

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 27, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. by President Christopher Salatas. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters called the roll. Members present were Craig Earley, LeAnn Angerman, Donald Parker, Christopher Salatas, and Edgar Corns. Also present were Town Attorney David Westland, Public Works Director Greg Shook, Building Administrator Tom Trulley, Police Chief Erik Matson, SEH Representative Craig Hendrix, two members of the media, and twenty-four citizens.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilman Corns made a motion to approve the April 13, 2015 regular meeting minutes and the April 13, 2015 work session minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with five ayes.

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

President Salatas asked for approval of White Vouchers #1374 - #1427 for \$323,795.61, White-Police #4083 - #4092 for \$1,484.67, Water #2247 - #2273 for \$47,200.02, Waste Water #3214 - #3234 for \$83,731.26, and Stormwater Utility #5051 - #5055 for \$2,475.86. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with five ayes.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRANCES, PROCLAMATIONS**

Presentation to Lowell Police Department - Lowell Moose Lodge - Dave Snell and Duane Babcock, Lowell Moose Lodge, presented the Tommy Moose dolls, which are donated to first responders and police officers to give to children during a time of crisis to comfort them. On behalf of the Lowell Moose Lodge, Mr. Snell and Mr. Babcock presented the Lowell Police Department with a box of the dolls to donate to children in crisis. Police Chief Erik Matson thanked the Lowell Moose Lodge and stated the kids really love these during hard times and it is nice to give them something to cheer them up.

Proclamation - Letter Carriers' Food Drive - May 9<sup>th</sup> - Vice-President Angerman read the Letter Carriers' Food Drive Proclamation. Sharon Patterson, 5301 BelAire Ln., stated this program has been going on for twenty-three years nationwide, and it is great timing because the kids will be getting out of school soon and will not have a program that provides breakfast or lunch. She also mentioned if there was anyone in need of community service, they would possibly be able to use them to help with the collection. Councilman Earley made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Councilwoman Angerman and carried with five ayes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Public Works Department Update -

Water Tower Project - Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the water tower project that was presented by SEH for \$4.5 million, seconded by Councilman Corns. Councilman Earley stated in the work session prior to this meeting, there was some discussion regarding ways to reduce the impact to the rate payers in the form of lowering the minimum gallon usage, and a few other items. He stated before he would vote to pass this, those options should be looked in to because the amount of money we are proposing to spend along with the 25% increase to the rate payers is too much. Councilwoman Angerman stated since this project is going in Freedom Park she would like to see some funds set aside for improvements to the Park. The motion carried by roll call vote four to one with Councilman Earley voting nay. Councilman Parker made a motion for Public Works Director Greg Shook to start the well project as soon as possible, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Residential Garbage Service with Republic - 3<sup>rd</sup> year of extension of contract increases to \$16.89 per month - act on subsidize difference from recycling funds - Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters explained the Town is in the third year of the garbage service extension, and the rate will be raised to \$16.89 per resident. Previously they were charging us \$16.40, the resident paid \$15.70 and the Town paid \$.70 per person per month out of the recycling fund. This \$16.89 would increase the customer's bill by \$.49. We are currently spending almost \$30,000 annually out of our recycling funds and we get about \$48,000. Clerk-Treasurer Walters gave examples of other things that the recycling funds are used for. She stated last year it was discussed that the Town would subsidize the \$.70 for the second year and then revisit it for the third year extension. Councilman Earley asked if the Town would subsidize the \$.70 plus the increase. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated there would not be enough money in the recycling fund to do that. If the Town would continue subsidizing the \$.70 the customer's bill will go up \$.49 and their portion would be \$16.19. Councilman Corns asked when the contract was up. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated this extension will be up July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016. Discussion followed regarding putting the garbage contract out to bid. Councilman Parker made a motion to approve subsidizing the \$.70 per person per month, and increasing the customer's bill by the \$.49, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Act on hot dog vendor in Parks - Public Works Director Greg Shook stated it had been put out to bid, but we did not receive any responses, but since then we have had two vendors approach us that would like to split the area, one supply to Evergreen Park, and the other to Freedom Park. The Council has the proposals from each, and we are asking that the Council approves the proposals as written. Councilman Corns made a motion to accept the proposals as written with Charlene Hall as vendor at Evergreen Park and Paul Krause as vendor at Freedom Park, seconded by Councilman Earley and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

Proposal for land lease for Solar Array Project - Telamon Communication - Director Shook introduced Bruce Breeden with Telamon Communications. Mr. Breeden explained who Telamon Communications is and explained that this energy proposal is being offered by NIPSCO. Mr. Breeden went in to detail regarding the benefits of the solar array project. He stated in order to be considered for this project, a statement of interest is due by June 1<sup>st</sup>, and then a lottery will be held where twenty sites will be chosen for the solar array project. If the Lowell site is chosen, there are two financing options, one is that you pay for the project, which is about \$450,000, and then receive \$.15 for each KWH produced for fifteen years, which is about \$39,000 - \$40,000 per year. The other is that you enter in to a land lease with Telamon who will own the solar array and pay Lowell a land lease for the use of their property for fifteen years. Telamon would pay \$10,000 up front for the land, and then \$700 for years two through fifteen, for a total of \$19,800. There is no cost for the program, there is no maintenance cost, and they will fence the area. Mr. Breeden explained what the options were for the equipment once the fifteen years is up and the environmental impact the project has. Director Shook stated we only need one acre, but we could do five different locations. Mr. Breeden stated that was correct. It has to be a separate meter and a separate area. Discussion followed regarding potential properties that could be used and the process of the project. Director Shook made a recommendation for Attorney Westland to review the letter of intent for leasing property and stated he believes it is something to look in to. Councilman Earley and President Salatas agreed. Councilman Earley made a motion to allow Telamon Communications to submit a statement of interest to NIPSCO, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with five ayes. Councilman Parker stated he would like to see as many applications submitted as possible. Director Shook stated he would take a look at different areas in town.

Act on recommendation from Sick Bank Committee - Councilman Parker made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Sick Bank Committee, seconded by Councilman Corns and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

National League of Cities - Sewer Line Program - Patrick Tumilty, National League of Cities Service Line Program, explained what the National League of Cities is and stated that they have recently seen

communities have a difficult time addressing aging infrastructure. Although the communities have poured in hundreds of thousands of dollars to update their public structure, a large portion of havoc is being wrecked on the private service lines. Mr. Tumilty explained the program that has been created through the National League of Cities that helps homeowners with the costs of their portion of water and sewer lines. He explained that a letter would be sent to the residents in the fall and spring just making them aware of their responsibilities, and that it would be each individual's decision if they would like the coverage or not. Mr. Tumilty also went in to detail regarding the plan itself and how the coverage works. Councilman Corns asked what the cost to the customer is. Mr. Tumilty stated the sewer line is \$7.00 per month and the water line is \$5.00 per month. There is no contract with the homeowner, it is all month to month. Councilman Earley asked how the Town would need to act on this. Mr. Tumilty stated they were just looking for the Town to approve the mailings to its homeowners and to convey why the homeowners are getting a letter in the mail. He stated once they have a relationship with a community, they go through the list of local contractors and let them know their service expectations. Councilman Corns asked if Attorney Westland had an opinion on the program. Attorney Westland stated he did not since he did not have any paperwork to review. Councilman Earley made a motion for the Council to take the program under consideration and for it to be reviewed by the attorney, seconded by Councilman Parker and carried by roll call vote with five ayes.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Salatas announced that the next regular meeting will be held Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7:00 P.M.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Parker made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 P.M., seconded by Councilman Corns and carried with five ayes.

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Christopher Salatas, President

Attest:

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Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer

