

TOWN OF UNION

Monthly Board Meeting

Minutes of March 4, 2010

The Town of Union Monthly Board Meeting was called to order on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Kendall Schneider. Attendees included Supervisors George Franklin and Don Krajeck, Treasurer Sharon Franklin, Clerk Regina Yvisaker, Building Inspector Bob Fahey, and Plan Commission members Alvin Francis and Doug Lee. Constable Kim Gruebling was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Clerk's minutes (February 4 & 23, 2010)

Motion to approve the minutes of February 4 and 23, 2010 as written made by Don Krajeck. Second by George Franklin. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Sharon Franklin reported balances as of February 28, 2010:

Local Gov't Investment Pool General Fund	\$	0.00
Park and Recreation Fund	\$	12,401.97
UB&T Money Market Sweep Account	\$	110,816.01
Of Which \$0 is Contingency Fund, And \$5,000 is Re-Valuation Fund		
UB&T Checking Account	\$	10,000.00
Leedlemill Bridge CD	\$	18,322.04
Wayne Disch Memorial Park Fund	\$	1,838.60
Morning Ridge Stub Road CD	\$	19,739.88
Escrow Accounts:		
Robert Janes/Bakers Crossing	\$	813.77

Constable's report

Constable Kim Gruebling was not in attendance; there were no calls to report.

Humane Society Contract Update

Kendall Schneider reported that he has been in contact with Jim Hurley at the Rock County Humane Society; however they have not yet come to any resolution on the issue of cats. The Humane Society does not like the Town's addition of a \$15 payment to be made by whoever drops the cat off. Other towns still have the same concerns as we do, and Schneider is unsure how many other Towns have actually signed their contracts. Doug Lee feels that the problem with cats is that their owners leave the City and drop them off outside of town, which happens to be in the Town of Union. Licensing cats would be an optional way to pay for the costs related to cats that the Town would incur. Schneider reports that his impression is that it's all or nothing with regard to the contract with the Humane Society; if we don't approve the cats they won't pick up dogs either. At this point we currently have no contract so they won't pick up dogs at this point either. One option would be to sign the contract this year and see how much the costs end up being. If the costs end up too high there may be pressure from both Cities and Towns on the Humane Society to lower the costs the following year. Overall, there are not many cat calls vs. dog calls. The Town has budgeted \$250 for expenditures related to the Humane Society for 2010. Motion to strike the previously added verbiage on the 2010 Rock County Humane Society contract regarding cats and accept the contract as written under protest made by George Franklin. Second by Don Krajeck. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Schneider will speak with the Humane Society.

Building Inspector's report

Building Inspector Bob Fahey reported issuing one permit this month, and three permits year-to-date.

Date	Permit #	Name	Address	Description	Construction Cost	Permit Fee
2.22.10	10-3-B	Doug & Karen Zweizig	6037 N Finn Rd	Solar electric system	\$2,500.00	\$120.00

Announcement of Plan Commission, Board of Adjustment, and Parks & Trails Committee Appointments Ending April 2010

Schneider announced the following appointments will end in April 2010:

Plan Commission: Chairman (incumbent: Alvin Francis); 2 Members (incumbents Dave Pector, Eric Larsen)

Board of Adjustment: 1 Member (incumbent Steve Lentz)

Parks & Trails: 2 Members (incumbents Brad Fahlgren, Scott Katzenmeyer)

Schneider will contact the incumbents regarding their interest in serving another term. Any Town residents interested in serving on a Board or Committee should contact Chairman Schneider or a Town Supervisor.

Public Comment

Rich Templeton was in attendance to state his opinion on the Hawkins land division request. He hates to see houses on farmland, and understands that there has been talk of a deed restriction on the remaining land and would be in favor of that. Thinks the Board should seriously consider removing the 35 acre requirement for building new homes, as he feels it takes up too much farmland; an acre for a home is plenty. Overall, Templeton doesn't think the Hawkins land should be split at all.

There will be a meeting with members of the Rock County Land Conservation Department on March 16 regarding the Working Lands program. It is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Evansville Fire Station, beginning at 6:30 p.m. A notice regarding the meeting will be published and posted.

Snowplowing

The Town of Center is looking at contracting out for snowplowing. Rock County Public Works requested a meeting with several towns including Union, at which they told Franklin and Krajeck that as of 2011 they would not offer the Town a contract for road maintenance, and if the Town wanted to opt out of their current contract sooner we could. The County stated their reasoning for their decision was that the Town did not do enough summer maintenance with the County to justify the cost of plowing, which is apparently higher than the amount the Town actually pays for plowing. Union and Center were the only two Towns whose contracts will not be renewed; the County stated "you were looking at contracting out plowing anyway."

Tom Sweeney questions Ben Coopman's professionalism on the issue; aren't all Towns going to face the same issue eventually with the rising costs of summer maintenance costs? Krajeck referenced a letter dated November 25, 2009 from Coopman stating that due to vacancies and Towns not doing enough summer maintenance, Towns would have reduced service from the County especially in subdivisions. The letter was sent to Town chairs, schools, waste haulers, but not sent to fire departments or EMS.

