

**Special Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, October 28, 2019**  
**5:00 P.M. Town Hall**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a special session on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

President Jerry Lollar called the meeting to order.

**Members answering roll call:** Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Vice President Dawn Graham, Councilman Ryan Piercefield, and President Jerry Lollar. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin, Huddleston, Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, and Town Manager JT Doane.

**Fire Department 2020** – Town Manger JT Doane said our consultant , Mike Herron, was unavailable for this meeting but he has compiled some information for discussion.

Councilman Piercefield said there was a lack of communication between the council and the fire department on the plans for 2020 so the council felt it was necessary to invite the fire and rescue staff to this discussion. He explained that the council needs to have a plan in place for staffing when Allen Smith retires at the beginning of next year. We cannot rush this process but need to ensure we do not have a break in service.

Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley said Mr. Herron had put together some staffing estimates. The estimated total to run this department with his staffing numbers was about \$930,000. Mr. Finley explained that while we could fund that number for the first year or two from cash balances, it would be difficult to sustain after that cash ran out. He said he would be much more comfortable between \$650,000 and \$750,000. Between revenues and appropriations from the department will bring in approximately \$710,000 in 2020. He explained the different revenue streams.

Discussion was held regarding personnel costs including benefits and insurance.

Councilman Piercefield said there was discussion at one point about a fire district but there was an issue with that plan.

Mr. Huddleston said it is a possibility but the process would be difficult as it would involve county commissioners from three separate counties.

President Lollar said Mr. Finley said we could fund the \$930,000 for a couple of years on cash balance. He said the bond for the golf course pays off in a couple of years and will require less property tax dollars. Those funds could be transferred to the fire department at that time.

Councilwoman Graham said she thinks we need to move forward with the process but we need to figure out what to do in the interim until we get the administrative side figured out.

Mr. Doane said there are two scenarios. The first is to form a contract with the department. The town would then pay the department a fee for providing service to the town and the town would have limited control of the department. The second is to continue as-is and appoint someone to be interim chief until the staffing issues can be sorted out. He said his main concern is that we create something that we can fund long term. We do not want to be five years down the line wondering how we are going to fund fire and ems service.

Fire Chief said he would like the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Herron and discuss the future of the department as well. The current fire department building is very old and does not have space for much more than a volunteer department. The equipment is old but well maintained but in good shape.

Brandon Routier of the volunteer fire department said Mr. Smith does runs for the equivalent of about 3 or 4 people. The department is going to need some qualified people to make some of these runs in the interim. He said he had worked with someone who worked on the fire territory in Plainfield. She said because of the town's location, a fire district probably would not work but a

fire territory would be a possibility. He explained that tax rates in the mall area are much lower than what a citizen of Edinburgh pays. That would be our best option for increased revenue.

John Henderson of the volunteer fire department said he wants to thank the council for understanding that there is a need for more funding for the fire department. He said having people at the station 24 hours a day is crucial. It cuts the response time nearly in half. Currently when a call goes out a volunteer must go to the fire station first before he or she can actually respond to the emergency. He explained his ideas for staffing. He also explained an equipment replacement matrix.

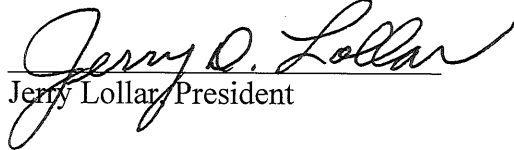
Councilwoman Graham said she would like to see Mr. Herron meet with the current fire staff to discuss who is willing to continue with the department and how many more employees we will need.

Discussion was held regarding future housing for the department.

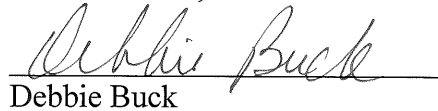
President Lollar said he apologized that it took this council this long to involve the current fire department staff in these discussions. He said it was not done on purpose. The council is committed to helping get the department where it needs to be financially.

Being no further business or comments, Councilman Piercefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

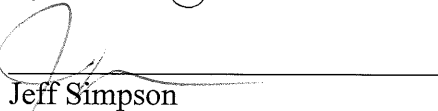
**EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

  
Jerry Lollar, President

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Dawn Graham, Vice President

  
Debbie Buck

  
Ryan Piercefield

  
Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:

  
Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer