

## SYRACUSE TOWN COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING

February 16, 2016

Town Council President Larry Siegel called the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Other council members present were Paul Stoelting, Bill Musser, Brian Woody, and Tom Hoover. Town Manager Henry DeJulia, Town Attorney Vern Landis, and Clerk-Treasurer Paula Kehr-Wicker were also present.

Larry opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting were presented for approval. Paul moved to approve the minutes; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Claims #154 to #277 were presented for payment. Paul moved to approve the claims; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Change Order #3 listed on the Agenda was delayed to a future meeting.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

#### TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Henry DeJulia informed the council that he will be presenting an Ordinance at the next meeting asking for an Additional Appropriation of \$10,000 for the Unsafe Building Fund. This is needed to be able to tear down a building. Sealed Bids are currently being accepted and will then be opened on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Henry stated that the deadline for requests for proposal for upgrading our Comprehensive Plan is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### POLICE

Police Chief Jim Layne reported that the new Dodge Charger will be shipped this week. It is then a matter of getting everything installed until they can receive it. Henry's Jeep is still waiting for a build date, then they will receive a ship date. They should know more by next month.

Jim gave his monthly report for January, as well as a 2015 Year End Report.

There were no A.D.A. complaints. Henry mentioned that he would like to reconstruct the sidewalk at the front entrance of the Town Hall. It would allow better parking for longer vehicles so they do not block other vehicles from driving through. Council advised Henry to look into it.

Jim announced that some officers from the department will be playing basketball with the Lake City Hoopsters tomorrow night at 7pm at the Wawasee High School as a benefit for injured reserve officer, Jason Veenstra.

## PARK

Park Superintendent Chad Jonsson reported that the indoor Garage Sale will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, the Middle School Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Traditional Egg Hunt for children up to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will be on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Almost all Snowflakes were taken down today except for the ones at the parks.

Chad also reported that the annual Municipal Building Corporation had their meeting at 6:30pm this evening.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Superintendent Rob Merchant brought before the council a quote from Ortman Drilling & Water Services to install piping at the Water treatment plan to allow easier maintenance for wells. Paul made a motion to approve Ortman to install the piping for \$1,700. Bill seconded. 5 voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

Rob requested approval for the Kern Road Water Main Extension project. This allows installation of an 8" water main tie-in to the existing line allowing for a continuous loop. Materials and Labor would be done by Phend and Brown and cost \$139,215, Engineering Services to be done by Commonwealth Engineers at a cost of \$7,450, and a Topography and Utility Survey done by Bertsch-Frank & Associates would cost approximately \$4,550. Making the total project to be \$151,215. The Wawasee School Corporation agreed to pay \$40,000 making the Town's cost to be \$111,215. Paul made the motion to approve the tie-in to the existing water line for an amount not to exceed \$111,215, to be completed within 120 days. Tom seconded. 5 voted for the motion; none against. The motion carried.

A new Leak Adjustment Policy was brought before the council. He would like to make it so the resident is more pro-active in maintaining their water lines by cutting down on the amount of leak adjustments we have been giving. We would still allow for adjustments, but the resident would need to formally request and provide proof of repair in order to receive it. Rob stated that there have been approximately 78 leak adjustments in the last year in the amount of over \$11,400. Rob would like to change the policy of giving an adjustment from once every 6 months to once every 2 years. Paul would like more time to think and digest the policy before making it effective on March 1st. He stated that the council has always taken the general approach that whether it's an ordinance violation or things of this nature, we should work with community. Paul also brought up the policy of requiring the resident to be at the property when reconnecting the water due to being shut off for non-payment. He mentioned another option of having the resident sign a waiver if they are unable to be at the property. Larry brought up possibly changing the ordinance for disconnects. He would like to see delinquent customers get disconnected before their account acquires more than 3 or 4 months of usage. Lengthy discussion followed on the process of reading and billing usage. Bill brought up the Fire Department's water usage. Rob discussed in length his report of water-loss and the difference in the readings at the water plant and what is being metered everywhere else. Rob stated that currently there are no readings being reported on how much the fire department is using from the hydrants. Lengthy discussion was made regarding the cost of water used and whether we should charge the Fire Territory.

Rob reported that a 2" meter was installed at Polywood. Rob mentioned that he wants to look into getting meters put on the fire protection systems at the industries in town. He stated the industries would not get a monthly bill, and only get charged if water goes through the meter.

Rob also reported that the press was installed at the Wastewater plant and they have not needed to haul any sludge for the past few weeks. The oxidation ditches are ready to go, but are supposed to have a different mixer on them, so they are at a standstill. There could be a change order from Triad due to moving a control panel out to where the components are. We are waiting on Crosby to give a cost breakdown.

The street department repaired 2 more leaks since the last meeting, making 12 repairs within the last 3 months.

CLERK

Clerk-Treasurer, Paula Kehr-Wicker, had nothing to report at this time.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Town Attorney, Vern Landis, had nothing to report at this time.

DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

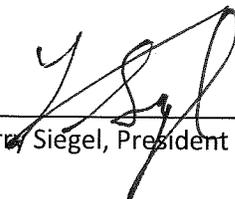
None.

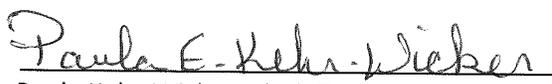
NEW BUSINESS

None.

Paul moved to adjourn; Brian seconded. Five voted for the motion; the motion carried. The Syracuse Town Council adjourned at 7:50pm.

ATTEST:

  
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Larry Siegel, President

  
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Paula Kehr-Wicker, Clerk-Treasurer

