

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 11, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. by President John Alessia. President Alessia welcomed back Marine Robert Haffner and asked everyone to remember the Carlson family during the moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters called the roll. Members present were Donald Huseman, Robert Philpot, Phillip Kuiper, David Gard and John Alessia.. Also present were Town Attorney Greg Sobkowski, Director of Public Works Greg Shook, Town Administrator Susan Peterson, Community Development Director Wilbur Cox and Police Chief John Shelhart, two members of the media, and approximately sixteen interested citizens.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Huseman made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 28th regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Kuiper and carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

President Alessia stated that he had reviewed White Vouchers #1348-1398, White Police #4033-4041, Water Vouchers #2202-2224 and Waste Water Vouchers #3148-3173. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to approve the vouchers as listed, seconded by Councilman Gard the motion carried by voice vote.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Councilman Huseman made a motion to accept the monthly reports from March, 2011 as presented, seconded by Councilman Gard. The motion carried by voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Annexation Committee - Act on Favorable Recommendation from the Annexation committee to move forward with the "Pocket" annexations currently under consideration. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to act on the recommendation, seconded by Councilman Huseman. The motion carried by voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Stormwater - Request letter of support to Lake County Drainage Board (regarding Buckley Ditch) - Director of Public Works Greg Shook stated that this is the ditch that starts at the Town limits on Clark Road, south of Route 2 and a little south of Lucas Parkway. This ditch receives almost all the water from the east side of Town. We have had problems with flooding due to it sinking in over the years. He went on to say that he spoke with County last year to try and get something done as far as getting it cleaned and for some reason it didn't get done. He spoke with Dan Gossman from the Lake County Surveyors Office again and he said that he will do everything he can to get something done. Director of Public Works Greg Shook asked for the Councils support in form of a letter requesting the county surveyors office to get the ditch cleaned out this year. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to

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approve the letter of support, seconded by Councilman Huseman. Councilman Huseman stated that the sooner we get this done the better, Director of Public Works Greg Shook stated that he would get the letter drafted tomorrow for President Alessia to sign. Councilman Huseman asked if that ditch went to just north of Feddlers line and was told yes and through Buckley. President Alessia asked if they were going to widen it or trench it and was told that it would have to be widened a little because it has grown in quite a bit. Mr. Carlson and Mr. Reel both have flooding issues on their property because of this. The motion carried by voice vote.

Forward invoice from S&H Engineers to the Lake County Community Economic Development Department - Community Development Director Wilbur Cox stated this is the proposal for designing the new street off of Harrison Street to be paid by County. Councilman Huseman made a motion to forward the invoice, seconded by Councilman Gard. The motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to use funds from Cum Building & Fire Equipment Fund to replace 2006 Ford Expedition damaged in accident - Charlie Scott explained that they got price quotes for a Chevy and a Ford with equal specs, they are looking for a cap and an extended warranty. The total of the Chevy pickup is \$14,208.00 difference from of what the insurance will give them, the insurance will give them \$18,000.00 and remove the emergency lights and install them on the new one. There is about a \$2,000.00 difference between the Chevy and the Ford. President Alessia asked what the standard warranty was and he was told three years, 30,000 miles and the extended warranty is seven years, 70,000 miles. Charlie Scott stated that these quotes are through the State bid purchase, there is no sales tax and they can get both vehicles locally. Councilman Kuiper made a motion to approve the Chevy purchase, seconded by Councilman Gard. Councilman Huseman asked if the funds are available and Clerk Treasurer Judith Walters told him that they are available The motion carried by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Alessia stated the next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 25th at 7:00 PM

MEDIA QUESTIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the media asked for a copy of the “pockets” for annexation and asked if this was the same “pockets” that was identified a few years ago. President Alessia stated that he thinks there might be a few new ones.

A member of the media asked what kind of pickup they were going to buy and was told a 2011 Chevy crew cab 2500. She then asked what happened to the Ford expedition and was told it was totaled in an accident about five weeks ago, one of the fireman was going to a school on Sunday morning to a fire investigation class and hit a patch of black ice.

Scott Pickering 1608 Dewey Dr., asked where we stand with the old school next door and if the town could erect a high fence around the property and bill the owner because summer is coming and the kids will be out of school. President Alessia responded that we are in the process of getting bids for demolishing and he is afraid that anything the town would erect they would not get reimbursed for.

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Community Development Director Wilbur Cox stated that the owner has until April 25th to remove all of her things. He agrees that there is no sense in putting any money into anything because they will never get it back, she is behind on her taxes. He went on to say that he could ask the police chief to redo the caution tape. President Alessia stated that the last day of school is in the end of June and he would love to have possession of it at that time. He stated that the process has been frustrating but we are now starting to move forward. Community Development Director Wilbur Cox stated that there is a 106 review and we are in the process of doing that, he has contacted all the parties that are called consulting parties that would go to the table including the State Historic Preservation Officer and someone from HUD. We have to go through this process because it is federal funds that will be used to demolish it, this is being lead by the Economic Department of the County. President Alessia asked if she was asking for any other continuances and Town Attorney Greg Sobkowski stated that in order to stop demolishing proceedings she would have to post a \$175,000.00 bond to stay enforcement of the order. She can still appeal but it doesn't stop us from proceeding, there is no deadline for the posting of the bond. Mr. Pickering asked if the Town would be responsible if a kid broke in and got hurt, he was told that at this time it is her building. President Alessia stated that Mr. Pickering suggestions are good ones but up to the time that we can take possession of the building, we are not even allowed to be on her property and we are all aware of the safety issues.

Councilman Huseman stated that he understands that years back we made Nichols Street north of Route 2 a truck route. He wants to see what it would take to get that off of the truck route because there are a lot of subdivisions there now. President Alessia stated that would be a Traffic Commission issue. Police Chief John Shelhart stated that he could make a recommendation, then it would be up to the council. President Alessia asked Police Chief John Shelhart when the Traffic Commission will meet next and was told that he could call that meeting for any time. Councilman Huseman stated that he would like to see that done because there are a lot of subdivisions and there are no sidewalks on most of it, he would like to see local delivery only.

There being no further business or discussion, Councilman Gard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Huseman at 7:19 P.M.

John Alessia, President

Attest:

Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer