

Town Council Meeting  
 Tuesday, May 28, 2013  
 6:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday May 28, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

President Hoffman called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Hoffman thanked everyone for coming.

Members answering roll call were: Councilman John Drybread, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Vice President Curtis Rooks, Councilwoman Kami Ervin and President Ron Hoffman. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, and Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda were the minutes of the Council Meeting of May 13, 2013. Councilman Rooks made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said claims were next on the agenda and handed it over to Clerk Treasurer Finley.

Clerk Treasurer Finley said everyone should have received the claim docket for the past period in their packet. He said he had looked over all the claims, signed off on them, and handed them over to the council for approval. Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the claims as submitted. Councilwoman Ervin seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was Jeremy Pell with White River Township Fire Department and a dispatch consolidation update. He then handed it over to Jeremy Pell for his presentation.

Mr. Pell said he is the chairman of the 911 board and had met with the council in the past and had given a very broad description of how the dispatch consolidation would work. The council had asked at that time for Mr. Pell to keep them updated on the consolidation and that was what he wanted to do. David Mann and David Lutz had been attending the meetings and informing the council for the most part but Mr. Pell wanted to offer any assistance he could give. Mike Watkins was also with Mr. Pell. He is Johnson County's dedicated 911 director. Mr. Pell said he would leave it to the council to tell him how much they wanted to hear about the consolidation.

President Hoffman said some people may not be as informed as others so a brief description of what the consolidation is and where it is going would be great.

Mr. Pell said the county commissioners have passed a resolution that calls for one dispatch center and they have committed to building a new facility and issuing a bond in 2014 to build that facility. The building is expected to be done toward the end of 2014. The county council has started working on the funding model. They have come to the general consensus that the state 911 fees and the balance that is needed to fund the center would be distributed across the county based on a population model split 85% police and 15% fire.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if a location had been decided on.

Mr. Pell said it looks like the best option is behind the Sheriff's office. Everyone has committed for the most part that that will be the new location. The County Council is currently looking for agencies to show interest in participating in the consolidation. A letter of intent has been drafted that they would like agencies to sign to show that they are interested in doing this. He stated that their approach has been that they would like to work together and we are stronger together if we pool all of our resources. The state, however, has not given many options. There can be no more than two dispatch centers. So the county could do two centers but all the studies have shown that agencies see benefits in having a single dispatch center within the county.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if the 911 board had taken in to account that Edinburgh lies in three counties.

Councilman Rooks said some of the concerns have been what will happen if someone in Edinburgh from Bartholomew County calls 911, which county receives the 911 call and how will that effect response time.

Mr. Pell said he would rely on Mike Watkins to speak on the technical aspect. The board does realize that Edinburgh is in a little different situation than others. That would be where the local agreement would come into play. If there are things unique to the town, that would be the place to address some of those things. Mr. Pell asked Mike Watkins and Town Marshall Mann to speak a little about call transfers between counties.

Town Marshall Mann said if an Edinburgh resident dials 911, regardless of the county, that call will go to the Johnson County dispatch center and there would be no call transfers or delays. The only time there would be a question on which center the call would go to would be when calling from a cell phone.

Councilman Ervin asked if landlines would be picked up based on locality of the line.

Town Marshall Mann said each line is programmed to call a specific dispatch center.

Councilman Rooks said he recently had to dial 911 and his call went directly to the Edinburgh Dispatchers and they sent out the appropriate units and the response time was around 3 minutes.

Town Marshall Mann said the location of the dispatch center should have no effect on the response time. Rather than answering the phone in Edinburgh they will simply be answering it at the consolidated dispatch center but they still press the same transmit button on the radio to dispatch the units.

Councilwoman Ervin said she knew Fire Chief Smith had some concerns and asked if he had been attending the 911 meetings.

Fire Chief Smith said he had not attended the meetings but he had been working with OCI (Owens Communications Inc.) and some of the pagers would have to be upgraded because the current pagers will not go off when the new system is in place.

Councilwoman Ervin asked what kind of costs the town would be looking at.

Mr. Pell said the 911 board agreed that all of the centers in the county should pay something and that is where the funding model comes in to play. The towns in the county that did not have their own dispatch centers had been getting by without paying for their own dispatch center. The new funding model will include all cities and towns within the county and the cost will be distributed based on population. Mr. Pell handed out a sheet that had the contribution amounts from each agency within county. Edinburgh's contribution would be \$12,888.18 for October through December of 2014 and \$25,776.36 every 6 months after that.

Councilman Simpson asked how many employees the center would have after the consolidation.

Mike Watkins said the total staff would be 36 and there would be 7 or 8 dispatchers on shift and one supervisor for each shift. He said that is similar to what Hendricks County runs which has become the mirror county for Johnson County.

President Hoffman asked who would be getting those jobs.

Mr. Watkins said that had not been determined yet and that could be part of the inter-local agreements.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if the contributions on the sheet were annual payments.

