

TOWN OF LONG BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
via In Person / Zoom
March 18, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Council members Bob Lemay, John Wall, Mary Lou McFadden, John Kocher, Clerk-Treasurer Perry, Police Chief Mark Swistek, Attorney Chris Willoughby of Braje, Nelson & Janes, and Marilyn Jones & Associates, and LBVFD Chief Tom Yemc participated in person and Pres. Lemay via zoom this evening in the Long Beach Community Center gym. Councilman Johnstone, Tom Dolph, and Greg Parrish were absent. There were up to 24 public viewers throughout the meeting.

Lemay announced this is the first in-person/Zoom meeting with roll call voting which was followed by the **Pledge of Allegiance**, Bob Lemay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

All meeting minutes were approved 4 – 0 with motion and second by McFadden and Lemay. Those being council meeting of January 10, 2022; special council meeting of February 1, 2022; executive council meeting of February 7, 2022; and special council meeting of February 21, 2022. Minutes of council meeting on February 14, 2022 are pending but was included in the list this evening to approve read by Wall.

All department/ committee reports were read or given by department heads. These council meetings are recorded and are on the town's website for viewing.

Police Department/Police Commission reports for February were given by Swistek (copies of reports on file). On Feb 18th, in the Town of Michiana Shores, there is an open investigation with Indiana State Police Internet Crimes against Children Unit involved. On March 23rd there was an unfortunate incident in the Town of Michiana Shores where a 22 year old male was found deceased in his bed. Investigation of this incident is ongoing. Golf cart registration begins Monday at Town Hall. Parking passes for the parking lot are now available; 4 for each residence. He reminded the public there is no overnight parking. The department is searching for a patrol vehicle. Officer Babcock's vehicle is requiring about \$2000 in repairs. Swistek requested the approval to secure a new vehicle for a Fall purchase - \$40,000. Kocher motions to approve that purchase, which is in the capital plan; second by McFadden. Approved 4 – 0.

Fire Department/Fire Commission – Tom Yemc gave the February and Y-T-D report. He thanked Bart De Le Barre for coordinating the set-up and removal of the ice rink again this winter. Reminded all of the St. Patrick's run and supports it and the requested use of Long Beach roads for the run. Four members are planning to go to Indianapolis for the annual Trade Show on April 28th. Next month the members will be training at the training center on Hitchcock Rd. Two quotes were presented and the council approved the purchase for a fire equipment purchase from Five Alarm Fire & Safety Equipment of \$39,800, the lesser of the two quotes, with a motion by Kocher and second by McFadden. Approved 3 – 0 with Wall recusing himself. Willoughby inquired and John Wall stated this is a town expenditure.

Street Dept/Commission – With Dolph’s absence Wall gave the report. The CCMG award will be forthcoming in April. Leaf pickup will begin April 18th and run for 1 week ending Friday April 22nd with the route running West to East with one pass through town by Healy Landscape. Wants Tim to send an email blast to the residents. McFadden and Kocher made the motion and second to approve the Healy expenditure of \$4,575.00 for the one-week cleanup; 4 – 0 approval.

Dolph received a quote for \$10,400 for street striping various streets throughout town and the parking lot at the community center and the parking lot that includes sealing at town hall. Will present that again to the council next month.

Kocher made a motion and McFadden seconded to accept the Vermeer quote, under a Sourcewell contract, for \$103,142.00 for a Hydro-Excavator, in stock, that will be paid for through the Stormwater Fund. Approved 4 – 0.

The **Water Department** met on February 28th. This was the first joint meeting with the street department.

Mary Lou gave the report which is on file with the water department meeting minutes. She stated that Jim Maurer of Haas & Associates suggested separating a certain water department upgrade project from the future sewer project. She read this Maurer information aloud for the council. She made the motion for the separation and Lemay seconded it. Wall intercepted the motion on the floor; Would like the motion held off until meeting with Haas on March 28th. McFadden retracted the motion. There was discussion of the Ordinance on Cross Connection by council. With a small change in verbiage, removing “cause” with “require”, Lemay made a motion to accept the ordinance on 1st reading; McFadden seconded; 4 – 0.

