

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

August 17, 2010

Brian Woody, President, called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Jeff Morgan, Larry Siegel, and Paul Stoelting. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Mike Reed, and Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline were also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian asked for public comment on agenda items. There were none.

The minutes of the July 20th meeting were introduced. Paul moved to approve the minutes as written; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #855 through #957 were presented for payment. Paul moved to pay the claims; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

The council conducted the First Reading and Public Hearing on the proposed 2011 budget. Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline read the budget and levy amounts for 2011. Paul made a motion to approve the 2011 budget on first reading; Jeff seconded. No members of the public were present to comment. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. The 2011 advertised budget is attached.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia presented a purchase request to the council. He would like to purchase a bucket truck; this truck could be used for tree trimming, and putting up flags, banners, and snowflakes, for example. Right now our employees are using a ladder in the back of a truck to do these tasks, and it is very risky. He would like to purchase a rebuilt truck; there are a couple for sale now in the \$15,000.00 to \$17,000.00 range. Henry distributed a couple of examples of what is currently for sale. Jeremy advised these companies buy and refurbish this type of truck. Paul asked who would pay for maintenance and expenses; Henry believes it would be street and wastewater. Larry asked if Jeremy has checked into lifts that are installed directly into the back of a truck. Jeremy advised he had not looked into that extensively; the only trucks we have to dedicate to something like that are 80's vintage trucks, and he doubts if parts could be obtained for the subframe. Jeremy stated he has used that type of truck before; if the lift is extended 30 ft with 200 lbs in the bucket, it can rip the floors right out of the truck bed. Paul asked if we have an immediate need in the next month or so. Henry advised in the next month or so we will be taking things down; the snowflakes will be put up in a few months. Some tree trimming can also be done now. Jeremy advised we are looking at a small bucket truck; the majority of the work that we need to do is in the 15 ft range. Larry asked how it is

done now; he advised we use a ladder in the back of a pickup truck. Paul stated he would like information on the cost of installing a lift in the back of an existing truck. Brian likes the idea of the bucket truck. Jeremy added the bucket trucks have an on board generator and air compressor already in them. Paul would like to know the cost of installing a lift in the back of a truck. Larry and Jeff agreed it is worth checking into. Henry was instructed to check into it.

Henry announced he would like the council to consider a \$1,000.00 donation to KEDCO, the Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation. Paul asked what other communities are giving; Henry could not advise. Larry asked about a contribution to Elkhart County; Henry suggested we could consider \$500.00 for Elkhart County. Larry agreed with a \$1,000.00 contribution to Kosciusko County; he would like to look at Elkhart County next year. Larry moved to contribute \$1,000.00 to KEDCO; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

POLICE

Police Chief Tony Ciriello discussed the July report; there were 454 calls for service and 10 accidents. All ten arrests were misdemeanors.

Tony reported Day of Caring will be August 25; Tony is the project manager for this area. This year there are 12 projects in this area; nine are in town. About ninety volunteers will be working in this area. There are 124 projects countywide and close to 1000 volunteers.

Tony made several announcements. There were 182 participants in the Triathlon last Saturday; it went well. The Kosciusko Sheriff's Department and Warsaw Dive Team assisted; the Fire Department provided first aid and an ambulance on standby. Today was the first day of school; the police department is working with school officials on traffic issues. The Beaman Home is celebrating their 25th Anniversary next Tuesday at the Ramada Inn in Warsaw. Also, on September 15, there will be seminars at the Center Lake Pavilion in Warsaw about problems and treatment of meth. A short discussion followed on meth.

PARK

No report.

PUBLIC WORKS

Jeremy Sponseller, Public Works Superintendent, advised he will have paving bid numbers and numbers for the bar screen bid toward the end of the month. He asked council members if they would like to have a special meeting to award the bids, or if they would like to wait until the September meeting. Brian and Jeff were okay with a special meeting. Larry asked what the urgency is. Jeremy advised we can start the work sooner. Jeremy agreed to e-mail the council members to determine a date and time.

Jeremy presented the quotes for tree removal and trimming. The amounts of the two lowest quotes are very close; Cut Rite's quote is \$11,625.00 and Neff

Tree Service quoted \$11,320.00. Jeremy stated he has tried to reach Neff Tree Service to discuss the quote and make sure they are aware of our standards; he has not been able to reach him. Cut Rite has worked for us before and we are satisfied with their work. Council members were in agreement to go with what we know. Brian moved to hire Cut Rite for tree trimming and removal for \$11,625.00; work is to be completed by Thanksgiving. Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy introduced discussion on the decorative lights. Larry would like to stay with what we have. Brian disagreed and stated he couldn't tell the difference from inside his shop. Jeremy explained he looked into an alternative since we would only have enough money for eight lights with the present design; we have eleven concrete bases poured. The price difference is significant. He has found a similar light; the light has a plain base instead of the leaf casting we currently have. The plain base is cheaper. Jeremy explained there are price breaks at 2-4, 5-9, and 10-29 lights. With the current casting, we have funds for eight lights. If we go with the casting without the leaves, we can buy 10. We can install lights on all eleven bases with additional funds. Eleven lights of the current design would require a transfer of \$2,494.00; the plain casting would only require a transfer of \$877.00. Paul and Jeff stated they are okay with the light with no leaves. Larry would like to get the project done, but he would hate to start cheapening our result. Jeremy advised most people will not even notice. Brian is okay to go with eleven lights with the optional base. Larry asked Henry his opinion. Henry stated there is a savings, however, we have 100 lights with the current design, why should we change now. After more discussion, Brian moved to purchase 11 lights of the current design for \$18,392.00 from Ward Industries. Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Julie advised she will prepare a transfer ordinance for next month's meeting. Henry stated we should be able to finish the lights all the way down 13 next year.

