Memorandum of the Meeting Study Session/Meeting Twenty-Eighth Town Council of Highland Monday, May 21, 2018

The Twenty-Eighth Town Council of the Town of Highland, Lake County, Indiana met in a study session on **Monday**, **May 21**, **2018** at 6:45 O'clock P.M. in the regular place, the meeting chambers of the Highland Municipal Building, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Dan Vassar, Steve Wagner and Konnie Kuiper were present. The Clerk-Treasurer, Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Additional Persons Present: Jared Tauber, Tauber Law Offices; Larry Kondrat, Board of Waterworks Directors; Kathy DeGuilio-Fox, Redevelopment Director were also present.

Ed Dabrowski, IT Consultant (Contract) was also present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed.

1. **Paul L. Doherty Veterans Highway of Flags Memorial.** The Town Council and the Clerk-Treasurer discussed the merit of moving forward with renaming the current Highway of Flags Veterans' Memorial, located at the southeast corner of Indianapolis Boulevard and Ridge Road.

The Town Council discussed the possible public reaction and whether there were any other persons of similar or equal stature who may need to be considered as well.

The discussion further included whether there should be any monument honoring and memorializing Highland veterans who were killed in action or perhaps even missing in action in conflicts or wars.

It was suggested that there was support and no objection to moving forward with gathering additional information along with suggestions for the ways and means to modify the Highway of Flags site for any name change. Further that the Town Council would be open to exploring a way to honor Highland residents who are veterans killed in action or missing in action to be somehow memorialized at the same site.

2. Discuss remaining appointments including vacancy on Waterworks Board for M. Timmer and the Tree Advisory Board. The Town Council noted that it was in receipt of several applications from persons evidencing interest in serving on the Tree Advisory Board. The Council discussed its readiness for making appointments from those who have applied.

The Town Council President also stated that he was considering a candidate for appointment to the unexpired term of Matt Timmer from the Board of Waterworks Directors.

3. **Review the road resurfacing list provided by the Operations Director.** The Town Council reviewed the list of identified projects for road resurfacing and repair prepared by the Operations Director. The Town Council discussed some

of the roads and the methodology for inclusion on the list, particularly suggesting that the Condit Street project be revisited.

	Town of Highland P				
Listing of Roads to be Repaired - 2018					
Road	Road Span	Footage Square	\$/ft	Total Cost	
Wirth Road	Liable to Kleinman	39,900	1.10	\$43,890.00	
Pettit Dr	Hess to Wirth	33,450	1.10	\$36,795.00	
Liable Rd	Laporte to Dead End	42,750	1.10	\$47,025.00	
Prairie	Ramblewood to Main st	35,250	1.10	\$38,775.00	
Condit	Kennedy to Dead End -front section	4,620	1.10	\$5,082.00	
	Alley west section	7,800	1.10	\$8,580.00	
Lincoln	Kennedy to NSRR	40,950	1.10	\$45,045.00	
			1.10	\$0.00	
			1.10	\$0.00	
			1.10	\$0.00	
			1.10	\$0.00	
			1.10	\$0.00	
			1.10	\$0.00	
			1.10	\$0.00	
			1.10	\$0.00	
		204,720		\$225,192.00	

The Town Council also discussed some added streets of concern with some members indicating their intention to share the additional sites with the Operations Director for inclusion in the list, among these was a site near Hess Drive and the 9000 block of Orchard Drive.

- 4. **Request from Leigh Morris regarding support for Citizen-led redistricting Reform.** The Town Clerk-Treasurer called to the Town Council's attention a written appeal composed by Leigh Morris of LaPorte City, its former mayor and a former governor's appointee to the Northwest Indiana Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Morris made an appeal for the need to support reapportionment reform, empowering a citizen-based process, that would be then approved by the state legislature. It was noted that he was circulating these remarks seeking city and town councils to pass resolutions supporting the particular reapportionment reform. The Town Council indicated the members would consider the matter. The next meeting of the Town Council at which this could be acted upon would be June 11.
- 5. **Request from the Kiwanis for a Proclamation for 60th Anniversary**. The Town Council discussed a request made by electronic mail to Councilor Zemen regarding the execution of a proclamation for the 60th Anniversary of the Highland Kiwanis Club. It was noted that in the request there were sufficient facts to compose a proclamation. It was further noted that it was hoped that the local chapter would have it for its June 14 meeting. The Town Council President indicated his support and the Clerk-Treasurer indicated that he believed a proclamation could be drafted from the information provided.
- 6. *Memorial Day Meeting cancelled.* The Town Council President reminded the members and the Clerk-Treasurer that the Plenary Meeting of May 28, 2018 as Memorial Day has been cancelled. He further noted that the Community Events Commission had sent an electronic mail inviting the elected officers to attend the Memorial Day Ceremony under its aegis to be held at Main Square at 10:00 a.m. The Clerk-Treasurer reminded the Council that he would be absent owing to out of state travel related to a family matter.

Special Meeting for Public Hearing on Proposed Additional Appropriations. The Clerk-Treasurer reported that owing to the Town Council's action at its meeting of May 23, 2018, the usual study session of *Monday*, *June 04, 2018 will be delayed to allow for a* Special Meeting for a public hearing on proposed additional appropriations in the Building and Inspection and Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals Departments and the Community Crossings Grant Fund. Study Session will follow.

7. *Fire Chief Salary and Its adequacy.* With leave from the Town Council, Councilor Kuiper presented a copy of a memorandum on Merrillville Fire Department Letterhead, styled as 2016 Salary Comparison for Merrillville Fire Territory. The memorandum listed selected cities and towns in Lake County under the rubric of Fire Chief and listed what was understood to be the salary for officers.

It was noted that the salary listed for the Highland Fire Chief was not correct on the memorandum. The discussion included the accuracy of the research and report as presented. It was further discussed about the functional equivalency of the comparisons noting some of the communities either had hybrid or fulltime career departments. Councilor Kuiper expressed his belief that the Fire Chief needed a raise. The Town Council received the information without further comment or action.

	2016 Salary Comparison				
Fire Chief					
Merrillville	\$	72,510.00			
Hobart	\$	64,087.00	With additional pay for EMT of \$1,200 , Paramedic \$3,600		
Whiting	\$	75,000.00	With additional pay for overtime based upon \$22.82 hr base pay		
Schererville	\$	81,453.58			
Hammond	\$	95,516.00			
Gary	\$	104,738.00			
Crown Point	\$	73,199.00	Highland note		
Highland	\$	63,166.48 *	5		
St. John	\$	78,370.76	His longevity pay as of January 1 of this year is \$104 biweekly Annual Base pay \$ 66,324.70 Composite \$ 71,498.70		

(Embedded information from the Merrillville memorandum. It is noted that the salaries reported have not been verified or updated for 2018 except where shown.)

The Town Council discussed the desirability of conducting a tour of the Fire Stations. It was suggested that the Councilor might meet at Thursday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business necessary or desired to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council of **Monday**, **May 21**, **2018**, was adjourned at 7:25 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA/CPFIM/CMO Clerk-Treasurer