Swistek spoke of adding an antenna to the water tower, installed this last week and costs picked up by the 911 center. Several other antennas which were disconnected, were removed at the same time, with a cost of \$1200, being paid for out of the water department budget. Greg is working on prices for a generator at the station at Oriole and Mt. Claire. The generator in the bunker will be moved to the top of the bunker for proper ventilation and will be serviced by Current Electric before being put in to proper service for the town.

Lemay announced Rick Blank’s resignation as the water board president after many years of service to the town’s water department and thanked Rick for his service.

Willoughby suggested Swistek meet with the street and water departments’ guys to discuss how the next Public Works meeting will run.

Park Board – Kendra mentioned no official update since no meeting was held since the last council meeting. The Board will meet on the 22nd at 6 PM at the town center and via zoom.

Long Beach Community Center Committee – Kocher gave the report and stated Joy Schmitt received an error message on 2 boiler units. The HVAC company was called; one boiler is about gone. Option 1 of 2 is to replace a part for \$6,000 with a 12 week to get the part. Option 2 was acted on which was to replace the whole unit for \$7,000 with a one week wait. In that week the 2nd boiler went out. Another needs to be ordered so they work in conjunction with each other; \$8,000 for this second purchase. Kocher and McFadden made the motion and second for the \$8000 purchase, up to \$9000; 4-0 approved. He thanked the park board for their help with funding with upgrades on room 13 and a variety of other maintenance matters.

Wall stated the budget and finance meeting for March is being moved from April 13th to April 6th at 8:30 AM so important matters can be discussed within the committee before the next council meeting April 11th.

Budget and Finance – Wall discussed committee topics, with Perry’s permission (his first meeting since in office). Gave a synopsis of topics on the table for discussion Perry mentioned a conversation he had with Cender and company and training sessions he’s attended online.

Human Resources Advisory Committee met March 3rd. Park program was discussed; mentioned Sarah Plooster’s involvement with the summer camp program for many years, doing a great enthusiastic job. Recommends directors and coaches be paid \$15.00/hr. and all counselors \$11.00/hr. this year. Kendra Bartlett added and inquired as to whether the park employees’ increases require council approval since paid from Park funds. McFadden stated that they are employees on the town payroll and spoke on behalf of the HR committee with regard to hiring procedures and compensation methods to all employees in all departments within the town. One new time card will now be used for all town employees. An advertising was posted for a Building Dept. secretary who would be paid \$19.00/hr., in line with the other 2 part-time employees at that same wage. Swistek mentioned the position could involve 10 – 20 hrs/week. Lemay motioned to offer the prospective new hiree up to \$19.00/hr. Council held off voting until later in meeting when the salary ordinance is presented. The salary survey will be completed by the end of April. Representatives from General Insurance Services met with HR members to discuss health insurance options for employees. They can also meet with the employees. Thursday, April 7th the HR meets

Tree Board -Dr. Juhasz presented the most recent proposal from the third arborist, already discussed within the Tree Board, regarding the cottonwood trees at the Lake Shore Drive property. This matter has been tabled while Wall connects with Juhasz and the engineer on this matter.

Building Department – No meeting since last council meeting but they meet again on March 22nd at 1:00 PM.

Board of Zoning Appeals – No meeting since last council meeting; next meeting April 12th at 7 PM.

The **Advisory Plan Commission** - No meeting was held and to date, no agenda items for March yet.

Building Permit Revenue Report for February, 2022: There were 6 permits issued with value of work totaling \$2,048,035.00 w/ Town Revenue of \$20,601.00. 5 electric permits totaling \$950.00; 1 Street Cut permit-revenue of \$100.00

February Legal expenses paid: \$ 11,521.25 paid to Braje, Nelson & Janes

A motion made and second by Kocher and Wall to approve all committee and revenue reports + legal expenses; approved 4-0.

Old Business – Wall commented that the Governor removing his emergency declaration; Lemay stated he recommends continuing mask requirements in Town Hall at meetings and social distancing and encouraged attendees to town meetings to attend by zoom when possible.

Wall gave updates to the sewer project. Pre-bids could take place early April with bids to be awarded possibly third week in April; within SRF deadlines. Wall suggested a public forum be held to get information out to the residents.

Kocher made a motion to approve the Staggered Elections Ordinance on 1st reading subject to an amendment described by Kocher; second by Lemay, passed 4 – 0. Willoughby will make changes to present at April meeting.

