

November 22, 2021

The Ellettsville, Indiana, Town Council met for a virtual meeting on Monday, November 22, 2021, by Zoom. Scott Oldham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mike Cornman led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a prayer by Pamela Samples.

Roll Call: Members participating were Scott Oldham, President; Pamela Samples, Vice President; William Ellis, Trevor Sager. Dan Swafford was absent.

Supervisors participating: William Jay Humphrey was present for Jimmie Durnil, Kevin Tolloty, Mike Cornman and Kip Headdy were also present.

Resolutions

Resolution 20-2021 Electing to Join the 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund as Administered by the Indiana Public Retirement System

Mike Cornman, Fire Chief explained this resolution will allow new employees and select current employees of the Police and Fire department to participate in the Police and Fire Pension and Disability Fund commonly known as the 77 Plan. This plan will offer a higher yield on their investment for retirement plus added security in the event of a catastrophic illness or injury that the current Municipal PERF does not offer. Currently the Town pays for the Police officers and Firefighters collectively with social security and PERF between 21.6-21.7% of their salaries for the current PERF. With the new plan it would go up to 24.8-24.9% going only into the retirement fund, therefore the higher yield. Neither the town nor the employee would pay into social security for the Police and Fire participating in the 77 Plan. This was attempted back in 2000 and a few other times and feels it is a good idea. It is cost prohibitive for Police and Firemen with more years of service. He feels moving forward for new employees is the best thing for the Town as it grows for a better retirement system. Trevor Sager asked if the officer or firefighter elects if they go into the 77 Plan. Mike Cornman confirmed yes, they don't have to join unless they want to. Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer added that new employees would automatically go into the fund. Mike Cornman stated, yes, unless they do not pass the physical which at that point it would be a decision whether or not to move ahead on employment activities. Sandra Hash explained that there are age requirements on the 77 Plan and if they find a good candidate that exceeds that requirement they can still be hired and put on the Municipal PERF plan. A decision needs to be made by December 1st to get it started for 2022. Sandra Hash explained the bottom line for cost difference is minimal and is a good tool to recruit. The difference is approximately \$1600.00 annually. Scott Oldham commented under the 77 Plan officers and firefighters cannot draw full social security benefits because the public employee retirement system, you receive a much-reduced version of it and asked if the current plan is similar or can you get social security and the retirement fund you are currently under. Sandra Hash explained that the current plan allows you to draw your PERF retirement and your social security and we pay into social security their whole career. On the 77 Plan we stop paying social security and pay only Medicare. Scott Oldham advised to those who choose to elect the 77 Plan and who are considering switching, that they consult a financial advisor and do some calculations to see where they would come out better, they may forego benefits that they are currently entitled to and will not get later. He stated that under the 77 Plan no matter how much you pay into social security, you will only get a small percentage later as opposed to the current plan. He does feel that it is a movement that does need to happen but does not support the fact that new hires get a choice. It needs to be a clean break and every new hire fits the 77 Plan. It could potentially present a liability down the road where they didn't pass the physical and hired them anyway then years down the road a catastrophic event occurred that could have been caught by the physical and the Town ends up liable because they didn't keep the standards for everyone. Mike Cornman agreed but moving forward with the crossover, it's just an option, but any new employee will elect the 77 Plan. Sandra Hash explained that according to the PERF representative, if a current employee is vested in the current PERF and switched to the 77 Plan and worked another 20 years, they could draw a pension from both plans. The current vesting period is 10 years and the 77 Plan is 20 years. Mike Farmer, Town Manager agreed anyone considering the plan should seek financial advice but did agree moving forward everyone be a part of the plan. Sandra Hash also pointed out another difference in the Municipal PERF is that the Town pays 3% matching and several years ago the Town Council decided to pay the employees portion in lieu of a raise one year and picked up the 3%. On the 77 Plan it is 6% instead of 3%, but overall, the cost is very close to paying the 6% by not paying into social security. It is a huge enticement for recruiting new

employees. Sandra Hash clarified that if a current employee chooses to switch plans and doesn't meet the physical requirements they would just stay on the municipal PERF. Scott Oldham added that cities are required to be on the 77 plan and eventually the Town will have to go with it. Trevor Sager made a motion to approve. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion Carried. Scott Oldham concluded discussion by asking Darla Brown, Town Attorney to prepare the Ordinance mandating that all Police and Firefighters are required to be a part of the 77 Plan. She agreed.