Mr. Pell said the building should be finished in October of 2014 therefore the payments would begin in October of 2014. There would be a first payment of October through December and then ongoing semi-annual payments after that. He stated that with units that have dispatch centers and are levying a tax for that, may be able to transfer that levy to the county so Edinburgh would no longer pay the semi-annual payments. So while the town would not pay, they also would not have the tax levy for the center.

Councilman Rooks asked what the figures were based on.

Mr. Pell said very generally, the budget for the center will be \$3.4 million. The center will receive \$1.6 million from the state. The balance is then divided up between the units based on population and then statistically taking all the 911 calls from the nation and figuring about 85% are for police issues and 15% are for Fire and Rescue.

With no further discussion Mr. Pell and Mr. Watkins thanked the council for allowing them to present their information.

President Hoffman thanked Mr. Pell and Mr. Watkins for helping clarify the dispatch consolidation.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the Staff Report on Tax Abatement Review by Wade Watson. He said the council should have received in their packets a staff report from Building Commissioner Watson who is the person now in charge of reviewing tax abatements for the town. The staff report was for approval for all of the abatements except one for Hisada because the abatement had expired. Wade will communicate this to the company.

Town Attorney Huddleston said it would also need to be communicated with the corresponding county to let them know that the company will now be taxed to the fullest extent.

Councilman Simpson asked if the county overlooked the abatement that had expired.

Mr. Watson said he believes that is what happened. It is possible that the county caught it and has been taxing the company and that it was just an oversight on the company's part.

Councilman Simpson made a motion to approve the staff report recommendations for denial of the tax abatement on Hisada and approval on the remainder of the abatements. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said Building Commissioner Watson also has a few other abatements with him, one for personal property for CL Tech Inc. and they are requesting a 5 year abatement. The staff recommendation is that council request a representative of CL Tech appear before the council to explain how it will benefit the community. He said in his opinion this should be something the council considers since they have not been as diligent as they should have been in the past.

Councilwoman Ervin said she agreed and if an executive meeting was going to be planned to discuss abatements she would like to have it as soon as possible. Councilwoman Ervin made a motion to approve the staff recommendation but have a meeting on tax abatements prior to the company appearing before the council. Councilman Rooks seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman asked Building Commissioner Watson to explain his last issue with the abatements.

Mr. Watson said Centerline Mold sent in a CF-1 to renew their real property abatement which was approved in 2005. There is a discrepancy in the paperwork. The original statement of benefits was for a 5 year abatement however the council passed the resolution for 10 years. The county set the amortization schedule up for 5 years and therefore has expired. He said he had spoken with the owner of the company and he remembered discussing the abatement being for 10 years which is consistent for what state code calls for. Most likely the discrepancy was a clerical error. Mr. Watson requested authorization from council to contact Bartholomew County to find out what they would require to be submitted to redo the amortization for 10 years. Councilman Rooks made a motion to allow Building Commissioner Watson to proceed as outlined. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.

Councilman Simpson said he believes this is a good idea for the council to become more educated on these abatements. The council had signed them in the past but never actually known what exactly they were approving. They had trusted the opinion of the staff giving the recommendation which may not have been correct.

President Hoffman said when he first joined the council, the former town attorney handled the abatements and all the council knew was the attorney said they were alright so they must be alright. He said he has been educated on this matter recently and thinks it is a good idea that the entire council be educated.

Councilman Rooks thanked Mr. Watson for what he has done with the tax abatement process. He said Mr. Watson has been exactly what the council has needed.

President Hoffman said Clerk Treasurer Finley has also been very involved in the learning process of these abatements. Because he is the Chief Financial Officer of the town, he and Mr. Watson agreed that he should involved in the process.

Mr. Watson said he would like to thank Mr. Finley for his assistance in the learning process as well as the staff report and would also like to thank Mr. Huddleston for his assistance on the matter.

#### Council Comments:

Councilman Drybread thanked all the departments for their help getting the cemetery ready for Memorial Day. The town had received a lot of good comments about the service. He also said he had received an e-mail from the Merchants Association that the Buzzard Festival would not be held in the coming years.

Councilman Simpson also commented on how nice the cemetery looked for Memorial Day weekend.

Councilman Rooks said the new flowers and trees downtown look great and he was impressed with how fast the work downtown was done.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if the town had started spraying for mosquitoes yet this year.

Councilman Drybread said they had not but he believed everything was ready for them to begin spraying in June.

Clerk Treasurer Finley asked when the council wanted to begin their budget workshops.


President Hoffman said they usually do one in July and one in August.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if we could add that to next month's agenda so the council would have a better idea of the summer calendar.


Clerk Treasurer Finley added that he would be out of the office a few days at a Clerk Treasurer conference and a budget workshop so he would have more information on the budget after that.

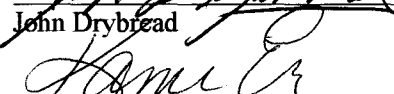
Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.


**EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

  
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Ron Hoffman, President

  
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Curtis Rooks, Vice President

  
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John Drybread

  
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Kami Ervin

  
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Jeffrey A. Simpson

ATTEST:

  
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Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer