

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 5:00 P.M.**  
**KENTLAND TOWN HALL**

**Attending: David Michael Rowe, President, Debby Shufflebarger and James Sammons, Council Members, Rebecca Goddard and Patrick Ryan, Attorneys and Judy King, Clerk/Treasurer**

The meeting started by saying the Pledge of Allegiance

Mike Davis - Economic Development gave his report:

Mike is asking for an additional \$1,500.00 for the Housing Study from Purdue. A motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to approve the additional \$1,500.00.

Redevelopment needs to schedule a meeting soon.

The bids were opened for the second round of Community Crossing.

Central Paving	\$157,125.00
Milestone	\$176,980.00
Town & Country	\$156,025.00

The bids will be given to Ken Smith, Municipal Civil Corp, to see if all paperwork was turned in.

Brienne Hooker, from Jasper/Newton Foundation had a proclamation that Mike Rowe read "Love Where You Live" which will be the Theme of 2021 for Kentland.

Larry Whaley wanted the Town to be aware of the flooding on Owen Street. He has flooded 6 times since February 2008. Larry presented to the Town a solution for the overflowing from the ditch on Owen. Perhaps a berm could be put in along the ditch to hold the water back. Larry was told that the Town has

Whitaker Engineering looking into the design of the Kent Ditch to help the solution. Mr. Whitaker is waiting on permits from DNR before he can continue. Also, the Owen Street ditch will be excavated very soon to help and underground storage at the airport is being installed to also help with the solution.

Charlie Doan also is concerned about the flooding within the Town. He thought maybe the Town look at the ditches out of Town to see if they could rectify the problem before it gets into Town. Charlie was told that those ditches would be the responsibility of the County.

Mr. Shoemaker who lives at the corner of Seymour and 1<sup>st</sup> Streets had been wiped out from the flood and other rains. He has a handicap ramp on his corner and when it rains, the water floods onto his property. He needs sandbags to stop this. Mr. Shoemaker has been told for several months he would be provided sandbags and has not received them. This would slow down the water from coming onto his property. Mark Robbins, the neighbor to the east of Mr. Shoemaker said the water floods off of U.S. 24 right into his driveway and floods his property also. He also needs sandbags.

Robert Vuscko owns and lives at the property at 408 East Graham Street. He is having flooding issues from the Kentland Bank parking lot into his yard. Mr. Vuscko has put a drain in his yard and has tried to build a berm in front of his house to keep the water out.

#### **BUILDING COMMISSIONER**

Matt Wittenborn was not present but sent his report:

4 Permits issued for the month

3 Inspections

Gabrielle Biciunas from Commonwealth Engineers and Jeff Rowe from Baker/Tilley were present. Jeff Rowe wanted to touch upon a few funding sources for the Water Improvement Project that the Town is looking into. Funding may be obtained from USDA with a 40 year loan, SRF if the Town would qualify and SWIF. A rate study would need to be done before it would go for funding options. It generally takes about 30 days for the study to be provided. Jeff had sent a contract for the study at a cost of \$6,500.00. Pat Ryan, Town Attorney would like to review the contract, but if it is okay to proceed with Pat, then a motion was

made by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to proceed with the study.

#### **TOWN MANAGER**

TJ Firkins reported on the following:

A pump went out at the pool and caused the pool to shut down for a few days. Repairs have been made.

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 will be the last day for the pool to be open.

Jackie Winger reported vandalism at the restrooms at Cast Park. They are now locking the restrooms in the evenings.

Graham Street green space has been started.

Dwenger Excavating will be giving a cost of cleanup on the Owen Street ditch.

#### **FIRE CHIEF**

Matt Wittenborn was not present but sent his report:

11 Fire Calls

1 Training

22 Medical Calls

Mike Rowe signed an extension for the new Fire House through October 2021. Because of building materials not being readily available, the project is being delayed. A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by James Sammons to extend the closeout for the Fire House through October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

#### **CHIEF OF POLICE**

Julian Elson reported on the following:

Dispatch for the County has been moved and an update for the Police radios was needed. Frequency was never a problem because they were here in Town, now the update is needed.

#### **AVIATION**

Chuck Classen reported on the following:

Airport snow blower has been repaired and ready for winter.

Jim Butler reported on the following:

Roof on hangar #4 needs repaired and with CARE money available, the Town will pay and be reimbursed at a cost of \$20,842.63.

Construction should start in August for the storage at the Airport.

#### ATTORNEY

Rebecca Goddard reported on the following:

Conflict Waiver has been signed and a copy given to Judy King, Clerk.

She is looking into the properties that were on Tax Sale within the Town.

Pat Ryan reported on the following:

A zoning letter was needed for a child care facility, which will be run out of their home. Pat looked into this and this is not regulated by the Town. Pat will provide a letter and have Matt Wittenborn, Building Commissioner, sign it. This should take care of what their needs are for the start up.

#### CLERK

Judy King had nothing to report

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Bill Wheelock who lives on the corner of Water Street and Rail Road Street is concerned about the rise of water when it rains. He also flooded out last year and has seen the water continue to rise within the last few weeks from the rain. The Railroad ditch needs cleaned and that could help. No one has cleaned this ditch in years. The Railroad ditch would be the property of the Railroad and the Town would have to get permission from them to clean.

Judy Chabai, who also lived on Water Street, said she had flooded 18 times in 7 years. The farm fields are directing their water into the Town. This fills the yards up quickly with no solution as to where the water will go. Judy has since moved out of Kentland due to the flooding of June 2020.

Kathryn Gross has been at several meetings over the past year and would like to know if anything has been resolved on ordinances for chickens within the

Town limits. She has asked for this to be allowable. Mike Rowe responded that this is not a priority at this time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Animal Control went away when Matt Wittenborn resigned from the job. Chris Latta, who works for the Town of Kentland, would like to take over that position. A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by James Sammons to allow Chris Latta the Animal Control position at \$50.00 per call. Chris will only get the \$50.00 when he is not on the clock for his normal duties. If a call comes in during the day and he is working, he will take care of it with no additional fee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Joanne Hays would like to start the Coffee Club back up at the Depot on Thursdays effective in August.

COPS Cycle will be Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of July at the Community Center.

A motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to approve the minutes from the Public Meeting held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by James Sammons to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

A motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to approve the minutes from the Executive Meeting held July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

A motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to approve the financials.

A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by James Sammons to approve the claims.

Debby Shufflebarger would like to discuss longevity pay at the next meeting with a cap of \$2,000.00.

Budget hearings with department heads will be discussed at the next meeting.

With no further business, a motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to adjourn the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Michael Rowe, President

Debby Shufflebarger, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Sammons, Member  
Treasurer

Attest:

Judy M. King, Clerk/