

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING at TOWN HALL
November 9, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Present were Pete Byvoets, Jane Neulieb, Bob Lemay, Joy Schmitt, Nick Meyer; Clerk-Treasurer Bill de Funiak, Police Chief Bob Sulkowski, Street Superintendent Tom Dolph, and Town Attorney Ethan Lowe. Long Beach Volunteer Fire Chief Dave Albers was not present. There were approximately 25 townspeople in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Byvoets opened the Public Hearing for the Chapter 150 Building Ordinance. He asked for petitioners to speak in favor of the ordinance. There were no respondents speaking in favor. He asked for respondents speaking in opposition to the ordinance. There were none. The comments portion of the hearing was closed. Bob Lemay made a motion to approve Ordinance #150 on first reading; seconded by Joy Schmitt; approved 5-0. A motion by Lemay to suspend the rules, seconded by Schmitt, and was approved unanimously. Byvoets read the title of the Chapter 150. Lemay made a motion to accept #150 on second reading; seconded by Schmitt; approved 5-0.

Motion was made by Schmitt to approve the minutes of October 12, 2017; seconded by Lemay; and were approved 5-0.

Police Department – Chief Bob Sulkowski presented the October police report.

Police Commission – Pete Byvoets reported that the consideration to change the town speed limit to 20 mph was deemed not practical and/or enforceable. Because of the unavailability of the memorial stone, the Jim Kautz commemoration was re-scheduled for the spring of 2018. Reserve officer insurance coverage was discussed and secured by the town insurance broker. Police bulletproof vests will be ordered. Signage for the north town parking will be ordered to conform with town ordinances. Jane Neulieb asked about the rationale for dismissing the lower speed limit. She also asked if the dispatch function had returned to 2 shifts and was assured that it had.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – In Dave Albers absence, Joy Schmitt read the YTD report for the LBVFD through October. There was no Fire Commission report.

Street Department – Tom Dolph reported that fall paving was completed. He stated that fall leaf pickup had begun. A tree stump was removed in front of the Community Center. Discussion followed regarding the water runoff pipes in back of a resident's home in the 1600 block of LSD. It was agreed that a meeting among the homeowner, Tom Dolph and a representative from the Street Commission will be held. Joy Schmitt discussed the cottonwood trees at Stop 16. An arborist hired by the town has evaluated them as healthy. A motion was made by Joy and a second by Lemay to accept a bid of \$2,555 from C&A Arborists to trim the trees which are hanging over a neighbor's property. This was approved unanimously, contingent on approval of the arborist's plan by the affected homeowner.

Street Commission – Jane Neulieb reported that the Stop 23 project was nearly complete. Stop 24 access is currently blocked by rip-rap and high water. A drain will be placed at the Old School Community Center to alleviate flooding during heavy rainfalls. The possibility of extending the leaf pick-up was discussed.

Park Board – Joy Schmitt stated that she had heard several positive comments regarding the Stop 23 stairs. The Board continues in its need to fill an open position for a park board member. Interested parties should contact Kendra Bartlett. The Park Board has approved the position of Activities Director to develop recreation programs in conjunction with the LBCC committee. The position specifications are still to be developed.

Long Beach Community Center Committee – Joy Schmitt asked if Chief Sulkowski would attend the December 4th meeting to explain the camera system(s). The chief agreed to attend. National historic status for the Old School continues to be pursued with half of the \$2,000 cost being covered by a grant. It has been determined that the Town Hall, which is on the Indiana State Registry, is not a candidate for the national registry.

The **Water Board** –Nick Meyer complimented all the veterans in attendance and all residents of Long Beach, who are military veterans, for their service to our country. He reported that quotes have been solicited for maintenance/painting of the LB Water Tower.

Budget and Finance – Pete Byvoets spoke of the progress made at the Old School Community Center. He discussed the AIM Medical Trust as a viable alternative for our employee medical insurance.

Human Resources Advisory Committee – de Funiak said that a meeting would be scheduled to discuss 2018 salaries and health insurance.

Building Department – Bob Lemay made the building department report for October.