Resolution 21-2021 Fiscal Plan for the Farris Storage, Inc. Annexation, 5010 North Lakeview Drive

Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained that at the last Plan Commission meeting they voted to send the request for the voluntary annexation for 5010 North Lakeview Drive to the Town Council with a positive recommendation. She explained that if a property is requesting an annexation, the municipality is required to present a fiscal plan. That is the Resolution before the council, the fiscal plan for the Farris Storage, Inc. Annexation. Pamela Samples made a motion to approve. William Ellis seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion Carried.

Ordinances on Second Reading

Ordinance 2021-19 the Voluntary Annexation of 5010 North Lakeview Drive, Farris Storage, Inc.

Darla Brown, Town Attorney explained this is the Ordinance just discussed for the annexation. William Ellis made a motion to approve. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

Scott Oldham entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting November 8, 2021. Pamela Samples so moved. Scott Oldham seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion Carried.

Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll

Scott Oldham entertained a motion to pay Accounts Payable Vouchers and Payroll. William Ellis made a motion to approve. Pamela Samples seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried.

Flood Report

Michael Farmer Town Manager reported there is nothing specific and they are still working on flood plan and should be finished in the very near future. He will be talking soon about using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money for flood remediation and how that will tie into Christopher Burke Engineering efforts on the flood plan.

New Business

Authorization for Town Council President to Sign Community Crossings Matching Grant Agreement

Denise Line, Assistant Planner explained that at the last meeting she advised they were awarded a Community Crossing Matching grant in the amount of \$197,175.72. This year they are requiring permission for the Town Council president to sign the agreement, so it appears in the minutes. Denise will forward the minutes to them and they will forward it to Scott Oldham to sign through DocuSign. Denise is requesting Scott Oldham to sign the agreement once it is ready. It has been presented to Darla Brown, Town Attorney for review. Darla Brown has reviewed it and it is similar to other agreements that the Town Council has reviewed for other matching grants agreements and are subject to certain reporting, timeline and audit requirements, stating if the Town has used the money for a purpose other than what was allocated the Town will be required to pay it back. Pamela Samples made a motion to

approve. Trevor Sager seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Comments

Michael Farmer, Town Manager explained there will be a phone conference with Baker Tilley, Doug Baldessari and Paige Sansone representing them. Michael Farmer has presented them with a list for the possible uses of the ARPA money. Once they sign off that they approve of the utilization of the funds it will be presented to the council for any changes and approval. The bulk of the funds will be used for Vine Street flood remediation and possible some other Storm Water projects. He would like to also commit \$100,000.00 to the Next Level Trail Grant. He also feels Trail and Park improvement is necessary and to start the process of the Stewart Property becoming a Park. He has designated \$250,000.00 for that. All this money is in a narrative that can be changed once he gets approval to move forward and gets what is appropriate use of the funds from Baker Tilley it will be presented to the board for changes. He recommends a Work Session after approval; it could be too cumbersome for discussion in a regular meeting. He will email everyone tomorrow after the call and welcomed anyone to get on the conference call or meet after at Town Hall. Michael Farmer did state that Baker Tilley has agreed that the uses are appropriate so once they get moving he wants it to keep going strong so it might be better to wait until after the Holidays and vacations to get it started. Sandra Hash recommended that once the plan is together presenting it to Council and meet after that. Council agreed to wait until after the holidays would be better.

Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer stated last week there was an open enrollment meeting and they are staying with IU Health Plan. They offered only a 3.2% increase in premium. It was also decided to drop the Activate Clinic due to lack of participation. That will save \$20,000. which more than makes up for the increase. There were no changes in the Dental and Vision Plans.

Mike Cornman, Fire Chief thanked council again for passing the 77 Plan. It has been attempted a few times in the past and really feels it is really big move for the Town. He looks forward to the challenge to make it happen for everyone.


Council Comments


Scott Oldham expressed his condolences to the Durnil family during this time of terrible loss.


Pamela Samples wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.


Adjournment

Scott Oldham entertained a motion to adjourn. Pamela Samples so moved. Trevor Sager seconded. Roll call vote: Scott Oldham – yes; William Ellis – yes; Trevor Sager – yes; Pamela Samples – yes. Motion carried. Scott Oldham adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

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Scott Oldham, President

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William Ellis


Sandra Hash, Clerk Treasurer, IAMC, MMC