

Minutes

CAMDEN TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

December 11, 2008

The regular meeting of the Camden Town Council was called to order by President Peter Wagoner at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Members Andy Kelly and Richard Fite, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, attorney Anne Briggs and four (4) citizens.

Minutes were approved as follows;

November 13th Regular Council Meeting – motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Wagoner

November 14th Emergency Meeting – motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Wagoner

November 25th Joint Meeting with Jackson Township Trustee and Advisory Board – motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly

December 8th Public Hearing for an Additional Appropriation – motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly

Mr. Wagoner explained the November 14th emergency meeting was necessary due to IDEM requiring a polishing reactor to be included in the wastewater project. This piece of equipment had been included in the contractors' bids but only as an alternative. To save money, this piece was taken out of the bid and the SRF loan request was reduced by the equipment cost of \$45,000. Once it was known the agency would require the reactor be included, the Council needed to meet to determine how to fund this additional, unexpected expense. The Council determined local funds would be used and an additional appropriation would be required to expend funds from Rainy Day. This action would prevent burdening residents with still higher rates and possibly delaying the project.

During this meeting the Council also approved a 1.5% pay increase in the 2009 salary ordinance. The \$350 clothing allowance allowed for both the street superintendent and his assistant will be removed as a budget line item and included in their annual salary.

During the November 25th meeting, Mr. Bill Dittman, Township Trustee, expressed concern about the Local Government Reform Legislature. It will have a great impact on local communities and Camden could see many changes if it is enacted. The park, fire department, cemetery and library are all in the township's jurisdiction or receive

substantial funding from the township. If the township trustee is eliminated, these areas will possibly be controlled by the county. County positions will also be affected with restructuring. Consolidation may be seen not only in schools but libraries. This legislature may happen and people need to be aware of the consequences that may drastically affect our community.

The December docket was accepted as presented by a motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly.

Wastewater Project Update

Mr. Ken Smith, Municipal Civil Corp, informed the Council IDEM's permit is "being typed" and should be sent out next week. Release of funds could then be expected. When asked about signing the contract with RE Crosby, Mr. Smith advised the Council to authorize Mr. Wagoner to sign it once the funds are released. This should then allow construction to begin after Christmas. Site work and digging can be done in January and finish the project in May or June. The permit is approved, the loan is closed and the additional appropriation was approved so construction should be next. Mr. Wagoner stated the project is about two months behind schedule due to the additional work IDEM required to meet their request. Mr. Smith was thanked for his work on the permit and keeping the project coordinated.

An additional grant was just received that will help with the project. The town was awarded a Small Systems Technical Assistance Grant in the amount of \$25,000. This grant will be applied towards engineering cost for the project.

Mr. Fite made the motion to allow Mr. Wagoner to execute the contract with RE Crosby for construction of the wastewater project accepting the bid previously reviewed and approved. The contract is to be signed once funds are released. Motion seconded by Mr. Kelly and passed. Mr. Wagoner summarized the Council's thoughts stating he was glad the project has reached this point. It was a great deal of work to secure the grant and now the next step is nearing completion with the release of funds. The project, which will cost almost \$900,000, is necessary to satisfy IDEM so the town can continue to operate its wastewater facility.

Employee Handbook

The "Employee Handbook and Policy Manual" is complete. HR Unlimited and the employees worked together during this procedure. The draft copy was reviewed and changes incorporated into the final manual. Mr. Fite made the motion, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to adopt the manual and make it effective January 1, 2009. Motion passed. The manual references the employees' benefits which have been set out in **Ordinance 2008-8 Regarding Employee Benefits**. Motion to adopt Ordinance 2008-8 was made by Mr. Fite and passed.

The healthcare and insurance will be the same in 2009 as 2008. This area will need to be reviewed yearly because employee insurance is a significant cost for the Town.

Local Ordinance Issues

1. Currently there are no known issues of nuisance ordinance violations but this issue will be closely watched.
2. The Council will continue to consider a "No Burn" ordinance in 2009.
3. Mr. Wagoner expressed concern about the vandalism that has been occurring at the park. Property has been damaged even after the buildings were locked for the season. Vandalism has also been noticed at the pond area. With construction soon starting this will have to be controlled more. The gate to the pond area will be locked but if town residents need access on weekends, council members will have keys to the lock.

Future of Medical Office

Mr. Wagoner expressed sympathy for Dr. Tom Anderson's family. The death of Dr. Anderson is a loss not only for his family but the community as a whole. Dr. Anderson had just signed a new lease with the town for the use of the building and had future plans to bring his son into the practice.

A letter was sent to Unity Healthcare last week and a meeting was held with their CEO to discuss options. Mr. Wagoner made a business presentation on the benefits Unity would have by maintaining a practice in Camden. The CEO was interested in seeing what could be worked out but it probably will not be a full time doctor. The possibility of having a nurse practitioner and part time doctor seemed most promising. Unity Board of Directors will meet next week and Mr. Wagoner hopes to learn more after that meeting. As of now, the office will close at the end of December.

Agreement with Camden-Jackson Township Library

The Town and the Library have entered into an agreement for the use of the Reading Room by the Town for regular and other meetings. The Library will be compensated \$250 per year for the use of the room. The rental agreement was approved and signed following a motion from Mr. Kelly.

SR 75 Extension Update

Work has started in HHC where a bridge will be located at Division Line Road. There has also been activity in planning the extension of Highway 75 north. The county is close to signing an engineering agreement and has received a grant for \$1.2M for fees. Unfortunately, due to the downturn in the economy, INDOT is anticipating a \$400M shortfall in interest earned from the toll road lease and the decline in gasoline sales. However, it appears the new federal administration will have a large economic stimulus

package which will involve infrastructure. It is hoped Indiana's shortfall will be made up with this package. If the package is as anticipated, the infrastructure improvement may involve Highway 75. A meeting will be held next week with county representatives and others to coordinate the project and have initial plans ready if they are asked for.

Miscellaneous Business

- The housing grant cycle is nearing completion. Fourteen families have expressed an interest if the town decides to pursue another round.
- Citizens were reminded to get their dog and cat tags. The fee is \$3 for neutered/ spayed pet and \$5 for others.
- Mr. Fite asked Mr. Smith about grants for the community building. Mr. Smith said if the Council has completed the required FEMA training he will send in an application for the grant.
- The Red Cross Shelter Agreement was signed for 2009.
- The Town Office will be closed December 24 and 25 and again on December 31 and January 1.
- The year end meeting will be December 30th at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned by a motion from Mr. Fite at 7:55.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Richard Fite, Vice-President

Andrew Kelly, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer