

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, September 10, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. by President Phillip Kuiper. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters called the roll. Members present were Craig Earley, Robert Philpot, Phillip Kuiper, Edgar Corns and Donald Parker. Also present were Town Attorney Greg Sobkowski, Director of Public Works Greg Shook, Police Chief John Shelhart, Town Administrator Susan Peterson, two members of the media and twenty-one citizens.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the August 27<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the August 27<sup>th</sup> budget hearing, the August 23<sup>rd</sup> work session, and the September 5<sup>th</sup> executive session seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

President Kuiper stated he reviewed White Vouchers #2007 - #2059, White-Police #4152 - #4160, Water #2517 - #2553, and Waste Water #3458 - #3486. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by voice vote.

**MONTHLY REPORTS - August 2012**

Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the August 2012 monthly reports, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

Annexation - Approval of new Advisory Board headed by Councilman Corns and made up of local farmers - Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the new Advisory Board seconded by Councilman Corns. Councilman Earley asked if the Council could have a list of members on the board. Councilman Corns stated he would get that for everyone. He stated the first meeting went very well and we will do well with that committee. The motion was carried by voice vote.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Public Works Department Update - Commonwealth Study - Mr. Shook stated Councilman Corns, Councilman Parker, myself, and Al Stone from Commonwealth Engineers met with Lake County Planning Department and Mr. Ron Bergstrom to discuss the idea of the silt trenches. At this time, we would like to recommend the Council approve an amendment to the agreement with Commonwealth regarding the water supply evaluation to include the study to be completed for

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the infiltration trench as far as determining how much water you can get out of it. That amendment is \$37,200. Mr. Parker asked what the time frame would be to get the study done. Mr. Shook stated around three or four months and we should know something around January. Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the amendment, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by voice vote.

WWTP Improvement Project - Approve Pay Request #18 to Commonwealth Engineers for engineering services - \$31,045.36 - and forward to SRF for payment - Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the Pay Request, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by voice vote.

Tabled from previous meetings: 8/27 Storm Water Utility Fee - remained tabled.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Open bids for Street Sweeper - Mr. Sobkowski opened the three bids for the street sweeper and saw that all of the documents were in order. The first quote was from Brown Equipment for a Johnston North America Model VT650 in the amount of \$217,794. The second quote was from Best Equipment for a Tymco Regenerative Air 600 in the amount of \$198,732, and an alternate bid for a Tymco Regenerative Air

Comdex 600 at the same price. The third quote was from Standard Equipment for an Elgin Whirlwind MV, which is a demo, for \$211,979, and their primary bid was for a 2012 Elgin Whirlwind Freightliner M2 in the amount of \$227,214. Councilman Parker made a motion to table the bids until the next meeting, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by voice vote.

Give Clerk permission to enter into agreement to provide electronic payments for utility billing - Invoice Cloud - Mrs. Walters stated Invoice Cloud was the program that the staff and herself liked the best because it was very user friendly. By using Invoice Cloud, customers would be able to view and pay their bill online by credit card, electronic check, or an automatic debit every month from their account. They can also watch their water consumption through the eighteen month billing history. She stated at this point she would like to look more in to it and have the Attorney review the contract before it was signed. Councilman Earley made a motion to give the clerk permission to approve the contract once the Attorney has looked over it, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

Approve Quarterly Park Department fees - Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the Park Department fees, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

### **MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Melanie Csepiga requested if she could have the communities from which each of the street sweeper bids were from. Mr. Sobkowski read those to her.

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Marcia Carlson, 240 W. Main St., stated she questioned why we need a new street sweeper when the streets she drives and walks are in need of repair. Mr. Shook stated there are some streets that need repair, but this is something that is required by the State and Federal Government. We have to keep track of the amount of debris that we pick up. Mr. Corns stated on his street, there are a lot of leaves and a lot of grass is blown on to the road which all goes in to the drainage system. That street sweeper helps to pick that debris up.

Don Huseman, 362 Gwens Cove, stated if the Town is not going to do anything about the Powell Ditch and Charlie Reel's dredging issue, could you write them a letter stating so. He stated they keep calling him for information on it. Mr. Shook stated for the

Reel property, the Town can not go out and clean it only the County can since it is a legal drain. The Town can perform some maintenance work with the sewer vac truck, but that is down right now. That is what we plan on doing on our side. Mr. Huseman asked if he had heard anything back from the County. Mr. Shook stated they have all of the easements but two. They are trying to run down the owners to get those two signatures, after that, they plan on doing it. He stated he spoke to Mr. Reel and told him we would be out there as soon as the truck is fixed. On the Powell Ditch, we did submit to DNR, Army-Corp, and IDEM. The DNR we have heard back from, but we have not heard from the Army-Corp or IDEM. On Providence pond, we did get a new drawing. According to the calculations, it still holds the right amount of water needed. Mr. Huseman asked if they are going to rehab it and get it right before the Town takes over. Mr. Shook stated they would be looking in to doing something to the bottom so that more can be mowed.

Mr. Corns asked where we are on the Old Grade School. Mr. Sobkowski stated we gave the owner extra time to get their belongings out, which expired at the end of last month. We are free to go in and remove whatever is there and then specs can be prepared for demolition. The petition has also been filed for the tax deed. Mr. Parker asked what the next step was. Mr. Sobkowski stated according to Mr. Trulley, an engineer will need to get in there to prepare specs for the demolition of the building by getting inside. Mr. Kuiper stated it is going to be a big job for the removal of what is left in there. Mr. Shook stated Mr. Trulley has found a couple of companies that can go in and clean the place out. Mr. Sobkowski stated if there is a contract written up, it would have to be taken to the Council for approval. A discussion followed about the next steps that need to be taken with the demolition.

Mr. Corns invited everyone to the Apple Fest for the Three Creeks Historical Association at the Halsted House this Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. Mrs. Carlson stated we have old fashioned activities along with home made apple pie and fritters, antiques for sale, tours of the Halsted House, etc.

Mrs. Carlson asked if it would be possible to move the stone from the Old Grade School now. Mr. Sobkowski stated that would be part of the contract.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Kuiper announced the next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 P.M.

With no further comments or questions Councilman Parker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by voice vote at 7:30 P.M.

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Phillip Kuiper, President  
Attest:

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Judith Walters  
Clerk-Treasurer