

August 19, 2008

Regular Meeting of the Fremont Town Council

The meeting was called to order by President Loretta Smart at 6:00 p.m.

Silent roll call: *Loretta Smart, Steve Brown, John Ludy, Kay Clark and Joe Thomas.*

Others representing the Town were:

<i>Chris Snyder, Town Superintendent</i>	<i>Mary K. Parsons, IAMC/CMC/CPFA- Clerk-Treasurer</i>
<i>Martha C. Hagerty, Judge</i>	<i>Kurt Bachman, Town Attorney</i>
<i>Eric Hufnagle, Fire Chief</i>	<i>Steve Gard, Water Superintendent</i>
<i>Danny Fraiser, Street Superintendent</i>	<i>Jim Humbarger, Wastewater Superintendent</i>

Others attending were: *Jim Measel with WLKI, Jim Shilander with the Herald Republican, Lynn and Mark Blue, from Lagrange Products, and Gary Nielander with the Steuben County Economic Development Corporation.*

Minutes: *Councilmember Joe Thomas moved to approve the minutes, second by Councilmember John Ludy, all in favor.*

Claims, payroll and comp time: *Councilmember Joe Thomas moved to approve claims, payroll, and comp time, second by Councilmember John Ludy, all in favor.*

OLD BUSINESS:

By-Pass: *Superintendent Chris Snyder informed the Council that Region 3A was working on the closing documents for both the State and Federal grants. Superintendent Snyder presented a sign proof from ACS graphics showing Erastus Farnham Memorial Truck Route. Chris asked the Council to let him know their thoughts. E & B paving will be here to repair the pavement.*

Downtown Project: *Region 3A is working on the closing document for the grant. Permits should be issued soon for the temporary reverse angle parking trial on the south side of State Road 120.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Tax Abatement Request: *LaGrange Products requested a tax abatement on equipment that would create ten to twelve new positions. They currently have about 100 employees. Councilmember Ludy asked when benefits would be available to the new hires and Mr. Lynn Blue replied they would be hired through a temporary service for sixty days and then go into their system. They would receive benefits in sixty one days. Discussion ensued as to the products made at the facility. Councilmember John Ludy made a motion to accept the tax abatement agreement and Resolution #2008-6 allowing a tax abatement for five years, second by Councilmember Kay Clark, all in favor. Councilmember Ludy moved to waive the second reading, second by Councilmember Kay Clark, all in favor.*

Salt Shortage: *Superintendent Snyder informed the Council that he was notified a few weeks ago that we will not receive any salt for 2008-2009 winter season. Chris will continue to research this, but it appears to be a state wide problem.*

Drainage on Wayne Street: Superintendent Chris Snyder informed the Council that the Dollar General Store was underway. The drainage problem in that area still needs addressed and he has received approval from the County Drainage Board that they will pay a maximum of \$1000.00. The Lumber Company will pay \$3,000.00 and Chris would like the Town to commit up to \$3,000.00. Superintendent Snyder said that Wilson Excavating will be in contact with him daily to tell him the dollar figure he is up to and will not exceed the 7,000.00 available. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Steve Brown made a motion to approve up to \$3,000.00 for this expense, second by Councilmember Kay Clark, all in favor.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Eric Hufnagle would like to request the hiring of a full time first shift employee. They have had the funds allocated in their budget for the past two years and wanted to make sure they would be able to fund the position for the future. They are having a problem with coverage for the day shift with so many of the volunteers moving to days in their regular jobs. Chief Hufnagle will get the proposed job description to the Council members and this will be tabled until the next meeting.

Utility Credits: Councilmember Joe Thomas made a motion to accept the Utility Credits proposed, second by Councilmember John Ludy, all in favor.

Trick or Treat Bags: The Police Chief was unable to attend the meeting but would like to make a request to purchase Trick or Treat bags for \$352.00 plus shipping. Attorney Kurt Backman graciously made the offer to pay for a portion of the bags. Councilmember Kay Clark made the motion to purchase the bags, from McGruff Industries, second by Councilmember Joe Thomas, all in favor.

Tornado Siren: Fire Chief Eric Hufnagle and Superintendent Chris Snyder would like to request the purchase of a third Tornado siren which would be placed on the Southeast quadrant of Town to ensure total town coverage. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Joe Thomas made the motion to purchase the siren not to exceed \$19,000.00, second by Councilmember Kay Clark, all in favor.

2009 Budget: Clerk-Treasurer Kathy Parsons reminded the Council of the upcoming budget dates, which are August 26 and September 8, 2008. The General fund is actually advertised nineteen dollars less than the 2008 budget. The budget forms will be submitted to the County prior to the hearing to comply with the new law requiring the budget to be submitted to the County for their nonbinding opinion before the Town adopts.

Trash Rates: Superintendent Snyder reported that the Town may need to take a look at implementing a new trash rate for 2009. The Town currently pays \$10.58 per household for trash pick up with \$4.58 of the trash bill paid by the Town, and the resident paying \$6.00. The Council will contemplate this information and bring back up for discussion at the August 26th meeting.

REPORTS:

Court – monthly report submitted. Martha C. Hagerty reported the LIDAR is already generating additional revenue for the Court.

Police – monthly report submitted. Nothing to add.

Street – monthly report submitted. Nothing to add.

Sewer –monthly report submitted. Wastewater superintendent Jim Humbarger requested to replace pumps at the lift station at Willow Prairie. After some discussion, Councilmember Joe Thomas moved to purchase for \$10,380.00, second by Councilmember Steve Brown, all in favor. Superintendent Humbarger also requested to have aeration pumps repaired at \$4,364.00. Councilmember Steve Brown moved to make the repair to the blowers, second by Councilmember John Ludy, all in favor.

Water –monthly report submitted. Nothing to add.

Town Superintendent – monthly report submitted. Superintendent reported that school would be starting on the 20th and we will no longer be providing a Crossing Guard at noontime since kindergarten is all day.

Fire Department –monthly report submitted. Fire Chief Hufnagle would like to purchase a medical suction unit for the Fire Department. Councilmember Joe Thomas moved to approve the purchase, second by Councilmember John Ludy, all in favor.

Park Board –No report submitted.

Other Business: Councilmember Joe Thomas moved to approve those wanting to attend the Roundtable in Hamilton in September, second by Councilmember Kay Clark, all in favor.

Councilmember Joe Thomas moved to approve those wanting to attend the annual IACT conference in South Bend, second by Councilmember Kay Clark, all in favor.

Councilmember Steve Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Councilmember Kay Clark, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

August 19, 2008

Loretta Smart, Council President

Steve Brown, Vice President

Joe Thomas, Council Member

John N. Ludy, Council Member

Kay Clark, Council Member

Attest:

Mary K. "Kathy" Parsons, IAMC/CMC/CPFA

Clerk-Treasurer