The Town is currently looking at options for snowplowing, including contracting, and/or buying some equipment. Lee recommends that whoever does the plowing needs to become familiar with the Town roads prior to the snowplowing season. Footville Trucking has done our roadside mowing for at least three years and is familiar with the roads. The Town hasn't put the plowing out for bids at this time.

Public Hearing: Review and action on request made by Dustin Hawkins, 13775 Chestnut Drive, Eden Prairie, MN for a land division and zoning change to separate off home and 5 acres from the existing 46 acre parcel located in the SW ¼, SW ¼ of Section 18, parcel #6-20-147. The current

parcel is zoned A-1; the resulting 5 acre parcel would be rezoned A-3, and the parent parcel would retain A-1 zoning.

The request was tabled by the Plan Commission at their February meeting per the request of the applicant; expect to see amended application next month.

Board Action: Adoption of Updated Town of Union Building Code, Chapter 17-Zoning Ordinance

The updated building code was recommended for approval by the Board by the Plan Commission at their January meeting, with minimal corrections.

Krajeck would like all reference to ag buildings removed from the definition of buildings, as it is not required by the State (section 25.01). Fahey stated the reason for the inclusion in the definition is to require a permit for construction; the UDC applies to 1 and 2 family dwellings only. Fahey just wants to make it clear that if wiring and plumbing are installed in an ag building, they must be installed according to code and a permit is needed. With this explanation Krajeck is agreeable to the inclusion.

Section 25.07 (5), regarding obtaining a permit to start construction before final plans are approved: Krajeck questioned if is this a good idea. Fahey stated the UDC for houses does have a provision almost the same as this, requiring a footing/foundation permit to start construction and then the permit applicant assumes liability if something goes wrong.

Section 25.13, regarding a bond requirement for moving buildings: Krajeck would like to know if this section can be changed to require an inspection of the road before the move happens so road condition has been documented in case of any damage? As it reads now, there is nothing in place to cover the Town's expenses for conducting such an inspection. Fahey agrees, the moving permit could include a fee for this service. Krajeck would like to see an escrow account to pay for Town Engineer inspections of the roads both prior to and after the moves. Fahey will draft something and email it out for review and approval.

Motion to adopt the updated Town of Union Building Code as written, with addition of an escrow fee requirement for inspection of roads prior to and following moving of buildings in 25.13 (5) made by Don Krajeck. Second by Kendall Schneider.

The effective date would be upon publication. The new chapter number would be 15; Fahey will provide the chapter numbers to repeal.

Franklin inquired about the ability to burn a building down; Fahey does not believe that would be allowed, unless a permit from the DNR was obtained.

Roll call: Kendall Schneider – Yes; George Franklin – abstains as he has not read the code in its entirety; Don Krajeck – Yes. Motion carried 2-0.

Board Action: Approval of Workers Comp Insurance Carrier Change

Regina Ylvisaker explained the reasoning for the requested change. The company and agent currently providing the insurance has been difficult to communicate with, and the proposed change would put both the workers comp and liability insurance with Dave Mosher and Associates in Evansville. Mosher currently handles the liability insurance for the Town and has been easy to work with and available when needed. There is no change to the cost of the insurance by switching carriers.

Motion to change workers comp insurance carrier from West Bend Mutual to Dave Mosher and Associates made by Don Krajeck. Second by George Franklin. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Operator License Approval Process Discussion

The Board reviewed the list of issues to be addressed as provided by Ylvisaker.

Krajeck supports increasing the operator license application fee from \$10 to \$25 to be in line with area municipalities. Agreed by all.

Krajeck also supports establishing a charge of \$15 for the issuance of a replacement operator license. Agreed by all.

The Board supports the idea of having the Evansville Police Department conduct background checks on applicants. Unsure at this time if there would be a cost involved.

Franklin believes any incomplete applications, or those received less than one week (or longer if needed by the EPD) should be not considered by the Board until the following month's meeting as this will not allow for adequate time for processing and publication. Agreed by all.

Ylvisaker noted that some municipalities have a provision in their application process which allows for denial of a license if fees are owed to the municipality by the applicant, until fees are paid. The Town has had one incident similar to this, in which an applicant owed the Town for damaging road signage as a result of an auto accident and had not paid the fees. The Town had no option but to issue the license as there was no provision in place at that time to address the issue. The Board agrees that it is an important provision to add to the ordinance.

Motion to approve policy changes as discussed made by Don Krajeck. Second by George Franklin. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Those changes which require updates to the alcohol ordinance will be made and the ordinance changes brought back to the Board in conjunction with the proper publication and posting notices.

Recycling Center Update

Jerry Krueger reported a quiet month.

Krueger would like the subject of electronics recycling added as a discussion item on the April agenda. He feels the Town must have an alternative for when the items can no longer be land filled, and can't just tell residents that we do not accept them.

Assessor/Revaluation Discussion

Schneider noted that we may have to open and close the Board of Review in May, due to his being gone, to meet the required deadlines.

The revaluation needs to be done this year. Ylvisaker will request that a representative from Accurate Appraisal attend the April Board meeting to discuss the options and costs available to the Town.

Pay Bills

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Don Krajeck. Second by George Franklin. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm and bills were approved for payment.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Regina Ylvisaker.

Note: minutes are considered draft until reviewed and approved by the Town Board at a properly noticed meeting.