



Meeting Minutes - February 3, 2014

The regular meeting of the LaGrange Town Council met at 7:00 pm, at the LaGrange Town Hall.

**Council Members Present:** Bruce Eagleson, Suellyn Mickem, Juan Arroyo, Greg Kenner, Ray Hoover  
**Also present:** Attorney Bill Eberhard, Jr; Clerk Treasurer Laurie Miller

**Absent:**

Council Member Kenner made a motion to open the regular meeting with flexibility, Member Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council Member Kenner made a motion to approve minutes from the January 20, 2014 meeting. Member Hoover seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vice President Bruce Eagleson opened the meeting by asking for nominations for a Council President. Member Arroyo made a motion to nominate Greg Kenner, Member Hoover seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Newly elected President Kenner then welcomed new council member Suellyn Mickem to the board.

Keith Gillenwater presented the council with an Economic Development report for 2013. The report covered companies that have relocated to the county, statistics on new jobs and increased payrolls, awards won, Investment funds, and goals for 2014. Gillenwater also thanked the council for its continuing support.

Randy Mellinger introduced himself as candidate for the LaGrange County Sheriff. He outlined his work history and qualifications.

**Town Manager:** Mark Eagleson presented quotes for a new vehicle for the Water Dept as follows:

LaGrange Co. Dodge	\$23,280.00 - V8
Max Platt Ford	\$25,991.25 - V8
LaGrange Co Dodge	\$24,500.00 - V6
Shephards	\$30,199.00 - V8
Shephards	\$28,788.00 - V6

Price includes hitch package.

Eagleson recommended purchasing the V8 from LaGrange County Dodge at \$23,280.00. Member Arroyo made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Member Mickem. Motion carried.

Discussed a meeting with engineering firm Weaver & Boos regarding possible grant funds to enhance proposed work by INDOT to State Road 9 in 2016. Weaver & Boos Sr Project Manager M. Pittman has indicated that he believes there are funds available and their firm is willing to lobby on behalf of the town for an 80/20 match grant. Council asked if there would be fees involved. It was noted that the firm indicated that there would not in the beginning except for possibly some minimal amounts for travel expenses. Eagleson noted that he was willing to ask for something in writing to outline any possible fees. Member Hoover made a motion for Eagleson to move forward with investigating the idea, Member Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Eagleson then noted that Jac Price, (Price's Laundry) contacted him regarding an evaporation credit for the Commercial Laundry. After discussing the issue and options, Eaglson stated that he will contact Umbaugh and see if there are any other cities or towns that give this type of credit.

Reported that typically the Council President attends NorthEast Indiana Solid Waste Management District meetings, but, if it is the council's intention for him to attend he will need a monthly 'Proxy' form signed by the Council President. President Kenner stated that he would give the proxy.

Discussed the town's sidewalk ordinance and what changes the council would like to make. Citizens are concerned about residents not cleaning the walks at bus stops. It is also difficult for town plows to clean properly in some areas. The attorney's office will work on the ordinance and bring it back to the council at the next meeting.

Ray Hoover noted that he would like to see the Liability, Worker Comp and Vehicle Insurance quoted this year. Clerk Miller stated that she has already contacted three agencies and they are working on it.

Bruce Eagleson then noted that we should also be working on Health Insurance for employees.

**WASTEWATER:** Presented quotes for tires for the Skid Steer.

Hostetler Tire - Carlisle Trac Chief	\$747.00
Firestone Dura Force	\$955.00
Triple M Tire - Deestone	\$730.00
Noble Co Tire - Trac Chief	\$725.00

Moore noted that with the quotes being close in nature, he would prefer to purchase the tires in town as it is easier to get the skid steer there for mounting. Member Eagleson made a motion to purchase the Carlisle Trac Chief tires at Hostetler tire for \$747.00. Member Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Water:** Supt Leu presented three sewer adjustment applications for approval. Tom Sprague 26000, May Schreiber 4000; and Jack Miller 13000, gallons of water that did not go to the sewer plant for treatment due to leaks. Member Hoover made a motion to approve the request. Member Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Leu then gave a report on what he has been working on and asked the council's permission to go to Howe School if asked to help with a leak. Member Hoover made a motion to approve the request. Member Eagleson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**FIRE:** There will be a demonstration of a Ladder Truck at the Town Hall on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Chief McClish requested authorization to send 6 firemen to training at a cost of \$55.00 each. The class will be held in Angola. Member Arroyo made a motion to approve the request. Member Hoover seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**POLICE:** Chief Deputy Sprunger welcomed Suellyn Mickem to the council. Also stated that the escapee that has been on the run in the county today has been captured.

**PUBLIC WORKS (STREET, CEMETERY, PARK):**

**Park:** Discussed possible locations for the "Harvest" food truck that uses the pavilions at the town park. There is a safety issue. Mark Eagleson will look into the situation.

**Cemetery:** Both trucks have had the transmissions replaced. Training on use of vehicles has been given.

**Street:** Presented a plaque to Terry Paulus for 26 years of service. Gave safety training to Mike Rosendaul. Is working on a preventative maintenance plan for all vehicles.

**CLERK:** Presented quotes for a copy machine:

Phoenix Office Machines - Canon Copier	\$5995.00
Bassett Office Machines - Xerox Copier	\$7974.00
Mid-City	Canon \$6600.00

Miller recommended the Canon from Phoenix at \$5995.00. Member Hoover made a motion to purchase the machine. Member Eagleson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reported that the Town of Topeka will be sending a letter to our state representatives asking them to reconsider supporting the legislation to eliminate personal property tax for commercial businesses. After discussing the implications of the bill, it was decided that the council would also send a letter opposing the proposed bill.

Stated that the Dept of Local Govt Finance has sent out 1782 Notices (preliminary budget approval) for the 2014 Budget. It was noted that we are to reduce our budget by \$116,769.00. Clerk Miller presented 2 options for the reductions, #1 to reduce as noted by the DLGF \$28,369 from the Cumulative Storm Sewer Fund, and \$88,400.00 from the Cemetery Fund. Option #2 - \$28,369.00 from Cumulative Capital Improvement; \$30,000.00 from Cemetery Funds; \$40,000.00 from Cum Storm Sewer funds; and \$18,400.00 from the MVH Fund. After discussing the reductions and why this happened, Member Hoover made a motion to approve Option #2, Member Arroyo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**ATTORNEY:** Still working on appraisals for the lots in Northwood Addition.

Also discussed the issue of sidewalks covered in snow. We want to address concerns while remaining thoughtful of other's health issues, where we want the snow to be put.

Discussed the establishment of a Town Court. Member B. Eagleson asked if The current traffic Judge should be invited to a meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the issue. Also discussed was having a signed commitment from the other county departments, funds and how a town court would work.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:** Don Murname was present to voice his concern about the sidewalks not being cleared.

Discussed unsafe buildings and gave an update on the former "Ranchito's" building.

Discussed water and sewer rates and how to set funds aside for future expansion of services.

**ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS**

Member Eagleson made a motion, seconded by Member Arroyo to allow claims. Motion carried

**ADJOURN**

Member Eagleson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Arroyo. Motion carried.



Gregory Krumer, Council President



Attest: Laurie D. Miller, Clerk Treasurer