

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 10, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, June 10, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. by President Edgar Corns. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. Town Administrator Susan Peterson called the roll. Members present were Craig Earley, Robert Philpot, Donald Parker, Phillip Kuiper, and Edgar Corns. Also present were Director of Public Works Greg Shook, Police Chief Erik Matson, Building Official Tom Trulley, Town Attorney Jack Kramer, two members of the media, and fifteen citizens.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Kuiper made a motion to approve the May 28<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and study session, and the April 29<sup>th</sup> executive session, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

President Corns stated he reviewed White Vouchers #1537 - #1596, White-Police #4102 - #4122, Water #2336 - #2389, Waste Water #3286 - #3326, and recommended all of the vouchers for payment. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Philpot and carried by voice vote.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRANCES, PROCLAMATIONS**

Accept letter of resignation - Martin Freeman, Police Commission - Councilman Philpot made a motion to accept the letter of resignation from Martin Freeman. The motion died for lack of a second.

**MONTHLY REPORTS - May 2013**

Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the monthly reports for May of 2013, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by voice vote.

**ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution #2013-06 - transfer of funds - General Fund - President Corns read Resolution #2013-06. Councilman Parker made a motion to approve Resolution #2013-06, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried with five ayes on roll call vote.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Public Works Department Update - Public Works Director Greg Shook, stated President Corns

and himself will be meeting with Craig Hendricks from Commonwealth to discuss the Powell Ditch. We will then work on scheduling a meeting with the Council and the neighbors of the property involved. Director Shook explained that the barricades that have been seen around Town on the corners are for the CDBG project for the ADA curb ramps, which should be completed by the end of this week. He also stated that the parking lot next door will hopefully be paved soon, weather permitting. Regarding the water and sewer main extension for the medical center, we have been

### **LTC REGULAR MEETING - 6/10/13 - Page 2 of 4**

discussing the matter, and they will be starting soon on that project.

Water Supply Study - Pat Zaharko, Commonwealth Engineering - Pat Zaharko, Commonwealth Engineering, stated he did a hydrogeologic study to confirm the feasibility of putting an interception trench out at the well field to pull more water in and to reduce the reliance on the current wells that are losing capacity over time because they are shallow. Mr. Zaharko explained the two different trenches locations and how much water they will be able to pull out. He stated the Town could potentially double or triple the raw water capacity. To install a four hundred and fifty foot long trench with a 500 - 1,500 gallons per minute pumping system, would cost about \$755,000. In doing this, you would reduce or be able to shut off your wells as you chose to run your system. Currently the Town is spending about \$23,000 a year on maintenance costs, so the cost for maintenance would go down by half or more. He stated if you wanted to eventually fully expand the trench, which we recommend the trench on the north side be put in first since it is closest to the plant, you could do so for an additional \$800,000 - \$1.3 million. Mr. Zaharko stated we are recommending moving forward with the next phase because you are getting more and more critical with your water supply. This community has a unique capability due to the shallow aquifer that is present. He stated the Town will not have to change the way the water is treated as well.

Councilman Earley asked if the ground water flows from north to south. Mr. Zaharko stated generally, yes. Councilman Earley asked if we trench on the north, will that effect our current wells. Mr. Zaharko stated it would be minor. The wells have been pumped so hard for so long, their draw-down is way down to begin with. Councilman Earley asked what the long-term affects were to a trench system like this. Mr. Zaharko stated you will be pulling in water much more slower than you are now which means you will not be pulling the other detrimental items, like iron and calcium, in. Councilman Earley asked if there was a lot of maintenance to the trenches. Mr. Zaharko stated there is very minimal maintenance. They are a new and innovative concept, but it is just a matter of making sure that you are not letting the surface soils in to the trench. We do put a berm around the trench so that the surface water that comes from rain is not pulling in the clay at the top level. Councilman Earley asked if this will effect the surface water to local wells in the surrounding area. Mr. Zaharko stated no more than your

current wells are doing already. Councilman Parker asked if it will effect the water level to the property south. Mr. Zaharko stated it all depends on how much you pull out, but your current pumping is not effecting him, and this being further north, it should effect him even less.

Councilman Kuiper asked how long a project like this would take to get done. Mr. Zaharko stated it could be six months to a year, or a few years depending on how fast you want to move.

Councilman Parker asked if there would be any concerns that IDEM would have. Mr. Zaharko stated mainly that you make sure to control the entire site and preventing any surface water from getting in there, minus any direct rain. Discussion followed regarding needing a permit to sell material off-site. President Corns asked how high the berms would need to be. Mr. Zaharko stated they need to be around three to five feet tall.

President Corns asked if another meeting needed to be set up with Mr. Bergstrom. Director Shook stated he would set up another meeting because he had told him once we received these results, he would pass them along. Discussion followed. The Council decided that a meeting would be set up between Mr. Zaharko, Mr. Shook, President Corns, Councilman Earley, and Mr. Bergstrom.

Bike Trail Committee - Councilman Earley stated the bike committee that was formed earlier this

#### **LTC REGULAR MEETING - 6/10/13 -Page 3 of 4**

year has had three meetings so far regarding short-term and long-term goals for this community and outside of it. Some of the short-term goals were to designate a bike trail within our Town with something on the secondary streets connecting our parks, schools, and library. One of the biggest concerns we have is that one of our largest parks is on North Nichols street at the north end of our Town boundaries, and Nichols is not a bike friendly street to take. If we could somehow tie that park in to the downtown area with a bike trail, it would be a very good short-term goal. Some of the long-term goals were to work with NIRPC and Active Transportation Alliance to develop more green-ways throughout the community.

Leslie Phemister, Active Transportation Alliance, explained what the Active Transportation Alliance does, "She said they start with plan development and create a steering committee, which has already been done with the bike committee in place. They want to make sure that there is a lot of public input because they do not want anything to go in to this plan that the community does not want. We just put all of the ideas in to a document for you so that you are able to get funding for these sorts of things. She stated after the document is created, she will be around for one year to make sure that the document is being implemented. The proposal that was handed out shows what is expected of the community, and what is expected of Active Trans as well. Councilman Earley stated this is a complete program. They do not just set it up, they stick around to make sure that we implement the plan. It is important to have this plan so that we can go out and find funding for the project. He stated this proposal is by the hour, so we

can take it in baby steps and prioritize what we would like done first. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to accept the proposal, seconded by Councilman Earley. Councilman Earley stated this is a proposal, and we need to move ahead in that respect. He stated he would like to sit down with the Clerk-Treasurer to discuss a few things because he did not want to approve the proposal and then not move forward with anything. Councilman Kuiper asked if the motion was to approve the proposal. President Corns stated it is a motion to approve the plan. Councilman Kuiper stated he would like to read the plan over first. Councilman Earley stated this is a proposal that needs to be read over. The motion died.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Permission to close Town Hall on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> - President Corns read a letter from Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters requesting the Town Hall be closed on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Parker made a motion to allow the Clerk-Treasurer to close the Town Hall on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote.

President Corns addressed the Council regarding phone calls being made and written opinions being drawn up by the Town attorney. He asked the Council to limit their phone calls because many of the things discussed could be brought up during the study sessions.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Corns announced the next regular meeting will be Monday, June 24, 2013 at 7:00 P.M., with a Study Session at 6:30 P.M.

Illiana Corridor meeting - Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Lowell Middle School from 5-8 PM, and Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Peotone High School from 5-8 PM.

### **LTC REGULAR MEETING - 6/10/13 - Page 4 of 4**

Councilman Kuiper asked about David Westland attending the Council meeting instead of Jack Kramer. Mr. Kramer stated he should be back in a couple of weeks. He has had some previous commitments that have fallen on these days.

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

Melanie Csepiga, The Times, asked Mr. Zaharko where these trenches have been used before. Mr. Zaharko stated he was not sure of other locations. There have been infiltration systems done next to rivers, but not this type. Ms. Csepiga asked how this option came up. Mr. Zaharko stated we looked at other options, but those were all expensive and keeping expense in

mind, we came up with this option.

Scott Keichle, Lowell Tribune, filling in for Angie Fletcher, asked if he could get a copy of the Commonwealth study and the bike trail proposal.

Don Huseman, 362 Gwens Cove, asked what happened to the \$40,000 pump that we were going to buy five years ago when we talked to Mr. Bergstrom about pumping out of the same aquifer. Councilman Kuiper stated he believed Mr. Bergstrom decided not to move forward. Mr. Huseman stated it was not that he decided not to, we did not move fast enough. He also stated that he was not concerned with a bike trail, but he is concerned about the long range detention of the water that is going in to Providence detention pond. That pond is not up to standards. He stated their engineer said it would handle what Providence is putting in there, but that is not the only property that goes in to that detention pond. He stated he would like to meet with Tom Trulley, Greg Shook, and Greg White to discuss this issue. Mr. Trulley stated that Pete Manhard, who owns Providence, will be coming in the first week of July with a study on the pond. They will be correcting it this summer. Discussion followed.

Dan Blankenship, 1837 W. 172<sup>nd</sup> Lane, stated he believed having a bike trail was a great idea. He stated that his wife and himself use the bike trails in Crown Point often, but it would be nice to eliminate the drive to Crown Point or Schererville.

Brenda Roberts, 15008 Morse St., stated being able to bike around northern Indiana would be wonderful. The trouble right now is getting your bike up to Crown Point to get on the existing bike trails. She stated she was very enthusiastic about the idea of developing a bike trail.

Don Huseman, 362 Gwens Cove, stated as far as getting to Freedom Park, someone should talk to CSX railroad about going on the west side because there is about one hundred feet there. Councilman Earley stated that is in the plans.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further questions or comments, Councilman Parker made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 P.M., seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by voice vote.

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Attest:

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Edgar Corns, President

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Susan Peterson, Town Administrator

