

CITY OF WINCHESTER  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY  
MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2018

Regular meeting @ 5:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers / City Hall / 113 E. Washington St.

Mayor Byrum called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting. Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney, recorded the minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Byrum  
Moment of Silence – Mayor Byrum

The roll call showed all Board of Public Works and Safety members present.

Mayor Shon Byrum  
Mr. Bob McCoy  
Mr. Bill Richmond

Additional Officials Present:

Meeks Cockerill, City Attorney; Jon Reed, Police Chief; and Chris Martin, Wastewater Superintendent; Dwayne Wiggans, fire chief

Citizens Present:

Brian Pohlar, City Engineer and Carla Fouse

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Richmond motioned to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018 meeting as presented. Mr. McCoy seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Public Concerns

There being none, the floor was closed.

North Main Sewer Project

Brian Pohlar, City Attorney, explained he brought a map to help explain the north main sewer project. There is a house with a failing septic tank, so they have been looking at ways to get sanitary sewer to them. The first thought was to extend the gravity sewer to that area, but that would cause them to lose the amount of pipe cover necessary to meet standards. Another option would be to go back two sewer man holes to where the existing pipe is sloped more than necessary. If that was replaced and leveled to minimum slope, then they would be able to get gravity sewer to the house. The problem with that would be that the sewer wouldn't be able to be extended any further should there be development on the north end of Vision Park. Another option would be to go back to the lift station and make that sewer really deep, as deep as 25 feet, then they would be able to get sanitary sewer all the way out to the north end of Vision Park. They also discussed putting in small grinder pumps at the houses to pump the sewage back, but that would also not allow for potential development in the future. Mr. Richmond asked if it would be easier to get someone to develop the Vision Park lots if they had sewage access. Mr.

Pohlar said that was a possibility. He even said a new lift station could be put out closer to the north end of Vision Park if someone showed interest in developing there, but he's hesitant to extend sanitary sewage without having anyone interested in developing there. Mr. Pohlar provided the Board with a handout explaining the options he mentioned for this project. If they were to go with the grinder pump option, Mr. Pohlar explained that different communities handle this kind of project different ways. Some have the City pay for it while others have the homeowner would pay for the pump and the City provide the pipe. Mr. McCoy said they have done this kind of project in the past and asked what the City did when they put in a grinder pump by Dr. Howell's. Superintendent Martin reported that Dr. Howell had paid for the pump. Mr. McCoy asked about the instance by the golf course. The City bought the pump but the customer had to pay for the electric. Clerk Treasurer Haney said she thought the two projects had been handled differently. Mr. Pohlar said that option 4a, the grinder pump options, is recommended, because the twelve (12) inch replacement option, which is to put in new pipe from the lift station, would cost approximately One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (1,700,000) and the other option to drop the line would cost about One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000) which he feels is very expensive to pick up five (5) houses. Those options would also require tearing up some of the new paving. Mayor Byrum said he remembered talking about this project in the past and asked what they had initially looked at doing. Superintendent Martin said they were leaning towards the grinder pumps, but that they wanted to hear from Mr. Pohlar before deciding. Superintendent Martin said after looking at the numbers he would recommend the grinder pumps if they're not worried about expanding in the future. With this option you would be able to connect two properties to one grinder station if they are maintained. Mr. Richmond pointed out that this option was half the cost, but asked what they would be losing by choosing that option. Mr. Pohlar said the important thing to keep in mind with grinder pump option is that someone will need to maintain them. They usually last fifteen (15) or more years. Mr. McCoy asked if they would just put the one in for now or if they would go ahead and add more. Mr. Richmond asked how much one grinder station costs. It would be about Ten Thousand (\$10,000) or Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000). Mayor Byrum said he thought this was the best option considering their position financially, but asked if in the future someone were to build out there if they could tie in. There is potential for that depending on the flow. It would be more likely if it was something residential. It was pointed out that would be in the TIF (tax increment financing) district and would be under the jurisdiction of the Redevelopment Commission. Mayor Byrum said he felt the Board of Works job was to handle what is in front of them and be less concerned with the future. Mr. Richmond motioned to move forward with option 4. Mr. McCoy seconded. Mayor Byrum asked what next steps would be. Mr. Pohlar said they would create a design and begin talking with property owners about how to divide costs. Mr. Martin pointed out that option 4 currently includes six grinders when they only immediately need one. Mr. Pohlar said with this plan the homeowner would be responsible to bring the lateral around. It would be up to the homeowner to decide when to install. The problem is under control, but still exists. Motion carried 3-0.

### Waste Water Treatment

Superintendent Martin presented the Board with a document that summarizes the 2019 budget and a document that lists several project plans for 2020. The YMCA lift station is complete. Superintendent Martin walked the Board through some other items on the improvement list. A project listed for the

Short Street lift station, but Superintendent Martin, felt it should be put on the backburner due to additional expenses and the uncertainty of the future budget. He reported there is around One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,700,000) in the sewage improvement fund as of the end of October, but he wasn't sure if they would be able to add any more to that fund. He does not want that amount to get under Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) because we do not know what may come up. Mr. Richmond asked if by putting Short Street on the backburner Mr. Martin was thinking of putting the project off to 2020, later than that, or just later in 2019. He responded that he'd like to wait until 2020. Mr. Martin said he highlighted the changes in the budget and told the Board he'd answer any questions. Mayor Byrum said he'd like to adopt the budget. Mr. McCoy motioned to approve the 2019 budget. The 2019 Budget amount is One Million Nine Hundred Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Seven Dollars (\$1,916,507.00). Mr. Richmond seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Martin also reported that the plant did a bio SA fish testing for the second time and it came back as a fail again. That sends the plant into a TRE program. They're suggesting a retest in case it was a problem with the species of fish, because there were no alarming results on the water test. Mr. Martin said he doesn't know what's causing the problem, but knows there will be cost involved. The results just came in Friday and they have 90 days to submit a plan to IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management).

#### Sewage Affidavits

Jose and Maria Vasquez, owners of the property located at 557 N Meridian Street, are requesting approval of a rehabilitation sewage affidavit. The owners plan to do six month rehabilitation. Mr. McCoy motioned to approve. Mr. Richmond seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Mr. Martin wanted to bring up the fact that they've had numerous rehabilitations lately. Some are completing the rehabilitations; others are bringing them back in. He would like to see some kind of minimum charge instead of taking them down to zero. The gas utility company does something similar. Mayor Byrum said it would be up to the City Council, but they could make a recommendation to the Board of what they'd like in the ordinance. Mr. McCoy pointed out that most of these properties were rentals. Mr. Richmond suggested setting a minimum rate. Superintendent Martin suggested taking them to zero and charging a minimum fee as well as the tap in fee.

#### Fire Department

Chief Wiggans reported that Amber Pruitt resigned on Friday, November 16, 2018. That puts the department down one paramedic, so Chief Wiggans would like to hire a full time replacement. The Board asked if there was anyone that could be moved up within the department. Chief Wiggans said there was not and asked for permission to advertise the position. The Board granted his request. Mr. McCoy requested a calendar to help them explain how the fire and police calendars work, and that had proved helpful.

Carla Fouse is the new administrator at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital. Mrs. Fouse explained recently a meeting and presentation was held about StatFlight because people responding to trauma in Randolph County were calling whatever service they deemed appropriate. Gary Girton, Randolph County Commissioner, was present along with Mayor Byrum and Mayor Conklin of Union City, Indiana. St.

