

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING @ Town Hall
JUNE 10, 2019
7:00 p.m.

Attending tonight's meeting were council members Bob Lemay, Jane Neulieb, Joy Schmitt, Clerk-Treasurer Bill de Funiak, Town Attorney Chris Willoughby of Braje, Nelson & Janes, Police Chief Robert Sulkowski and Fire Chief John Wall; Marilyn Jones & Associates videographer and court reporter, Becky Lempa; and ALCO TV; there were approximately 30 audience members present. Councilmen Nick Meyer and Pete Byvoets and Street Superintendent Tom Dolph were absent.

After the **Pledge of Allegiance**, the Town Council meeting minutes of May 13th were approved 3 – 0 with a motion and second by Schmitt and Neulieb respectively.

Reports were Read:

Police Department /Police Commission- Police report for May was read by Chief Sulkowski. No Police Commission meeting report was read.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – John Wall gave the May Department monthly report and stated that Duneland Beach was proceeding with negotiations with the Michiana Shores VFD. He indicated that no Fire Commission meeting was held.

Street Department/Street Commission – Jane Neulieb made a combined report and indicated that preparations were being completed for the town paving projects. It is anticipated that paving will begin in June, working west to east, and a list of the roads being paved was read by Jane.

Park Board - Joy Schmitt said that a meeting occurred on May 28th. Beach stop rehab continues, the town sign across from Town Hall was refurbished with volunteer help. The landscaping company will cut the grass in the courtyard at the community center. Jane asked if someone would look at the “drop off” which exists at Stop 23. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25th.

Long Beach Community Center Committee – Joy Schmitt reported that the Children's Summer Camp will begin this month. She complimented Bob Gallagher for donating a flag to the Community Center, which is now flying. Lighting is scheduled to be installed.

Water Board – C-T de Funiak reported on the death of Superintendent Ron Griffin, who had a 37 year + career with the town. Assistant Superintendent Greg Parrish was promoted to Water Superintendent. A second employee will be hired in the near future.

Budget and Finance – de Funiak reported that mid-year tax receipts were expected from La Porte County later on this month. He also reported that nearly \$600,000 was received from INDOT for the major paving project that will begin this month.

Human Resources Advisory Committee – There was no meeting to report.

Building Department – Lemay reported on the department's May 17th meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No meeting was held.

Advisory Plan Commission – Lemay reported on the May 20, 2019 meeting. The totter ordinance was reviewed with modifications to timeframes for return from the street and fine structures and will be tendered to the Town Council with a positive recommendation. The Sign Ordinance was discussed but changes dictated that it be re-evaluated for a future meeting. The Walsh petition to vacate portions of an alley was dropped.

May 2019 **permit revenue** report:

De Funiak reported 21 permits were issued with fees of \$2,695.00 collected on project costs of \$205,319.00.

There were also 3 electrical permits issued for \$431.00 with town revenue of \$43.10.

Legal Expenses paid in May totaled \$9,459.35: \$6,473.85 to Braje, Nelson & Janes, LLC; \$900.50 to Knight, Hoppe, Kurnik & Knight and \$2,085.00 to Austgen, Kuiper & Jasaitas.

A motion was made by Schmitt and seconded by Neulieb to approve all reports. Motion carried 3 - 0.

Old Business – Joy Schmitt stated that, because of the capacity study underway with Haas Engineering, there would be no sewer report until after the summer season.

Because of the fact that there were only 3 council members present, President Lemay thought it would be prudent to defer decisions on the parking and totter ordinances. However, he did solicit comments and suggestions from the attendees. Residents, council members and the clerk-treasurer made contributions on both issues.

New Business – Attorney Steve Hale, representing the Barnard family (owners of the lot at 3044 Lake Shore Drive), requested permission from the Town Council to approve allowing the owners to connect to the Michigan City Sanitary District (MCSD) sewer system on Moore Road. A Barnard family member spoke along with Jeanette Hicks, engineer from Global Engineering, who explained the project which would include a low-pressure system running only under town right of way. She stated that the project was reviewed by the LB Water Department and would not involve any violation of private property rights. It was established that the system would be the same as that approved for the Jaksa property on LSD down on the west end of town. Motion by Lemay and second by Neulieb to approve the agreement, subject to review by Attorney Willoughby, was approved 3 – 0.

De Funiak announced that the Higdon Family 5K Run was again scheduled for July 4th, with proceeds of the run graciously donated to the benefit of Long Beach.

Jane Neulieb motioned for approval of a block party on Ardmore on July 12, 2019, second by Schmitt to end by 10:00 PM. Chief Sulkowski said it would not be detrimental to public safety; motion approved 3 – 0.

President Lemay suggested that a site study and construction plan for a Disability Access at Stop 14 would allow the town to request Coastal Grant funds for the construction of the access. He presented a proposal from Global Engineering for \$29,500 to write the construction specs and develop the proposal to Coastal Grants for disability access construction funding. Motion by Schmitt to proceed with the project and second by Neulieb was approved 3 – 0.

Public Comments – Mary Lou McFadden asked questions about the members of the Park Board. Ernie Summers asked about expenditures for the LBVFD; fire truck and fire station.

Jim Dehner of Fairway Drive asked about accessible information on the town website.

Jane Blanchard Smith discussed Stop 14; her home at 1400 LSD and her sister's (Jeanne Hoyle) home at 1308 LSD. She proposed that the town cede the existing driveway at 1308 LSD for an equivalent portion of land at 1308 LSD to facilitate ADA access.

Tim Perry of 1802 LSD complained that his house had been approved for construction and is now deemed to be non-compliant. He also stated that he had received information from La Porte County which indicated that the beach stop at 18 was designated solely as a public road.

Greg Alberding, president of the LB Civic Association, announced that their insurance carrier had informed them that candies and/or treats may not be tossed into the audience by parade participants.

Donna Kavanagh asserted that damage to her landscaping was caused after removal of a tree by a town contractor.

Nancy McGeady asked if fogging had begun yet for mosquito control.

Bob Boyce commented that the contractor who is working at 1517 LSD has a permit posted for approved LB building that has expired on 12/31/2018. Boyce also stated that the La Porte County septic permit for this property also expired in 2018.

C-T de Funiak stated that he felt the costs of the new fire truck and expanded fire station should not be paid from tax revenues, but should be levied as a charge to each property as a more equitable assessment for these expenses.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Jane spoke briefly about the NIPSCO pole replacement project.

Claims Approval: Motion by Schmitt and second by Neulieb to approve claims #16368 through #16438, totaling \$141,068.37 and salaries for May of \$100,162.96; approved 3-0.

Motion and second to adjourn by Neulieb and Schmitt, approved 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill de Funiak,

Clerk-Treasurer