

The Town Council of the Town of Markle, Indiana met in its meeting room at the Markle Fire Department Building on the 17th of December, 2014, at the hour of 7:30 p.m. in accordance with the rules of the Council and applicable laws.

Town Council Members present: Mark Hamilton, Rick Bower and President Jeff Humbarger. Clerk-Treasurer Shelley Monticue and (12) additional townspeople were in attendance.

First order of business was the minutes from the November 19th Regular Meeting. Councilmember Bower motioned to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Vice President Hamilton. Motion carried 3-0. Minutes were signed.

Next on the Agenda, Mark Wickersham of Huntington County United Economic Development (HCUED) presented a proposed 2015 contract with the Town and gave a quick summary of 2014 activity. The end of 2014 sees fifteen industrial projects, with approximately \$34.5 million in new capital and approximately 365 new jobs committed to Huntington County. Eighteen hundred jobs were retained, and the average wage for these jobs is \$16.68 per hour. For every dollar of incentives the County invested in economic development, \$51.66 was generated by the private sector. In Markle, for every dollar invested by the Town in economic development, \$60 dollars was generated by Novae Corp. Vacant industrial space has decreased from 2.2 million square feet to just over 149,000 square feet. Mr. Wickersham continued by listing the members of the HCUED Board of Directors, and many of the growing industries within the county in addition to Novae Corp.

In presenting the 2015 contract, Mr. Wickersham stated that the scope and annual fee paid to HCUED by the Town remains unchanged. He did present a detailed recap of the HCUED bylaws revised in 2008, and outlined the seven different parts. As Jeff Stockman is willing to continue to represent the Town on the HCUED Board, Mr. Wickersham does not feel a change in representation is warranted. President Humbarger motioned to approve the 2015 contract with HCUED, seconded by Councilmember Bower. Motion carried 3-0, and the contract was signed.

Next on the Agenda, Jay Stankiewicz of DLZ, Indiana, gave an update on the Tracy Street Project:

- Mr. Stankiewicz and Town Supervisor Rick Asher attended the last quarterly meeting.
- The last parcel for acquisition has been reappraised and sent to the Buyer. The offer will be presented to the parcel owner prior to December 31st and purchase is anticipated within 30 days after presentation.
- DLZ is continuing to work with the Army Corp of Engineers to design the storm sewer outfall to the east of Town. In order to cut costs, Mr. Stankiewicz will be verifying with INDOT the ability to cut through State Road 116 rather than bore under the highway. A meeting will take place in January to discuss offsite storm sewer surveys.

The current "Let Date" or the date that INDOT will guarantee funding for the Tracy Street Project is July 2015. After discussing the date with Mr. Asher, Mr. Stankiewicz feels that if construction begins then, it will be a "two-season" job with the road in a gravel state over the 2015-2016 winter. Furthermore, the U.S. 224 project, a separate project undertaken by INDOT is slated for a let date of October 20, 2015. If the two projects were concurrent, it may prove to be a cost savings to the Town in two ways:

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- Contractor estimates are higher during the current season and have been proven to be less when the contractors are actively searching for work.
- The Town may be able to mobilize contractors that are already on site for the U.S. 224 project.

Since Council would require a consensus to push back the current let date from July 2015 to October 2015, a discussion ensued regarding the benefits of potentially lower prices and the avoidance of a disrupted traffic pattern next winter. By consensus, Council moves to push the let date back to October 2015. Mr. Stankiewicz states that he will have the project "shovel ready for (INDOT to) flick the switch at the let date."

Town Correspondence addressed the reappointments set to occur. President Humbarger noted that not all of the reappointees had been contacted, and with the resignation letter presented by Park Board Member Linda Reed, appointments are moved to official vote at the January Council Meeting.

Next on the Agenda, Town Supervisor Rick Asher submitted his monthly report and request to replace the six tires on the 2006 GMC DuraMax. After receiving quotes of \$936 from Zurcher Tire in Monroe and \$955 from Markle 66, Mr. Asher requested to utilize the local vendor due to the negligible cost savings. By consensus, Council moved to purchase the tires from Markle 66.

Marshal John Markley submitted his monthly report:

- INDOT installed new crosswalk signs in front of the Markle United Methodist Church on December 16th. Marshal Markley will present quotes for pedestrian crossing signs at the January Meeting.
- By consensus, Council moved to allow Marshal Markley to meet with the Town Attorney regarding updating the following ordinances:
 - Parking on the wrong side of the street.
 - Usage of All-terrain vehicles with Department of Natural Resources stickers.
 - Policies not before implemented.

Next on the Agenda was time allowed for Public Comment. None was heard.