Jeremy advised a gentleman approached him about hooking on to sewer; the property is located on County Line Road and is outside the town limits. Larry noted that property is contiguous; he suggested the property owner should petition for annexation.

Jeremy presented a purchase request. He explained we have two sludge barns; the current gates for the barns are made of wood and frequently break. He would like to have a one piece aluminum gate built for the sludge barns to replace the current wood gates. He received pricing today; the cost of one gate from Beer & Slabaugh is just under \$2,500.00. He would like to do both barns. The second gate should be slightly less since it is smaller. Paul moved to approve the aluminum gates at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00; gates are to be delivered in 30 days. Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline reported garbage pickup with the new trash carts began August 2. There were some glitches with the cart delivery, but she believes they have been worked out.

Julie advised Larry asked her to look into deposits for utility customers. She asked other council members how they felt about it. Brian would like to look into deposits. Larry noted when someone leaves us with a large bill, all the existing ratepayers have to subsidize that bill. A lengthy discussion followed. It was decided to charge new residential or commercial customers a deposit of \$75.00; multi family complexes and industrial new accounts would pay a deposit based upon the highest usage for 30 days in the previous twelve month's of operation. Discussion was also held on disconnect notices. Mike Reed will prepare an ordinance.

Julie presented a purchase request. She would like to purchase a new software program for the water and sewer utility billing from Keystone Software for \$14,000.00. Our current software vendor is headquartered in Canada and the support staff is in Texas. We often have to wait for a response due to the time difference, and it takes a long time to clear up problems. Keystone is located in Daleville, Indiana, and they work closely with the State Board of Accounts. Discussion followed. Annual training through our current program requires travel and there is a registration fee; it costs about \$1,500.00 each year. The annual training through Keystone is included in the maintenance fee. Julie would like to pay for the program from Rainy Day Funds. Jeff moved to approve the purchase from Keystone for \$14,000.00 from Rainy Day funds. Brian seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Julie noted an additional appropriation is needed; with Henry's request for a bucket truck or lift, \$31,000.00 will be needed. She asked council members if they would like to advertise for \$31,000 or if they would like to appropriate more; the council instructed Julie to advertise for \$31,000.00.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed reported he has information on conducting an asset search for Turtle Bay Estates. The cost of the asset search in one state is \$600.00. In Mike's opinion, it would be cheaper to sue them and get a judgment; then the court would order the asset search. Brian asked what the cost is to sue; Mike advised about that or less. Larry is in favor of filing a suit and getting a judgment. The council instructed Mike to file suit.

Mike announced the closing on the Vega Field property is tomorrow; closing costs look to be about \$374.90. He would like to council to authorize Julie to write a check for the closing costs to Bodkin Abstract for an amount not to exceed \$400.00. Brian so moved; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Larry reported for the Fire Board. He explained when the council agreed to the purchase of the new ladder truck, the firemen stated they were going to get rid of two trucks. The trucks were going to be auctioned off, and the proceeds would be deposited in the equipment replacement fund. Larry said he was shocked when Mickey asked to keep one of the trucks and the Fire Board agreed. Larry added he asked Mickey to be here, but he is not. Brian explained

Mickey has a meeting tonight. Larry stated Mickey's explanation was that the truck had low residual value and could be used as a backup. Larry is disappointed; he feels Mickey made a deal and reneged on it. Paul suggested that Larry and Brian, as members of the Fire Board, go back and request that it is noted on the equipment replacement list that this truck is not to be replaced. Brian advised it has been removed from the Fire Replacement Schedule.

Brian noted they did agree to eliminate two vehicles. One was the ladder truck which does not work; the second was 31 year old pumper that does work. The 2000 pumper failed and the fire department used the 31 year old pumper for backup over the 4th of July. The firemen commented they would like to use it until it blows up; it is hard to find parts due to the age of the pumper. Discussion followed. Henry stated he thinks the President of the Fire Territory Board should present future purchase requests. It was noted the value of the old pumper is between \$4,000.00 and \$5,000.00. Jeff agreed with Paul that the replacement schedule should indicate that equipment should not be replaced. After more discussion, Brian advised there was no intent to deceive on behalf of the fire department.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Larry moved to adjourn; Paul seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brian Woody, President

Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer