

SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

June 21, 2011

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul asked for public comment on agenda items; there were no comments.

Paul introduced approval of the minutes of the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Brian moved to approve the minutes; Bill seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #599 through #710 were presented for payment. Larry made a motion to approve the claims; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Mike Reed presented an In Lieu of Annexation agreement for JA Development; he explained the agreement is for the empty lots. Larry moved to accept the In Lieu of Annexation Agreement with JA Development; Paul is authorized to sign the agreement and Julie is to attest. Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Bill Dixon, Turkey Creek Township Advisory Board President, announced he came before the council as the representative of the Turkey Creek Fire District Board. He advised the Fire Territory Board voted 4-1 to recommend the purchase of a new ambulance to replace the 2000 ambulance, commonly known as ambulance 6. The Turkey Creek Township Advisors have met and voted unanimously to also recommend the purchase. Bill Dixon explained he is here to ask the council as the participating unit to approve the ambulance purchase. Ambulance #6 is outside for viewing if the council would like to see it, and Brian Richcreek, who has done extensive research on the maintenance of ambulances is also present to answer questions. Bill Dixon stated after reviewing the numbers Brian Richcreek prepared, Mr. Dixon feels that three ambulances make sense. Paul stated a study Bill Dixon provided shows there were only 11 times in 2010 when all three ambulances were in use at the same time. Mr. Dixon stated that is correct; there were also 6 times two ambulances were in use at the same time when a third ambulance was out of service, making a total of 17 times that that ambulance would have been the only option. Mr. Dixon presented a spreadsheet to council members. Bill Dixon stated 17 revenue events missed at \$890.00/call is \$15,130.00 per year, or a total of \$166,830.00 for 11 years. Since we collect about ½, we assume there is \$83,215.00 in missed revenue. The spreadsheet also contained maintenance costs over a ten year period. He pointed out the cost of maintenance if ambulance #7 is the second out; and ambulance 8 is the first out. The cumulative effect for four years is \$90,327.79; the maintenance costs are greater than straight line depreciation value. Mr. Dixon discussed the various numbers. If we have two ambulances, we would need to buy a new ambulance every four years. If there are three ambulances, ambulance 7 could last until 2015. The replacement would be reviewed in 2014, with replacement in 2015, 2016, or 2017. Mr. Dixon added the addition of Brad Jackson to the Fire Territory Board was a great help in their deliberations. Jeff questioned the costs shown for

ambulance maintenance and asked what it is based upon. Henry asked if they buy a new ambulance, would they get rid of ambulance 6. Bill Dixon answered yes. Bill Dixon referred to a handout that was distributed to the council and pointed out where the maintenance costs were shown for ambulance 6 and how the costs were extrapolated for ambulances 7 and 8. Brian Woody asked how many calls we have to Clinton and Benton Townships; Brian Richcreek answered 144 calls. Brian Woody asked if we eliminate these calls, could we eliminate the third ambulance. Brian Richcreek answered that would only marginally reduce the annual maintenance. Paul questioned if the maintenance is done in house, and how the costs were estimated. Bill Dixon stated they used the cost of parts and the book rate on labor, since maintenance is normally done in house. Brian Richcreek explained he does not do warranty work, computerized engine maintenance, and radio repairs; those repairs have to be sent out. Bill Musser asked how the parts cost was calculated. Brian Richcreek stated many invoices had a list price as well as a net price; for those invoices that did not have a list price, he added a 25% markup. Paul asked about an estimate from Burnsworth Zollars that showed it would cost less than \$8,000.00 to repair the ambulance vs \$155,000.00 for a new ambulance. He asked why that wouldn't be a viable option since Burnsworth Zollars added the ambulance would last three to five years. Bill Dixon answered that Burnsworth Zollars based their repair comment on ambulance 6 being used as a vehicle of last resort. Larry stated he talked to Burnsworth Zollars, and they stand by their estimate of three to five years, especially if the ambulance is used as a back up. They did not use the word dire. Discussion followed on e-mails. Larry read a couple of e-mails he received. Bill Dixon questioned the definition of a backup unit. Paul asked why you would spend \$155,000.00 if it could be repaired for \$8,000.00. Bill Dixon answered the repair option would not deliver a sufficiently reliable emergency vehicle that the board could have confidence in. He added a remount is not good alternative either. Brian made a motion to approve the purchase of a new ambulance; Bill Musser seconded. Bill Musser added if this ambulance is to be replaced, he doesn't want to wait until it is dead. It should be replaced when it is dying, not when it is dead. This should take care of it for the next three to five years. It is a good move, and ends up to be economical. Jeff asked why they would not repair the ambulance. Bill Musser stated there were extensive discussions; Burnsworth Zollars would be repairing what is necessary today. What Bill Dixon is showing makes sense. Jeff commented on the figures provided; he stated the average cost for years four through seven of extrapolation doesn't work. He provided the numbers he came up with and stated he is not buying the math. Jeff and Bill Dixon had an extensive discussion on the data.

Brian Richcreek explained prior to 2009 they only staffed one ambulance. In 2000, we had about 600 to 800 runs per year; we have up to 1200 runs per year now. The ambulances are accumulating more miles per year. Paul noted we have a declining population; he asked why the increase in runs. Bill Dixon stated Chief Scott advised it is due to the aging of the population. Brian Woody stated the town taxpayers share is \$21,700.00 of a \$155,000.00 ambulance; that's a steal. The town spends \$224,000.00 for fire and \$402,000.00 for Parks. Larry noted the Fire Territory has it's own tax rate. Brian stated the town 's assessed value is 14% of the total. Brian asked what Larry has against the Fire Territory; Larry stated nothing. Paul stated his problem is getting the newest bells and whistles when something could be repaired. The council voted on the motion. Bill and Brian voted for the motion; Larry, Paul, and Jeff voted against. The motion failed.

Brian Woody left the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER

Henry presented a proposal from Wightman Petrie for a Traffic Impact Study; the maximum amount is not to exceed \$19,825.00. Larry commented this is another \$19,000.00 surprise. He asked if we have a list of everything that is required. Henry answered we are going to take this out of the EDI grant. Henry added they did not tell us it was needed as part of the design. Council members commented this should have been disclosed when the contract was submitted. Larry asked Mike Reed for advice. Mike Reed stated he feels this is not the first time with these guys; it happens all the time. The remedy is to get other guys. Discussion followed. Mike Reed advised this appears to be a pattern; he is not sure Wightman Petrie realizes the whole council feels this way. He suggested we could write a letter expressing the council's concerns. Larry moved to have Mike Reed prepare a letter; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried. Discussion returned to the contract; Mike advised he looked over the agreement, and it is acceptable. Larry moved to approve the agreement with Wightman Petrie for a Traffic Impact Study for an amount not to exceed \$19,825.00; everything that needs to be completed must be included in the price. Paul is authorized to sign the agreement and Julie is to attest. Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry presented a purchase agreement with John Schacht for property for the water booster and lift station; the price is not to exceed \$9,999.00 and includes other caveats. Paul needs to be authorized to sign the purchase agreement and Julie is to attest. In addition, the council needs to authorize Henry and Mike Reed to close the deal. Larry so moved. Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Henry presented a printout of various easements. Larry asked if we need to authorize someone to close. Mike Reed advised a closing is not required on the easements. For each property, we need a simple easement. Henry negotiated what each property requires for consideration of these easements; the council has to approve the considerations.

EDA Easements and considerations needed:

- 1029 North Indiana waiver of sewer tap fee
- 1033 North Indiana no consideration needed
- 1026 N Harrison One half the cost of a sewer grinder pump
- 1413 N Indiana waiver of the sewer and water tap fees.

Paul moved to accept the EDA easements and considerations as listed ; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

EDI Easements and considerations needed:

- 1101 N Indiana no consideration needed
- 1405 N Indiana waiver of sewer and water tap fees
- 1403 N Indiana waiver of sewer and water tap fees
- 1409 N Indiana waiver of sewer and water tap fees

Larry moved to accept EDI easements and considerations as listed; Bill seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

## POLICE

Larry asked why the flashing lights are not working at the crosswalks at Lakeside Park. It was noted Chad is on vacation; Tony will check with someone at the Park Department.

Police Chief Tony Ciriello presented his report; there were 398 calls for service in May. Eight of the arrests were felonies; seven arrests were misdemeanors. There were two drug arrests last Friday. One of the arrests was at the Pickwick condos; there was another meth lab arrest just across the county line on Saturday.

Tony announced Long Dr will be closed on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> as usual for the Syracuse fireworks. On July 9, Main St will be closed from Huntington St to Dolan Dr; Dolan Dr will be closed to Pearl St for Summerfest. There will be booths set up on Main St; there will be pony rides and a petty zoo on Dolan.

