two meetings a month going forward in the year 2021 would be a positive step.

Reviewed was the Accounts Payable Register as had been submitted to Council. Approval by consensus.

Continued development of a COVID response plan will be the main agenda item for the January 11, 2021 meeting of Council

General discussion was held regarding Golfo, Morrison noting that following a meeting with the owner of Golfo the first week of December it was understood that the Town will not be receiving any payment on the amount owed from Golfo. Further discussion as to how to move forward will need to be held. Morrison also noted that although installation of pretreatment at Golfo was on schedule to be completed the middle of January, the estimate for the electrical connection of the unit was \$35,000 and was not being approved by the owner. In other matters, removal of the dam in the Salamonie River, a DNR project, is completed or nearing completion but the US Fish and Wildlife project to remove an interurban pillar was on hold due to the location of a water main to near the area. The water main supplies water to the other side of the River from the Town. Also in reports, Morrison noted that the State required Water Systems Audit had been completed by the Engineer and was ready for submission to the IFA as required by every Water Utility in the State. Morrison also noted that the Utilities and Town Hall would be closed December 24, 25, 28, 31, and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

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There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk-Treasurer  
Marilyn Morrison

Town Council:

As \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Ethan Stivers

As \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
Steve Buzzard

As \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
Carrie Miller

As \_\_\_\_\_ Member  
Tavis Surfus