

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Robin Arvanitis at 7:10 p.m. in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 E. Joliet Street Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Council Members present: Caleb S. Johnson, Kevin Connelly, Thomas Schmitt, Rob Guetzloff and Robin Arvanitis. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Deputy Police Chief Steve McNamara, Park Superintendent John Novacich, IT Robbie Hansen, Director of Public Works Andy Hansen, Director of Operations Jim Gorman, Town Manager Robert Volkmann, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Troxell and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2021 and the December 27, 2021 Public Meetings, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #100167 - APV #100816 on the General Docket, Totaling \$8,216,395.97
- B. APV #100177 - APV #100816 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$214,735.05
- C. APV #100263 - APV #100791 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,733,404.72
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$6,713.32
- E. Various Funds, Robinson Engineering, Various Invoices, \$1,848.50
- F. General Fund - Administration, Liberty Mutual, 2-Bond Renewals, \$200.00
- G. Park Bond 2018 Fund, Landscape Structures, Rohrman Park Playground, \$267,699.00

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Fire Chief Patterson reported that the Schererville Fire Department responded to 350 EMS calls and 50 Fire calls, totaling 400 calls for the month of December. He stated that they ended the year with 4060 calls, which is an increase of 286 calls from last year.

Chief Sormaz reported on the Elizabeth Drive traffic situation. He stated that back on October 25, 2021, Town Manager Robert Volkmann received a letter from residents on that street and stated that their concerns were the amount of traffic on that street, and the speed the vehicles are going. Chief Sormaz stated that his office initiated a traffic enforcement detail. He stated that there were several traffic citations and traffic warnings for that area, and their objective was to educate drivers in that area and inform them of the speed limits. Chief Sormaz stated that after the traffic enforcement was completed they installed the traffic analyzers. After that was completed they assessed all of the information, Chief Sormaz stated he would like to recommend to the Council to install stop signs at the intersection of Shelia Drive and east and west of Elizabeth Drive.

Mr. Volkmann stated that several communities around us have addressed the request by Humane Indiana for some animal control in regards to puppy mills. Mr. Volkmann stated that we have seven different ordinances regarding Animal Control regulations. Mr. Volkmann stated that he has been working with the Police Department, who oversees Animal Control to streamline those and update them to current standards and then address these property use issues, suggesting amendments to both our Animal Control Ordinance and our Zoning Ordinance that deals with property use, to address these puppy mills and make sure they are outlawed in Town. Mr. Volkmann stated that currently under our regulations any pet store that wants to come into Schererville will have to have a

Variance of Use, so it would go to our BZA, with a recommendation to the Town Council. Mr. Volkmann stated ultimately there is a lot of control now, but we are working on updating that and to include these regulations regarding puppy mills in our Ordinances. Mr. Volkmann stated that they have met once and Chief Sormaz is working on the minutes from that meeting. He stated they need to have one more meeting and then all of that information would go to Attorney Austgen to draft into our Ordinance.

Mr. Schmitt recognized and thanked several members of the audience who came here this evening to acknowledge Mrs. Arvanitis. He stated Mrs. Arvanitis is the first woman President for the Schererville Town Council in the last thirty years.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Resolution #2022-1, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving the entry into a Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of St. John, Indiana for Mutual Use and Personnel Assistance for Building Inspection and Permit Review Services between the Town of Schererville, Indiana, and the Town of St. John, Indiana, and all matters related thereto.

Mr. Gorman stated that this is a Resolution to share our Building Inspectors between St. John and Schererville. He stated that this is an agenda item that comes up every year. Mr. Gorman stated basically when they are short we fill in for them and when we are short, they fill in for us. Mr. Gorman stated that this will not come up every year now, it will be in effect until either party terminates the agreement.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to adopt Resolution #2022-1, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Consider Acceptance of the Lake Central School Board Appointment of Lake Central School Board Member Nicole Kelly to the Town of Schererville Park Board.

Mr. Gorman stated that we have an ordinance on the books that allows the Lake Central School Board as well as the Library Board to appoint a School Board member to our Park Board. Nicole Kelly has been appointment by the Lake Central School Board.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept Nicole Kelly as a member of the Town of Schererville Park Board, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Consider Acceptance of Utility Easement between Donald Elzinga and the Town of Schererville (334 W. Division Street)

Mr. Gorman stated that this is a Utility Easement we have been working on to run a sewer from the edge of Mr. Elzinga's property, across his property to the property next to him at 322 Division Street to allow Sight Services who owns the property now, to get sewer services with the Town.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the Utility Easement between Donald Elzinga and the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Award Bid for Mowing of Town Property

Mr. Hansen stated that the yearly request for bids for mowing services was published in the local newspapers on December 14, 2021 and again on December 28, 2021. He stated that the bids were read out loud at 9:00 am on January 12, 2022. Mr. Hansen stated that

they had six bidders and the range from \$23,400.00 to \$297,000.00 per zone. He stated that they separated it out into four zones. Mr. Hansen stated their recommendation is to award Zones 1 through 3 to Goodall's Lawn Care and the large parks mowing to R&R Yard Design, for a total of \$156,886.34.

Mr. Johnson asked if we have worked with Goodall's Lawn Care and R&R Yard Design in the past. Mr. Hansen stated that we worked with R&R Yard Design last year, but they have not worked with Goodall's Lawn Care. Mr. Volkmann stated that Mr. Goodall lives on Kennedy Avenue and he has had a lawn business for years that he runs out of his home. Mr. Johnson stated that his concern he has is that last year we awarded this contract and then the company that bid couldn't get the staffing to do the work. He asked Mr. Volkmann if we are confident in these companies to manage the amount of area they received. Mr. Volkmann stated that he knows Mr. Goodall has run a successful lawn care business for several years. Mr. Hansen stated that we also bid it earlier this year so that they would have time to hire more people.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the award bid for mowing of Town property as recommended by Mr. Hansen, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Acceptance of Fire Service Contract between St. John Township and the Town of Schererville for the Year 2022.

Mr. Gorman stated that this is an agenda item that comes up every year. He stated that the contract this year is for \$32,000.00. It went up a little from last year which was \$30,515.00.

Mrs. Cathy Lareau, St. John Township Trustee, stated that the contract did go up a little from last year. She stated there is only one other term that is different is that this agreement is retroactive to January 1, 2022.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept the Fire Service Contract between St. John Township and the Town of Schererville for the year 2022, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Conveyance of Property (2100 Shelia) from the Town of Schererville to Clarence and Kathleen Kistler

Mr. Gorman stated that this is a little stretch of property, 30' by 200', in front of the Kistler's house. He stated that the Town owns this property, but it is the only access going to their house. He stated they are just trying to clean it up and deed it over to those residents, because we have no use for that property.

Attorney Austgen stated that the Town acquired this property through tax sale. It was one of those small parcels that got caught in the tax sale process and the Town acquired it for nearly nothing and the Kistler's are the logical property owners of the property.

Mr. Gorman stated that whenever a piece of property comes up in the tax sale we look at it and we get it for minimum price.

Mr. Volkmann stated that this actually ended up in the Commissioners hands and the Commissioners deeded it to the Town. Mr. Volkmann stated that at that time they did some research on it and it's basically the driveway that goes back and services a couple of property owners.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to consider conveyance of Property (2100 Shelia) from the Town of Schererville to Clarence and Kathleen Kistler, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM G. Consider acceptance of Donations \$11,150.00

Mr. Troxell read the list of donations into the record.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the donations as read, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor NONE

Meeting adjourned.

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ROBIN ARVANITIS  
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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MICHAEL A TROXELL, CMO  
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY