

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
JULY 11, 2016

A work session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, July 11, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. by President Christopher Salatas. Members present were Michael Gruszka, LeAnn Angerman, Will Farrellbegg, Christopher Salatas, and Edgar Corns. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Attorney David Westland, Town Manager Jeff Sheridan, Public Works Director Greg Shook, Building Administrator Carl Ferro, and SEH representative Craig Hendrix. The purpose of the work session was General Town Business.

Craig Hendrix of SEH was present to update the Council on the Water Improvement Project. The Council will need to choose a color and logo for the storage tank in the next month. The tank is still scheduled to be complete in July 2017 with one coating of the tank done this year and another done in 2017. He explained the process that will be done in the painting. The steel and fabrication of the tank will be delivered to the site next week. Mr. Hendrix stated the new well is in operation and pumping at 200 gallons per minute. The new well has a computer that will maintain pumping for better control, and he suggested looking into that feature for the other wells. The aerator has been ordered and should be shipped by November 29<sup>th</sup> and they are working on preparing the bid package for the installation. He stated he had the plans for the water main extension along Nichols Street and would be meeting with Greg Shook soon on that project. This is the project that the developer of Heritage Falls has agreed to pay \$200,000 towards. Mr. Hendrix stated the next item on the project list to look at is the water clarifier. Councilman Farrellbegg agreed that this is important as it will identify water quality. Mr. Hendrix stated with all the upgrades the water system will be a whole new system and will be much simpler to operate and with additional storage won't have high peak days as we have seen in the past during the hot summer months. He suggested when the improvements are complete the Town may look at their ISO rating, to save citizens money on their homeowners insurance. Mr. Hendrix stated he is getting quotes for the McConnell Ditch/171st stormwater project and will be submitting those to the Stormwater Board. He also reminded the Council they had submitted a proposal for the Public Works Facility that is on hold, and a proposal on the park impact fees. Mr. Hendrix also stated the proposal for the Freedom Trail Project was presented to INDOT and went well, and they should hear more in October.

Councilman Corns asked about street paving in 2016. Town Manager Sheridan stated there is 50/50 state funding available for road projects, but to qualify the Town is having a transportation asset management plan done by DLZ Engineering. The deadline to submit the project is July 31<sup>st</sup>, and if awarded, the work does not have to be completed until 2017. Mr. Sheridan stated these funds can also be used to address the lack of drainage that is causing the deterioration of the roads, and recommended not paving until drainage problem have not been resolved. An internal priority lists of streets that need to be paved will need to be reviewed.

Town Manager Sheridan submitted to councilmembers a planning tool to rank their top five priorities of projects to be addressed in 2016 . The list included Economic Development, Water Utility system improvements, Annexation, Parks and Recreation improvements, Residential Development, Downtown improvements, Commercial Development and Street Garage Project. After the Council took a few minutes to rank their personnel priorities, the top four to be addressed for the year are: 1)Water Utility Improvements; 2)Economic Development; 3)Downtown Improvements/Redevelopment; and 4)Street Garage project.

A discussion followed on a invoice received from legal counsel for updating of language in the code book needing to be addressed for the Town Court. Attorney Westland stated there is language in the code that has needed to be addressed for sometime. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated she needed to know how much this project would cost as it is not budgeted and the line item for professional fees is already over budget. After discussion, it was decided the cost should be shared between all three departments, town council budget, police budget, and town court budget. Mrs. Walters stated that an additional appropriation for professional fees will have to be completed for the last six months of the year.

Public Works Director Greg Shook informed the Council that the Town had been notified we are eligible to participate in the solar project at the WWTP, that had been applied for last year through NIPSCO. Telemon, who is coordinating the installation of the solar panels will be present at the July 25<sup>th</sup> work session to give an update. The solar area will be one acre.

Mr .Sheridan stated a representative from Historical Landmark will make a presentation at the July 25<sup>th</sup> work session.

Mr. Sheridan informed the Council of a situation with a homeowner on a building permit for a whole house generator, who had asked that the \$200 permit fee be waived as it was a medical necessity. He advised that the Town not get involved in determining what is “medically” necessary and what is not. He did note that in investigating the cost of a permit for a generator, Mr. Ferro stated our costs is significantly higher than surrounding communities. Attorney Westland stated the Council could amend the Ordinance and reduce the fees.

Attorney Westland will prepare a Resolution for the next regular meeting to accept the donated golf cart received at Freedom Park.

No further discussion, the work session adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

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Christopher Salatas, President

Attest:

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Judith Walters  
Clerk-Treasurer

