

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

A Work Session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, September 27, 2021, at 5:30 P.M., by President Todd Angerman. Members present were Todd Angerman, Shane Tucker, John Alessia, and John Yelkich. Councilman Michael Gruszka was listening via phone. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Town Attorney David Westland via Zoom, and Police Chief Jim Woestman. Also attending were Tri Creek School Superintendent Andy Anderson, representatives from Tom Foolery Productions, LLC, and one citizen. The purpose of the work session was general town business.

Lowell Marketing Presentation - Tom Byelick and Michele Pistal of Tom Foolery Productions, LLC gave a presentation on a promotion video they could prepare to promote the Town of Lowell. The Town would work with them to determine the two minute script on what they would want the promotion to entail, determine core message and target audience. The cost of the video is \$3500 and then would be our own product to distribute. Discussion followed. Council determined they liked the concept of multiple videos showing the downtown, available property such as the Costas property to help bring businesses to Lowell, etc. The first video to be promoted would be the downtown area. The agreement will be reviewed by Attorney Westland and acted on at the next regular meeting.

Discussion of American Rescue Plan Proceeds - \$2,242,598.60 - Town Manager Craig Hendrix stated the Town needs to determine the use of the ARP funds and said the application for additional funds from Indiana Finance Authority was unsuccessful for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said the current project will continue with the one million already dedicated from Lowell and one million from Cedar Lake. Mr. Hendrix said there are many other projects that could be done at Wastewater Treatment Plant, but stated he felt the best use of the funds would be to extend the sewer line west to Route 41 and Lake Prairie School. It would be an economic development. He reminded that part of the agreement with Indiana American Water was that when the sewer goes in west, they would run the water. Andy Anderson, Tri-Creek School Superintendent, stated they have been having trouble for years with their mound system and need to make a decision how to upgrade, as they are also planning to add additional classrooms. He stated IDEM may not be pushing for a plan if they knew they were working with the Town on a municipal sewer. Discussion followed. Mr. Hendrix stated a written plan on the use of the money must be approved by year end, but we have until December 2024 to spend. He said they would need at least a year to get properties and a railroad permit. Mr. Hendrix stated American Water can share the easements and if we partner with them the cost may not be as high, but said the sewer would be done first then water, as they were given a reasonable amount of time to get the water line in. A Memorandum of Understanding between Tri-Creek School and the Town will be prepared for the October 11th meeting and October 14th school board meeting.

Discussion of Speed Limits on Lowell Streets - Mr. Hendrix stated the ordinance needs to be updated with many of the new streets, and pointed out that all streets in Lowell are listed as 20 m.p.h., except the following are 30 m.p.h. - Burr Street,

Deanna Drive, Joe Martin Road, Lucas Parkway, McConnel Avenue, Mill Street - north from Main to Morse, Morse Street, Nichols Street north, Washington Street, Westmeadow Place, and 171st Street. Commercial and Holtz Road are listed as 35 m.p.h., but they are state and county roads. Discussion followed on whether some streets should be changed to 30 m.p.h., or just leaving them at 20 m.p.h. Staff will develop an ordinance with Deanna, McConnel and Lucas being changed to 20 m.p.h. Police Chief Woestman will review if he recommends any other streets need to be changed. It will be prepared by Attorney Westland and acted on at an upcoming meeting.

Discussion of developing a Committee to review Investment Options for Water Sale Proceeds - A Committee of two council members, Mike Gruszka and John Yelkich, and Clerk-Treasurer Judy Walters will be approved during the regular meeting to work with Staff to develop a plan on what banks/investment firms to use for investing the proceeds from the sale of the Water Utility. Staff will include Town Manager Hendrix, Financial Consultant Buzz Krohn, and Town Attorney David Westland. They will review companies and will narrow down to three for the Council to act on. Mr. Hendrix stated there is not a lot of options with the money because as a Town we are limited on how we can invest money. President Angerman read from State Code Title 36 and stated he believes the law can be changed if we go down state and lobby for that. The decision on how much money will be invested and how much will be spend on special projects each year will be determined by the Town Council.

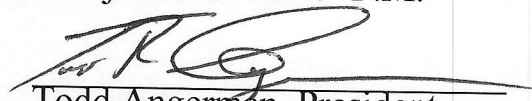
Discussion of Staffing at WWTP - A discussion followed on staffing changes and a transfer to be made at the Wastewater Treatment Plant after the water sale is complete. Discussion also was had on hiring an additional person for Sewer Distribution to help with lift station repairs.

HR Firm - Mr. Hendrix is planning a meeting with a firm that is associated with AIM on updating the employee handbook, job descriptions, and salaries. Councilman Alessia will be included in recommending the changes.

Mr. Hendrix showed Council a service pipe and valve that has been corroded from Lowell water. He stated Street Department personnel have repaired most service repairs and contractors has repaired the major leaks.

The Parade of Lights was discussed and it was determined since we are short-staffed the Town will have a Santa Parade around the neighborhoods like was done in 2020.

No further discussion, the work session adjourned at 6:45 P.M.


Todd Angerman, President

Attest:


Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer