

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Eighth Town Council of Highland
Monday, June 16, 2014**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Eighth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, June 16, 2014** at the time of 7:16 o'clock p.m. just after the conclusion of a special meeting.

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

Also present: George Georgeff, Metropolitan Police Department Commander; Steve Mileusnich of the Advisory Board of Zoning Appeals and Randy Bowman, Electrical Inspector and Ed Dabrowski of CBL Consulting - the IT Consultant were present.

Scott Cherry and Bob Nicksic of the Skillman Corporation were also present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. *Discuss funding options for the Public Safety Communications Equipment.* The Town Council and the Clerk-Treasurer discussed the recent presentation of bid prices for various communications equipment in consequence of the Public Safety Access Point Consolidation mandated under state law. It was noted that the Lake County consolidating entity did seek and receive bids for the equipment, so the bid prices were available to all the participating entities, which now includes the Town of Highland.

The Clerk-Treasurer indicated that he received from the Highland Police and Fire Departments the approved equipment list, totaling \$296,524.82 for the Highland Fire Department and totaling \$387,350.32 for the Highland Police Department. The Clerk-Treasurer noted that Motorola Corporation offered lease-purchase financing in the range between 3.09 to 3.25%. He would seek to shop the financing as a lease purchase, not to exceed three years, with delivery of assets on or around September 2014. The Clerk-Treasurer further indicated that he would structure lease payments to be due January 15 and July 15 to begin in 2015 payable from resources on deposit to the Public Safety Local Option Income Tax Fund, which is certified to receive \$461,093 for 2014. There was no objection to the approach outlined by the Clerk-Treasurer.

2. *Discuss the retirement ordinance and possible changes or clarifications.* The Clerk-Treasurer reminded the Town Council of its recent amendment made to the Highland Municipal Code bringing the mandatory retirement provisions into compliance with the current governing state law, rendering it to be 75 years of age rather than 70.

The Clerk-Treasurer further reminded the Town Council that under the current wording, the mandatory provision applies to all workers part or full time and officers except for elected officials. The Clerk-Treasurer further read a list of workers and board members who would be mandated to leave service at year-end, having attained to 75 years of age in the current year.

The discussion included the merits of having a mandatory retirement age, whether there should be a further amendment to exclude appointed officers of boards and commissions, or make no changes at all. The Town Council determined to deliberate further.

3. *Discuss sunset provisions for Park Department regarding Lincoln Center.* The Clerk-Treasurer reported to the Town Council that its amendment to the provisions in Section 11.10.220

of the Highland Municipal Code, which permitted the dispensing and serving of alcohol at the Lincoln Community Center, until December 31, 2013. This sunset provision was installed in order to allow the Town Council to evaluate the change from the prevailing, and historic policy barring alcohol in all parks and park facilities. The Clerk-Treasurer communicated that the Parks and Recreation Superintendent has received booking requests but could not verify if alcohol would be permitted.

The Town Council indicated its desire to hear a report from the Parks and Recreation Superintendent regarding the importance of allowing alcohol to bookings before acting on the sunset provision.

The provisions of Section 11.10.220 of the Park Code are provided below:

11.10.220 Alcohol and drugs.

(A) No person shall drink, sell, possess, make a gift or offer for sale any alcoholic beverage or drugs within the parks, nor shall any person within the parks use, administer, receive, offer for sale, possess, or make available to himself, or to any other person or animal, any alcoholic beverage or drugs.

(B) Alcoholic beverages may be sold, dispensed, and consumed in the Lincoln Community Center solely in conjunction with a catered event, banquet, permitted event or special event conducted in and confined to a specific location designated for assemblies and rentals. This authorization is subject to provisions of IC 7.1-1 et seq. and 905 IAC 1 et seq. No person shall use, administer, receive, offer for sale, possess or make available to himself, or to any person or animal any drugs. The authority conferred under the provisions set forth in this subsection (B) *shall expire on December 31, 2013*.

