

**Memorandum of the Meeting  
Regular Study Session/Meeting  
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland  
Monday, June 20, 2011**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth 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 20, 2011** at the time of 7:05 o'clock p.m.

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

**Others present:** John M. Bach, Public Works Director; Becky Cogley, Development Director of The ARC; and Dan Repay, Executive Director of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission were also present.

**General Substance of Matters Discussed**

1. The Town Council received a presentation from Ms. Cogley regarding the ARC. She reported that she was present to raise awareness of the ARC and noted her professional association with the ARC. She further noted that the ARC will soon be observing its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Ms. Cogley presented a brief survey of the history of the ARC, which included a discussion of how the agency changed its name from the ARC Bridges to ARC Northwest Indiana. She also asked about a jobs posting link to the website. She further noted that ARC is always actively looking for business opportunities with which to partner. (Sheltered workshops are hosted in four locations) She still further reported on ARC's vocational advocacy and placement as well as offering opportunities for volunteers.

The Town Council informally suggested that perhaps the suggestions for cooperative links for the Website could be initiated.

Ms. Cogley departed at this time.

2. The Town Council received a presentation from Dan Repay, Executive Director of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission offering a brief survey regarding the current reconstitution of the Commission, by state legislation. He noted it is now a five member panel, one of which must be a representative from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The discussion included issues related to whether or not the Griffith leg of the flood protection levee is completed. Mr. Repay reported that the Griffith leg is not considered fully flood protected owing to work that Griffith performed and it was not completed to US Army Corps. Specifications.

Mr. Repay further indicated that he hoped to seek legislation in the next session of the Indiana General Assembly to permit the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission to levy fees to support completion and maintenance of the levee. The discussion included the ways and means of the preventative maintenance of the pumps station as well as grants that may or may not be available to the bordering cities and towns.

With leave from the Town Council, Mr. Rick Volbrecht, 9331 Parkway Drive, Highland, directed a question regarding a fair method of fee assessment for multiple parcels that are being treated as a single holding.

Mr. Volbrecht further inquired whether or not the fund base would be all properties in the county or only those in the watershed. It was noted that the desired enabling legislation would be all properties in the watershed of Lake County but exclude Porter County.

3. The Town Council and the Public Works Director discussed his desire to seek to hire a person in a position that would be developed as a successor. He made a point that this would not be necessarily to fill the vacancy in the General Supervisor position, previously held by the late Jack Lannon. The Public Works Director further indicated that he needed a position that would perform supervisory work at the public works site.

The Public Works Director acknowledged the informal inclination to move the Public Works Director office from the Town Hall to the Public Works Facility at Kennedy Avenue. The Public Works Director noted that the facility could not accommodate that presently, but that he was seeking quotes or information regarding costs related to modifying the site to accommodate the relocation.

The discussion included an examination of the Public Works Director's delegation of authority and its import to the efficacy of any position that may be authorized. He further noted that his office is tasked with a great deal and it is straining capacity.

The discussion included whether or not this would be an opportunity to restructure the Public Works Department. The discussion included assaying whether or not such a successor person was in the current workforce. It was further noted that the Public Works Director discussed this with his current leadership and noted that he believes he needs to seek someone by advertising and seeking candidates.

The Public Works Director was requested to present some description about his current post and the proposed position(s).

4. The Public Works Director and the Town Council discussed the status of paving particularly on Parrish Avenue, between Highway Avenue and LaPorte Avenue; and Fifth Street between 41<sup>st</sup> Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The discussion noted that a slow down is in place owing to an Operators Strike. It was also noted that some of the roadway issues may be addressed by patching.
5. The Town Council and the Public Works Director discussed whether or not a traffic control devise could be installed at the 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue access for the Number Two Fire Station.

The Town Council President reported that owing to his work commitment he would be absent from the Regular Plenary Business meeting of Monday, June 27, 2011.

There being no further business to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council, of **Monday, June 20, 2011**, was adjourned at 8:25 o'clock p.m.

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