BZA Report – Lemay reported that the Higdon petition for 1607 LSD had their preliminary hearing at the October meeting. The Maschmeyer hearing for a variance at 2909 LSD was continued to the November meeting. The hearing for a variance on 1510 LSD resulted in an approval.

Advisory Plan Commission – Nick Meyer reported that the Toter, Shoreline Protection, and the Sign and Parking Ordinances were discussed and will be reviewed at future meetings. The Entry sign planned for the south entrance on Karwick Road was discussed. A meeting was held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at the Community Center with Meyer and Global Engineering representatives discussing the Stop 24 Project with an audience of about 50.

October permit revenue report:

C-T de Funiak announced that 3 street cut permits were issued with revenue of \$200.00. Three electrical permits were issued for \$1,013.00 with town revenue of \$101.30.

Legal Expenses – Legal expenses paid in October were \$15,716.06 to Blachly, Tabor, Bozik and Hartman.

Motion by Schmitt and second by Lemay to approve reports and claims; 5-0.

Old Business –

- C-T de Funiak discussed the Town Garbage contract renewal. He has had discussions with the current vendor, Republic Services, and also Waste Management (WM) and Lake Shore Recycling and Disposal (LSRD). Both WM and LSRD have local clients and solid references.
- Joy Schmitt identified a possible grantor and submitted the material to Attorney Lowe for his review.
Police contracts have been reviewed and modified by Attorney Lowe. Meetings with Michiana Shores and Duneland Beach will be held before expiry of contracts on January 31, 2018.

New Business –

- Nick Meyer reported on the resignation of Ethan Lowe of Blachly, Tabor, Bozik and Hartman. He discussed the evaluation of Braje, Nelson and Janes earlier this year. He mentioned the firm's experience in municipal government, including work for Michigan City, La Porte County Commissioners and the Michigan City Sanitary District. Bob Lemay discussed a meeting with an attorney from Kopka, Pinkus and Dolin but felt the distance from Long Beach and the suggested approaches made Braje a better choice. Motion was made by Meyer and seconded by Lemay to pursue contract negotiations with Braje, Nelson & Janes. Motion carried 5-0.
- DeFuniak presented the 2018 Salary Ordinance. The attached salary ranges were the same as 2017 with 3 exceptions: Building Commissioner/Inspector was removed, Building Commissioner range was lowered and Park/Community Center Activities Coordinator was added as a general part-time position with a range of \$10-18/hr. Motion to accept ranges on first reading was made by Schmitt, seconded by Meyer, and was approved 5-0.
- Nick Meyer discussed the proposed town sign to be placed on Karwick Road. Extensive discussion followed. Motion made by Meyer, second by Lemay to grant permission to the Civic Association to pay for the sign with a suggested 15% reduction in size. Motion was approved 4-1.
- Pete Byvoets opened the discussions of the possibility of sewers being installed in LB. Although this has been discussed for many years, the recent meeting of the La Porte County Health Department whereby proposed septic systems in Long Beach were denied, has brought this subject to the forefront. Initial efforts should be focused on properties north of LSD, but a total town sewer system may be the eventual outcome. Jane Neulieb and Mike Gorman said that septic systems were urged by the Health Department, not mandated, as Byvoets had stated. Byvoets stated that he had requested a proposal from Haas Engineering to develop a plan for the construction of a sewer system. Several options exist for the payment for installation of a partial or total sewer system, and all public and private funding

options are to be considered. The accounting firm of Cender & Co. will assist LB in these evaluations.

Public Comments –

Heather O'Connor, Hazeltine Ave, commented on her assertion that the "dogs off leash" issue had not been resolved.

Mary Lou McFadden, Duffy Lane, asked about the number of lawsuits active against the town or town officials.

Council Comments –

Jane Neulieb mentioned that she had just learned of a new lawsuit against the town. She urged that all councilpersons be apprised of ongoing legal actions and proposed resolutions.

Claims Approval: Motion by Lemay and second by Schmitt to approve check numbers #14913 through #14974, plus invoice #17004 from Global Engineering, totaling \$130,432.68 and salaries for October of \$64,141.67; approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill de Funiak Clerk-Treasurer