In Old Business:

- The Huntington City-Township Public Library (HCTPL) has submitted a purchase agreement for the property located at 155 West Sparks Street. The Town will demolish the current building on the location and the HCTPL will be responsible for the backfill and construction of the new library. Having completed clarification of the backfill language, it is resubmitted for approval by the Council. Councilmember Bower motioned to approve the Purchase Agreement as presented, seconded by President Humbarger. Motion carried 3-0, and the Purchase Agreement was signed. In further discussion, it was confirmed that following the projected closing date of June, Town Supervisor Rick Asher will coordinate the demolition with the timing of the backfill in order to facilitate safety. Town General Assistant Mike Grant stated that at the HCTPL Building Committee meeting in January, the Committee plans to tour libraries in communities similar to Markle.
- Bill Reimann, Sales Manager for Leary Construction, presented a 10 year maintenance contract for both water towers, including the previously requested extra items. Describing it as a from the "ground up" contract, Mr. Reimann stated that with the washout and inspection the first year and washouts to follow

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every two years and visual inspections every year, a schedule will be customized for the new water tower on an as-needed basis. He noted that AWWA D-102-11 required paint would be used. As part of the ten year contract, an approximate amount of \$19,570 for both towers would include paint for the exterior of the old tower, exterior paint for both towers at the end, and interior either as needed or approximately every fifteen years. Mr. Reimann stated that the business has been in the Midwest for 77 years and serves the Midwest, the Carolinas, Florida, and Georgia. Mr. Asher confirmed that the proposed contract included two exterior paint jobs for the old tower, the ladder gate, and the mixer for the old tower.

- Mark Hausen of Utility Services Group presented an updated contract proposal. USG's proposal would include a not-to-exceed clause to coincide with inflation (approximately 5% annually) and a definitive schedule of painting both the exterior and interior of both tanks. Mr. Hausen further stated that the updated proposed contract included the rebate of monies already paid as well as money paid to Phoenix Tank before its acquisition. He further confirmed that the scope of work includes the "AWWA's best practices."
- Council decided to take time to review both contracts and hold a Special Meeting to discuss pros and cons of each. Mr. Reimann stated that while it is still possible to install a mixer within a week to ten days following approval of a contract, the fluctuation in the tank will determine the true possibility. Both Council and Mr. Asher agree to have a Special Meeting following the holidays.
- Salary Ordinance 2014-5 was presented for a second review, with Clerk-Treasurer Monticue noting the addition of a "range" for the Administrative Coordinator position. Vice President Hamilton motioned to approve Ordinance 2014-5 including the additional "range" for Administrative Coordinator. This was seconded by President Humbarger. Motion carried 3-0 and Ordinance 2014-5 was signed.
- Administrative Coordinator Lara Ludlow represented the codification quote for \$1,500-2,000. After Vice President Hamilton confirmed that the Code would also be updated on the Town's website, Council moved to approve the quote by consensus.

At this time, Clerk-Treasurer Monticue delivered her report:

- Resolution 2014-6, allowing a transfer in the amount of \$71,000 from the General Fund to the Rainy Day Fund was presented. President Humbarger motioned to approve Resolution 2014-6, seconded by Councilmember Bower. Motion carried 3-0, and Resolution 2014-6 was signed.
- Resolution 2014-7, Appropriation Transfers, was presented in order to reconcile appropriations within the 2014 Budget. President Humbarger motioned to approve Resolution 2014-7, seconded by Councilmember Bower. Motion carried 3-0, and Resolution 2014-7 was signed.
- Write off requests in the amount of \$19.51 for account 102-363-74 and \$14.08 for account 101-055-67 were presented for approval. Vice President Hamilton motioned to approve the write-offs, seconded by Councilmember Bower. Motion carried 3-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Monticue submitted 91 vouchers in the amount of \$150,967.60 for approval: 54 vouchers from the General Fund in the amount of \$98,186.13, 22 from the Water Fund in the amount of \$37,704.85, and 15 from the Wastewater Fund in the amount of \$15,076.62. Vice President Hamilton motioned to approve all vouchers, seconded by Councilmember Bower. Motion carried 3-0, and vouchers were signed.


President Humbarger noted that Administrative Coordinator Lara Ludlow had been offered a full time position with Purdue University and submitted a letter of resignation effective January 2, 2015. Everyone present wished her well in her future endeavors, and it was noted that she will be greatly missed.

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Upon hearing no other business, President Humbarger motioned to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

By 
Jeff Humbarger President

By Absent
Rick Bower Councilmember

By 
Mark Hamilton Vice-President

Attest: 
Shelley Monticue Clerk-Treasurer