

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING at TOWN HALL
June 12, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Present were Pete Byvoets, Jane Neulieb, Bob Lemay, Joy Schmitt, Nick Meyer; Clerk-Treasurer Bill de Funiak, LBVFD Chief Dave Albers and Police Lt. Todd Bullis. Police Chief Bob Sulkowski and Street Supt. Tom Dolph were not in attendance. There were approximately 35 townspeople in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Nick Meyer discussed the process of selecting a new town attorney. Several interviews were conducted and Nick recommended the firm of Blachly, Tabor, Bozik and Hartman (BTBH). Jane Neulieb suggested that a future meeting be held to review the BTBH agreement. BTBH was approved as the town attorney, unanimously, subject to final review at a future meeting. The firm of Knight, Hoppe, Kurnick and Knight was approved unanimously, to represent the town in the 2 federal lawsuits which have been filed.

Motion by Bob Lemay to **approve minutes** for the council **meeting of May 8, 2017**, second by Joy Schmitt, approved 5 – 0.

Police Department – Lieutenant Todd Bullis presented the May police report.

Police Commission – Pete Byvoets reported that the Ordinance Violation Bureau procedures will be reviewed with the C-T and the town attorney. The County-wide 800 megahertz system is delayed for at least another month. Chief Sulkowski will research storage media methods for body cameras. The current policy of beach access will remain in effect. Jane Neulieb discussed an issue where LB police requested beachgoers to move from in front of a homeowner's property. Councilwoman Neulieb mentioned that personnel with LB police uniforms and using town ATVs were working at Duneland Beach stops. She made a motion, seconded by Bob Lemay to bar police reserves from working in uniform, using town equipment in other communities. Motion failed with Neulieb and Lemay voting in favor and Byvoets, Schmitt and Meyer against the motion.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – Dave Albers read the YTD report through May, 2017. Bob Boyce asked about the E-1 reports. Joy Schmitt said discussions continued at the commission meeting regarding expansion of the FD building and purchase of a new fire truck.

Street Department – Pete Byvoets said that stairs at Stop 19 will be repaired/replaced and Stop 22 work continues. The new backstop has been installed at the Community Center ball diamond. Ron Griffin and Greg Parrish were complimented for their efforts in assisting the Street Dept. Pete has received a letter from Cytotec detailing their efforts in remediating the molybdenum issue.

Street Commission – Jane Neulieb reported that it was determined to buy the leaf vacuum from Brown Equipment. Work continues on Stop beautification and identifying captains.

Park Board – Joy Schmitt reported that Stop 23 Beautification is underway. The tennis courts have been power-washed and patching and painting will occur in June. The Park Program has begun and is running smoothly.

Long Beach Community Center Committee met on June 5th in room 2. The sidewalk (outside the YMCA) has been completed. The alarm system, which is inoperative, has had 3 quotes for replacement. The lowest quote was from Sentinel, \$13,684, and was recommended by the committee. The window glazing project will be considered at a later date. The issue of hiring an employee versus a contractor is still to be determined.

Water Board – Nick Meyer reported that water quality was discussed at the last meeting.

Budget and Finance – Pete Byvoets said budgeting for 2018 will begin shortly. Jane Neulieb asked about paid health benefits for retired employees. She suggested that this subject be further discussed at the July meeting. Jane asked about the decision to terminate the 3rd shift of police dispatch. She was told that a partial 3rd shift is operating during the summer months.

Human Resources Advisory Committee – No meeting was held.

Building Department – Pete Byvoets stated that efforts continue to hire a Building Commissioner. Bob Lemay made the building report for May. Discussions continue on the parking lot at the Long Beach Country Club. Several residents on LSD continue to petition for moving sand on their properties.

BZA Report – Lemay reported on the May 9th meeting. The preliminary hearing on 2015 LSD will again be a preliminary hearing at the next BZA meeting. The 2104 Avondale issue will be discussed at the next meeting. The plans at 1534 LSD have changed so it will require being re-submitted to the Building Commission before review by the BZA.

Advisory Plan Commission – Nick Meyer reported that Global Engineering will present their report on the Stop 24 project at the July Council Meeting. APC Chairman Bob Lemay reported that the View Protection Ordinance will be discussed at the next APC meeting. At the June 19th meeting, the Toter Ordinance and the Chapter 154 Zoning changes were considered. Lemay said the Beach Protection Ordinance should require assistance from an environmental attorney. Motion by Lemay, second by Schmitt to hire an environmental lawyer was approved 5-0.

May permit revenue report:

C-T de Funiak announced that building permit fees of \$2,050.00 were collected on project costs of \$234,444. He stated 4 electric permits were issued at \$638.00 with town revenue of \$63.80.

Legal Expenses paid in May were \$16,000 to Harris, Welsh & Lukmann.

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

Old Business – de Funiak made second reading of Ordinance #2017-03, Amended Employee Handbook. Motion to approve the Ordinance was made by Joy Schmitt, seconded by Bob Lemay; 2nd reading approved unanimously

New Business – John Kocher stated the 2-man team appointed by President Byvoets to evaluate a town sewer system was ready to hold a town meeting to discuss merits, demerits and potential costs of a town sewer system.

Discussions followed regarding the Jaksa request for permission to connect their 1406 LSD property to the Michigan City Sewer System. A motion was made by Joy Schmitt, seconded by Nick Meyer, to approve the Jaksa request, contingent on development of an agreement to indemnify LB from liability or expense in the installation and maintenance of the Jaksa sewer project. A vote was held with Meyer, Byvoets, Neulieb and Schmitt in favor of the motion and Lemay opposed.

Because of schedule conflicts with the new town attorney, a tentative agreement was reached to re-schedule council meetings to the first Monday of the month. It was agreed to leave the July 10th meeting as scheduled because of the Independence Day weekend. Nick Meyer talked about town signage on Karwick Rd. entering LB from the south. He presented an option of purchasing NIPSCO property for a cost of \$5,650. Jane Neulieb preferred a different location. Carolyn Harris suggested simpler wording for the sign. It was determined that more investigation will be needed and will be brought up at the next meeting.

Shannon (nee) Walker requested permission to hold a block party in front of her home on Sunday, July 2nd, from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. It was approved unanimously, subject to review by the LB police.

C-T de Funiak discussed the 5/31/2017 meeting presented by INDOT and attended by himself, Street Commission President, Jane Neulieb and Street Supt., Tom Dolph. The state will provide 75% funding for approved paving/repair street projects up to a maximum yearly amount of \$1,000,000. An approved LB street asset inventory must be on file with INDOT to be considered for these matching funds.

A motion to elect Joy Schmitt as Council Vice president was made by Bob Lemay, seconded by Byvoets, and was approved unanimously.

Public Comments – C-T de Funiak read a letter from Madeline Hayes suggesting that the town consider a deer cull. Nancy McGeady agreed that there is a serious deer overpopulation problem.

Councilman Meyer said he has been in contact with DNR to discuss the deer issue and suggested inviting one of their representatives to a future meeting.

Council Comments – None

Claims Approval: Motion by Joy Schmitt and second by Bob Lemay to pay Harris Welsh & Lukmann invoice for \$9,153.25 and check numbers #14544 through #14619 totaling \$105,173.44 and salaries for May of \$61,519.32.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill de Funiak Clerk-Treasurer