Wall briefly spoke of the contract for MS-4, the entities being LaPorte County, LaPorte City, Trail Creek and Town of Long Beach. There will be a memorandum of understanding with the County for things the County can help Long Beach with. LaPorte City went their own way. Long Beach will contract with a former IDEM individual to help Long Beach.

New Business –

Wall announced a group represented by Juhasz and Phyllis Baker wanted to give a deer report. Each spoke about 7 ½ minutes to offer the public more awareness of the human/deer conflict and the deer population control methods possible to address the situation in Long Beach and noted the 61-page report posted to the Town's website.

Kendra mentioned there were some trees or evergreen shrubs planted on Town property at Stop 29; this subject will be discussed at the upcoming Park Board meeting Tuesday evening. No action needed by council this evening.

Wall presented **Amended Salary Ordinance #2022-04- 2022 Salary and Wages for the Town of Long Beach, LaPorte County, IN** which reflects wage changes for the Town Chief Marshal/Town Administrator position and to include the Building Commission secretary position hourly pay rate of \$19.00/hr. Lemay motioned to approve on 1st reading; second by McFadden. Passed 4 – 0. 2nd reading will be presented at April's meeting.

1st reading had previously been approved for the Ordinance regarding Policy for Cross Connection Control ; 2nd reading at April's meeting.

Clerk Perry addressed the council of a possible Town cell phone but changed his mind on the subject.

The ARP will be discussed at the budget and finance meeting on April 6th.

The town received two quotes for cyber insurance renewal. Presently with Michiana Insurance Services. Swistek announced he reached out to the marketplace with 3 different companies and 2 quotes received were Michiana Insurance for \$4,147.00; General Insurance Services for \$3,582.00. Our current policy set to expire is \$1,556.98. Recommends council approve the General Insurance policy. Wall motion to accept that policy; second by McFadden- passed 4 – 0.

McFadden spoke on the updates being made to the employee handbook; no action this evening. Lemay mentioned bulletin points regarding public officials.

Lemay wants to increase Zoom storage; now at \$40 a month. Would like to increase to \$100/mo at 500 GB; for \$60 more McFadden motion to add the extra; second by Wall. 4 – 0.

Swistek addressed the council with the need for a camera at the community center at a cost of \$899.00 for the work to replace it. Asking the council for the replacement cost to come from CEDIT payable to ACME Communications. The camera would have an exterior view of the building near the dumpster. A sign has also been placed at dumpster area announcing no dumping. McFadden motion to spend the \$899.00; second by Lemay; approved 4 – 0.

Swistek announced the town septic field has to be replaced. Low bidder of two bids was from Gene's Sewer & Septic for \$13,000. The other being \$15,000 from Ray's Excavating. Recommends we proceed with Gene's Sewer & Septic. An elevated system across the street has been discussed with Brian Hogan and Annette from the Country Club. The permit has been issued from the LaPorte Co. Health Dept. New fill will be brought in to landscape over the presby system. A building permit from the town has been applied for; just waiting for approval. McFadden motions to accept the Gene's Septic bid; Wall seconded the motion; approved 4 – 0.

Swistek commented on the AV equipment used tonight, computer, camera, LCD monitor, stand, and iPad. To purchase it is \$3,000. Kocher and Wall made the motion and second of the purchase upon the Chief's approval of equipment quality; approved 4 – 0.

Perry asked the council about the possibility of a receipt printer for the clerk's use, under \$500. Also, a check scanner from Horizon Bank for \$75/month, set up and training and maintenance by Horizon Bank. Wall motioned and McFadden seconded the purchase of these. Approved 4 – 0.

Public Comments –

Brian Kanyer, 2200 Oakenwald, appreciates Phyllis Baker and Juhasz's reporting on the deer situation. Paul Fithian, 3013 Loma Portal Way, stated "Darting not allowed by IN DNR". Nicole Chalik, 1610 Nichols, asked for feedback from the council regarding the HB1245. Andrew Kubik, 2740 Floral Trail, thanked the ladies for the deer report.

Claims Approval: Checks #18723 through #18788 totaling \$109,629.58; February payroll was \$65,986.39 A motion to approve by Wall, second by Kocher; approved 4-0

Motion and second to adjourn by Lemay and second by Kocher, approved 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Perry,
Clerk-Treasurer