

REGULAR MEETING (2)
AUGUST 25TH, 2021 5:00 P.M.
KENTLAND TOWN HALL

Attending: Debby Shufflebarger and James Sammons, Council Members, Becky Goddard, Attorney and Judy King, Clerk/Treasurer

The meeting started by saying the Pledge of Allegiance

The Board accepted a letter of resignation from TJ Firkins, Town Manager, official the 27th of August.

Richard Hughes put his name in for the Town Manager position and Debby Shufflebarger made a motion to accept Richard Hughes and James Sammons seconded. His position will be effective August 30th, 2021. Ricky will hired at \$50,000.00 per year and have a probationary period of 90 days. He will be required to have his CDL within those 90 days which will come with an additional \$500.00 added to his salary. He also will be required to have his sewage license within 12 months of being hired with an additional \$1,000.00 income and his water license within 24 months of his hire date with an additional \$1,000.00 added to his salary. Within the 2 year period his income will be \$52,500.00.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

Matt Wittenborn had nothing to report

TOWN MANAGER

TJ Firkins reported on the following:

TJ spoke with Cecil Whitaker from Whitaker Engineering in regards to the walk bridge on the north side of the Lincoln Street Bridge. Cecil would like to have a company, SJCA, come in and evaluate the damage on the bridge. It will be \$1,000.00 just for the evaluation. A motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to move forward on the evaluation. Cecil also looked over the situation for drainage on U.S. 24 and First Street. He believes a bigger catch basin needs to be put in to help with the drainage. The cost will be \$4,650.00 for the design. A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by James Sammons to approve the cost.

A quote was given to TJ for a pump at the sewage plant that failed from BL Anderson in the amount of \$8,351.00. This will not include the installation. A motion was made by James Sammons and seconded by Debby Shufflebarger to order the pump and get it installed.

Generators at all the Lift Stations need new batteries. The cost for the new batteries are around \$1,100.00 each.

TJ turned in his credit cards and turned over his keys to Ricky Hughes. TJ would like to know if he can be paid out for his vacation and comp time accrued. A motion was made by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by James Sammons to pay him for both. TJ

will work with Judy to get the phone switched over to the Town's name and Ricky will take over that phone number.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Julian Elson reported on the following:

Julian would like to start the hiring process for a deputy since Ricky took the Town Manager position. He would like to start the new deputy out at the following pay:

New Hire \$42,000.00 plus \$3,000.00 additional pay with academy

Out of State \$45,000.00 plus \$3,000.00 additional pay with academy

Academy \$48,000.00

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

FIRE CHIEF

Matt Wittenborn reported on the following:

Matt is not happy with the progress on the new fire house. No roof and no doors. He will be having a meeting on August 31st, 2021 and find out more details.

AVIATION

Chuck Classen was not present

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mike Davis reported on the following:

Vast has posted several pictures on the website to update everyone on the New Fire House, Airport, Kentland Bank and The Mural.

Matt Whitaker has been in contact with Jason Yoder to let him know when the ditch project starts there will be dirt for the Senior Living Center. This will save the company money if purchased off the Town.

ATTORNEY

Becky Goddard reported on the following:

Becky has been in touch with the Newton County Auditor on the tax sale properties. The Town will have to wait 120 days before any action can be taken.

Becky announced a few nuisance properties in town. 109 West Goss and 112 West Allen. Becky will file action in court on these properties.

108 West Dunlap has been sold and Becky will work on getting the paperwork transferred.

CLERK

Judy King had nothing to report

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

OLD BUSINESS

Holly Porter is ready to go for the Nutrition Site at the Kentland Depot. April Lucas will be running this and it will start on October 1st, 2021. The cost for rent will be \$1,100.00 and Becky and Pat Ryan will work on the contract.

Pat Ryan, Town Attorney, is working on the medical bills for an accident that occurred at the Kentland Pool this summer. Pat has been in contact with the mother of the child and also Jim Schoen from Hoosier Associates.

Debby Shufflebarger told Mike Davis that Mike Rowe would be getting in touch with him and David Hunter from Vast Creative, to go over a contract.

The Town Board has decided to plant Arbor Vidas for the replacement of the hedge that was taken out on the property just north of the South Side Park. It will be planted on Town property for the Town to maintain.

Rick Purdy will be on vacation September 9th to 11th, so Ricky Hughes will need to reach out to Terry Hafstrom for the water testing to be done.

Debby Shufflebarger made a motion to implement any of the Town employees that would like to obtain additional licenses the same increase as Ricky Hughes was given. An additional pay of \$1,000.00 for a water and sewer license and \$500.00 for a CDL License. James Sammons seconded that motion.

Matt Wittenborn obtained a quote from ABC Asphalt for the second coat of black topping for the new fire house at \$40,000.00. A motion was made to approve by Debby Shufflebarger and seconded by James Sammons.

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

David Michael Rowe, President

Debby Shufflebarger, Member

James Sammons, Member

Attest: _____
Judy M. King, Clerk/Treasurer