Discussion followed on the meth lab; Tony added the condo has been condemned.

## PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson was on vacation. Henry reported the bridge over the ditch is looking nice; we are working with the trail committee to build a sidewalk on the north side to tie into the trail by the high school. The Street department is working on the sidewalk on Main St.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Sponseller reported on several items. NIPSCO has installed the street lights in Forest Park. The sidewalk on Pickwick by the old Arthur's building has been installed. Colbin Tool has donated 40 brackets for the flags on the decorative lights; the brackets they donated are much sturdier than the ones we had. Jeff asked if we have sent a gift letter; Julie agreed to send a letter.

Jeremy presented a purchase request. He would like to purchase a hydraulic thumb for the backhoe; that is a grapple that allows us to pick up things. Jeremy described the various uses for the equipment; the cost is \$5,655.00 from MacAllister, the Caterpillar dealer. Paul moved to approve the purchase; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy provided paving bids. Phend & Brown is the low bid of four bids received. Jeremy advised there is a strike; Phend and Brown workers are involved in that strike. Jeremy recommended we award the bid to Phend and Brown, but set a time frame. If they can not do the work within that time frame, we could award the work to the next lowest vendor. Jeremy suggested 60 days; Henry suggested we ask them to start in 30 days and finish in 60 days. Larry would like to be able to take action if work has not started by the next council meeting. Larry made a motion to award the bid to Phend and Brown; work is to start in 25 days and be completed in 60 days from tomorrow. Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Jeremy advised the paving bids came in significantly lower than the budgeted amount of \$125,000.00; he asked the council if they would like to add additional work. He noted striping was not

included; Jeremy would like to add that. If the council would like to add streets, he can do that. Larry asked what the priorities are. Jeremy will bring an additional list to council next month.

Jeremy reported the Chamber will be using the property on Dolan Dr for Summerfest; the Chamber was talking about installing a temporary NIPSCO service. Since we are planning to install decorative lights on Dolan Dr next year, we could drop a permanent NIPSCO service that would be metered at a cost of \$300.00 to \$400.00. Discussion followed. The council had no objection to using town property and installing a permanent service.

CLERK

Clerk Treasurer Julie Kline discussed the boiler replacement. She advised the state inspector showed up yesterday; she needs to advise him by Friday what the council decided. The bids to replace the boiler with a new high efficiency boiler were as follows:

\$15,941.00 Havel Brothers  
\$12,200.00 Collier's  
\$13,890.00 Kozon Plumbing & Heating

Quotes to repair the boiler were:

\$5,167.00 Havel Brothers  
\$6,321.28 Collier's  
\$5,125.00 Kozon Plumbing & Heating

Julie advised she met with Tony and Henry to discuss the quotes; the three of them are recommending we accept the quote from Collier's for the boiler replacement. Julie noted we have a maintenance contract with Havel Brothers that runs through July 31, 2012. She added Havel Brothers also advised we will have to consider replacing the controls since they are having difficulty obtaining replacement parts. Julie gave information on the boiler warranty. Discussion followed on the service contract we have. Paul asked about replacing the controls; the preliminary amount is over \$29,000.00.

Larry moved to accept the quote from Collier's for \$12,200.00; the boiler is to be installed by July 31. Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie advised Mike Reed has turned in his expenses for the Turtle Bay/ Capital Realty NSF matter; she requested council permission to write off the \$9,625.81. She added Mike Reed has advised any additional work would be a waste of time and money. Bill made a motion to write off that amount; Larry seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Julie discussed dates for the 2012 budgets. Henry would like to present budgets at the July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting; Julie added she has a meeting with the DLGF on July 21. The budget will be advertised on August 24 and August 31 and will be presented to the county council on August 31. The first reading will be at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and adoption will be at the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The council had no objection to the dates proposed. Paul stated we are talking about a 3% increase.

Julie announced we have had a tremendous response to our recycling with the new containers. Our recycling in May of 2011 was 51,300 pounds; this compares to 7905 pounds in May 2010.

Julie reminded everyone that the council adopted a resolution several years ago to waive the fees for garage sales during Summerfest.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney Mike Reed had nothing further to report.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

None.

OLD and NEW BUSINESS

None.

Larry moved to adjourn; Jeff seconded. Four voted for the motion; none against. Motion carried.

The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Paul Stoelting, President

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Julie Kline, Clerk Treasurer