(C) **Effective January 1, 2014.** No person shall drink, sell, possess, make a gift or offer for sale any alcoholic beverage or drugs within Lincoln Center, nor shall any person within Lincoln Center use, administer, receive, offer for sale, possess, or make available to himself, or to any other person or animal, any alcoholic beverage or drugs. [Ord. 1523 § 4, 2012. Code 2000 § 150.41].

4. *Discuss changes to INPERS.* The Clerk-Treasurer reported that recent changes to the Indiana law governing the public employees retirement benefits that are tied to the compulsory annuity component of the benefit. It was noted that owing to a policy dispute regarding the outsourcing of the management of the annuity portion of the pension plan, the Legislature created a timetable that would extend public management and earning guarantees in successively declining rates through 2017, when the INPERS would be authorized to then outsource the investment management and to allow for market rates. It was further noted that a guaranteed earning rate on the annuity of 7.5% would be available for PERF covered employees who were qualified and took steps to retire by August 29, 2014.

The Clerk-Treasurer inquired whether the Town Council would object to arranging a workplace meeting conducted by a Retired Indiana Public Employees Association to further inform municipal workers about these changes and to offer counsel regarding the merits of retiring to secure the higher rates. There was no objection offered.

5. *Appointments.* The Town Council President noted the need to make an appointment to the Park and Recreation Board. It was noted that originally James Stange, who was serving communicated that he was not interested in reappointment. The Council President further reported having spoken to him during a recent weekend and learning that he would now be interested in reappointment to the Park Board. NO other pending appointments were discussed.

6. *Highland Sports Program Advertisement.* Councilor Zemen inquired whether the six elected officials would be interested in sponsoring an advertisement in the Highland High School Athletic Program in the amount of \$200. It was noted that this would be paid by dividing the fee by 6 with each elected officer paying from personal resources for the ad. There was consensus to participate.
7. *Police Department Concerns regarding Operations after the PSAP Consolidation is Implemented.* Councilor Zemen also noted that the Metropolitan Police Department has expressed concerns regarding local operations as the PSAP consolidation was implemented including whether it would be policy to keep some presence in the police department 24/7 as was the case when the dispatching function and local PSAP was allowed. It was suggested that a future study session include this topic for further discussion and that representatives of the County PSAP, such as its Executive Director, Brian Hitchcock, be included at such a meeting in case the questions directly pertain to the PSAP itself.
8. Councilor Adams reported that the North Township Trustee, Frank Mrvan, offered to engage his existing office investigators who may have investigations taking place in Highland, to note certain "violations" that would be visible at addresses in Highland, and communicate these to the proper officers in Highland for follow-up and code enforcement compliance. The discussion included whether the Township Investigators would be enforcing the local code or merely reporting and depending on the answer whether the investigators should be sworn to enforce the code and whether an interlocal cooperation agreement would be necessary or desirable.
9. The Town Council discussed an electronic message that was copied to the Town Council written to the Park and Recreation Board President by resident Michael Gregory, communicating his concerns with plans to convert the Meadows Park to eliminate the soccer field and then add a field for softball, and eliminating the softball field at Sheppard Park and adding soccer field, rendering Meadows Park to host only softball fields and Sheppard park to host only soccer fields.
10. The Town Council President and Commander Georgeff discussed the request of the Town Council President to follow-up regarding a problem with unleashed dogs in the vicinity of the 9500 block of Forrest Drive, and the concern that the dogs are Pit Bulls or vicious.
11. Councilor Herak noted that the Parks and Recreation Department installed a new drinking fountain near the bike trail at 45th Avenue. He further reported that it was not operational. As he understood it, the installers could not locate a potable water source to feed the fountain. Councilor Herak expressed disappointment in the planning and execution on the installation of this asset.

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, June 16, 2014**, was adjourned at 7:50 o'clock p.m.

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