

Minutes

Jackson Twp. and Town of Camden Officials Public Meeting

January 24, 2007

7:00

Fire Station

The elected officials of the Town of Camden and Jackson Twp. met in a properly called and advertised public meeting to discuss issues of mutual concern. Present were Peter Wagoner, Council President, Council Members Andy Robison and Michele Everett, Trustee Bill Dittman, Deputy Trustee Kathy Dittman, Advisory Board Member Byron Rude, Secretary Joe Wallace and Chairman Dan Shanks, attorney for the township and town, Anne Briggs, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly and one guest.

Mr. Dittman opened the meeting and introduced everyone. Mr. Dittman mentioned that in the event the Trustee and his Deputy are unavailable for over 48 hours, a substitute is to be named and the sheriff notified. Prior to this meeting, Dan Casserly was asked to serve during those times.

1. The first discussion of the evening was on fire protection and the contract between the town and the township fire department. The contract has not been revised for several year and covers items not on the town's diesel truck (plugs and points) while failing to cover the proper service requirements for a diesel engine. Mr. Dittman will review the contract to determine what changes are needed and advise the council. When questioned about the proper ownership of equipment it was explained that as a means to distinguish property owned by the township from the town property, blue tickets are on the truck equipment that is owned by the township and items purchased by the town are marked with a red ticket. The Town and fire protected townships will be invited to an open house at the fire station at a date and time yet to be determined.
2. The 175 Celebration will be July 21st and 22nd. Mr. Wagoner praised the town's web page and encouraged people to visit the site as a way to stay current on events. Jeff Sieber and Deb Foreman, president and vice president of the celebration, have been busy preparing for that weekend. Banners and brackets were purchased by the town and have been hung. The Council is working with the marshals and Mrs. Briggs to have property cleaned up before July.
3. The town has an easement thru the park to allow access to the town's well and to allow for water lines that run on each side of the drive. Following the water construction project in 1998/99, stone was added to the drive to bring

it back to original condition. In years past the town has helped to maintain the drive in mutual cooperation with the township. Concern was expressed about the condition of the drive and the need to have it graded and more stone added. Mr. Snavelly, Street Superintendent, inspected the drive prior to this meeting and stated the drive needed graded and stoned. Mr. Dittman expressed it would be an improvement for the ball tourneys and the activities planned for the 175th Celebration. According to Mr. Shanks, the Lion's Club grader could be used to level the stone. Mr. Robison moved for the town to pay half the cost of stone and hauling. Seconded by Mrs. Everett and passed by the Town Council. Work is to be done in the spring with the proper billing being forwarded to the town.

4. J.D. Cree contacted the Camden Cemetery Board about making new entrance signs for the cemetery. An old building was being torn down in Indianapolis and Mr. Cree was able to get salvaged granite slabs. After the stone is inscribed, a pad will need to be furnished for installation. Donations will be requested to cover expenses. Mr. Cree would like to have the project complete by the 175th Celebration.

The location of the trash container at the cemetery was also discussed. The group felt it would be nice to have a stoned area for the container so as to eliminate the mud resulting from the trash trucks tearing out the grass. It was decided to contact Ron Wertz about a suitable location and asking Alan George to remove the grass to allow for the stone.

5. Mr. Dittman expressed his concerns with the new trending laws and the effect they will have on local units of government. An outside vendor was hired by the county to pull cost assessment and do the comparisons. Only four of the ninety-two counties have reported their assessments to the state. This will result in a late distribution for the June draw, which may not be until fall.
6. The County has held discussions on the extension of Highway 75 north to the Hoosier Heartland Corridor. It was reported at the Carroll County Economic Development meeting that the Commissioners were going to Indianapolis to meet with INDOT to discuss the extension and express their support. Mr. Wagoner felt the state may hesitate with the extension due to financial shortcomings in the original cost estimates for the Corridor by IDEM. It appears the cost in Carroll County will be higher than estimated so that may work against the extension project. Additional concern was voiced on the true impact the project would have on Camden and if the road's use would justify the estimated \$11- \$12 million cost. One thought was that the businesses in Clinton County would benefit the most from the expansion as it would allow them a straight shot north to connect with the Heartland. Opinions were expressed that the businesses should come and then build the road and others felt the infrastructure needs to be in place before businesses will be interested. If the county does not act now for an

extra interchange, another chance may not come again and Carroll County will be just a “pass through” county.

7. The topic of most concern for the community was how to ensure the elementary school will remain in town. The school has done well on the ISTEP scores and the community is well pleased with the education provided to the children. Although there are no concrete movements or strategies publicly known, there is an undercurrent and fear that there may be those who want to close the school. An open house is planned at the school on Feb. 26th at 7:00 to see what improvements may be needed. Attendance was highly recommended. The School Board meets the first and third Mondays of the month and the public is encouraged to attend.
8. Miscellaneous business concluded the meeting.
 - a. The TDS business office will close Friday. No response has been received from TDS in regards to the letter and petitions mailed.
 - b. Daryl Smith, Executive Director, Carroll County Economic Development Corporation, has stated that other counties have “shovel ready” sites and we have nothing ready. He is working on getting land options but the county has not done anything to be ready in the event a new business expresses an interest.

The Township and Town officials felt the meeting was beneficial and it would be advantageous to meet again in June.

Meeting adjourn at 8:35.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Andrew Robison, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer

Michele Everett, Member