Vincent Hospital owns StatFlight and she feels it is important the community continues to support our hospital. Three years ago Union City stopped taking transports for the hospital, so they became reliant on Winchester's ambulance service. In the last four months there have been Eighty Eight (88) transfers or transports out of St. Vincent. Forty Five Percent (45%) of those were taken by the City's ambulance and Forty Three Percent (43%) were taken by Randolph County ambulance. They've noticed over the last six months they've had extreme difficulty getting transfers or transports after midnight due to lack of man power. They're holding patients in the emergency room for an extended period of time because they can't find anyone to transfer them. At this meeting the County and two Cities agreed to work together. The County and City have a working relationship where they take turns. Union City has stopped all transports and transfers and is not planning to change that. Ms. Fouse said she'd like to be able to see the City as a partner, but they need help. She knows that they are required to handle 9/11 first, but there needs to be a solution to the problem. She isn't expecting a solution, but wanted to have a discussion. She had a patient a few days ago that needed a transfer at 9pm and they waited four hours before finally calling Indianapolis. Mayor Byrum said they need to set up parameters of when and how far they will go for transfers. Chief Wiggins reported seven out of ten transfers have been to Indianapolis in the weeks since he has become chief. Mr. McCoy asked if when there is a transfer to Indianapolis if department calls additional staff in and pays them overtime. Chief Wiggins reported that is the case, but it is less about the overtime and more about having staff to fill the positions. The chief said he has accepted all run requests except those to Bloomington, because he felt that was too far. He wanted to know how far they were expected to go. Mr. McCoy said he was unsure of how billing worked for the City, but he spoke to the County about not getting full payment for Medicare transfers. They said that if the hospital paid them it would be a lot easier. Ms. Fouse said she was unsure if they were allowed to do that. Chief Wiggins said he hadn't had the change to look into the billing yet. Ms. Fouse said she'd like to meet with the City, County, and Union City again in the future. She said that she was going to look into it to see if the hospital could subsidize these rides, but wanted to be sure they would back her on that request. Chief Wiggins would like to have a conversation to hear both sides. Ms. Fouse agreed with that idea.

#### Police Department

Chief Reed reported they're in the middle of the hiring process for a full time position. They advertised it on radio, social media, and word of mouth. They have 8-10 applications, one of which is certified. Chief Reed's hoping that will work out so they can save money on training.

A reserve officer recently completed his training, so he'll be on the road soon. Officer Thacker finished his training and will be able to do solo patrols soon.

The department has begun decommissioning their old surveillance truck, because it is in bad shape. It's been stripped. Chief Reed explained the Kelly Blue Book value did not list a value on the truck, but he's guessing it'll be fewer than One Thousand Dollars (\$1000). The department is looking for creative ways to get rid of it. They plan to take it to Burton Excavating to see if they'd trade the truck's scrap value for some property clean ups.

Cops on Present Patrol is coming up on December 15. The department was awarded a grant from Walmart, in the amount of \$2000, which would allow more kids to join this year.

Chief Reed also reported the officers were welcomed to participate in No Shave November. Each officer paid Twenty Dollars (\$20) to keep their beards and that money, now around Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) will be donated to the Cancer Society of Randolph County. Chief Reed has talked to the Phi Delta Kappa Beta Eta Chapter about matching their donation and challenging someone else.

Chief Reed also reported the department is much younger than it used to be. They have one officer that hopes to attend the Police academy at the end of the year. Hopefully the hiring process will provide someone older that's already certified.

Accounts Payable

Clerk Treasurer Haney reported the accounts payable vouchers for the end of October amount to Five Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Dollars and Seventy Six Cents (\$5970.76) Accounts payable vouchers for November 1-14 amount to Two Hundred Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars and Eighty Four Cents (\$202,668.84). Payroll amounts to Twenty One Thousand Ninety Seven Dollars and Thirty Cents (\$21,097.30) Total accounts payable vouchers are Two Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Six Dollars and Ninety Cents (229,736.90). Mr. McCoy motioned to pay the bills. Mr. Richmond seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Adjournment

There being no further matters to discuss, Mr. Richmond moved to adjourn. Mr. McCoy seconded. Motion passed 3-0. This November 19, 2018 meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm.

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Mayor, Shon Byrum

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk-Treasurer, Vicki Haney