

**Special Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, August 31, 2020**  
**5:45 P.M. Town Hall**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a special session on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 5:45 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

President Jeff Simpson called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

**Members answering roll call:** *Due to the COVID-19 public emergency and per Executive Order 20-09, members may have attended electronically (e).* Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Vice President Dawn Graham, Councilman Ryan Piercefield, and President Jeff Simpson. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley (e), and Town Manager JT Doane.

**Water Department Iron and Manganese Study** – Town Manager JT Doane said at the previous meeting we discussed this pilot study for the water department. This has been reviewed by Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston and is before the council for approval.

Water Superintendent Bill Jones gave a brief recap of what the pilot study would cover. The future water plant will be designed based on this study.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the pilot study. Councilwoman Buck seconded. Motion carried.

**Town Marshall Employment Agreement** – Mr. Doane said this is the annual agreement for our Town Marshall, Doyne Little. This is a one-year agreement that will expire August 31, 2021. Mr. Little has already signed the agreement.

Councilman Piercefield made a motion to approve the Town Marshal Employment Agreement. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

**Don and Barb Pierse – 400 East Main Cross Street** – Barb Pierse said she had submitted a letter to the town requesting their property be annexed so that it could have sewer connection and become a buildable lot. She said they are at the age that they do not want to build a new home and would like to sell the lot to someone that would build.

Building Commissioner Wade Watson gave an explanation of the lot. The lot will not support a septic system. Sewer service is available, but not easily accessed. He explained the challenges of getting the property connected to the sewer system. He explained that there are few options. The most preferable would be to connect to the sewer system on the southside of the street if there is enough gravity fall. The other options would be a grinder pump with a private force main or to tap onto the existing 2-inch force main which would require special equipment and backflow preventers.

Councilwoman Graham asked what the cost to the town would be.

Mr. Watson said those cost would be found out during site development. He explained that the lot is unsellable as-is except for as an additional vacant lot. Annexing it would make it sellable and letter explaining the sewage connection process would go with the seller disclosures.

Discussion was held regarding the process for annexation and the possibilities of connection without annexation.

Councilman Piercefield asked if they were requesting water service as well.

Ms. Pierse said water would be nice, but sewer is essential.

Mr. Huddleston said he could review the options and get back with the council on those processes.

Further discussion was held regarding the property.

**Budget Workshop** – Mr. Finley said since the last meeting he was able to meet with department heads and get the General fund deficit to approximately \$750,000. He said he would still like to get that deficit closer to \$500,000 for this year. Operating at that large of a deficit is not sustainable long term. He said he is comfortable advertising the budget that is being presented tonight but would still like to make some changes before adoption.

Mr. Finley said his plan for the meeting was to go through the department budgets that had changes and see how the council feels about each budget. He explained that the forms presented to the council showed the 2020 adopted budget, the numbers from budget workshop 1, and the numbers he is proposing the town advertise.

**Council** – Mr. Finley said in the council budget he made an increase to council wages. He said the plan would be to increase the base wages for the council and stop paying for extra meetings. He explained overall the council budget decreased drastically because of the reduction in capital outlays.

Discussion was held regarding campaign finance forms.

**Buildings and Grounds** – Mr. Finley said one change he is going to suggest is dissolving the Buildings and Grounds department and moving those employees to the Parks and Recreation department. This would require us to move levy from the General fund to the Parks and Recreation. In turn, the budget for the Parks and Recreation would increase and the General fund budget would decrease for a net zero overall.

The council had no issues with making this change.

Discussion was held regarding levy allocation.

**Police** – Mr. Finley said for the Police budget, he and Town Marshall Little were able to decrease this budget by about \$120,000. He said they had recalculated employee wages and found an error in the calculations. He said they also were able to eliminate some expenses from the capital outlays line items.

**Fire and Rescue** – Mr. Finley said the Fire budget is where we will see the biggest change. He and Chief Herron re-evaluated the other wages line item that is used for emergency volunteer pay. Since the transition to paid stand-by, we have rarely had to utilize these funds. We put \$5,000 in that line item in case we had some large issues come up. We also removed the majority of the building repairs from the budget. He said overall they were able to pull just over \$300,000 from that budget. He explained that Chief Herron wanted to leave in the additional full-time position for and Administrative Chief. He said these numbers are higher than he had anticipated, and he wants to make sure we can sustain this department long term.

**Cemetery** – Mr. Finley said in the Cemetery we were able to eliminate about \$70,000 from the machinery and equipment line item.

President Simpson asked what portion of Mr. Teter's salary comes from the Cemetery.

Mr. Finley said we are planning on 25%.

**Street** – Mr. Finley said he has not made any changes to the Street budget yet. However, most likely he will need to move some levy from the Street fund to the General fund. Once the levy is moved, we will need to cut the street repair line item to balance that budget.

**Parks and Recreation** – Mr. Finley said the only changes to this budget we discussed earlier regarding the Buildings and Grounds transfer. This budget was increased by \$286,845 and the Buildings and Grounds was decreased to zero from \$286,845.

Mr. Finley said when he advertises this budget, he will include the levy in both the General and Parks and Recreation funds. This will give the town flexibility in case we need to make a change before the adoption. The town tax rate will look inflated in the advertisement.

Mr. Finley showed a budget worksheet that showed the projected end balance for each fund. He gave a brief rundown of those numbers for each fund. He said he will be entering these numbers into Gateway and submitting the Form 3 for advertisement by this Friday.

President Simpson said the council and Mr. Doane are good with what was presented.


**Other Business**

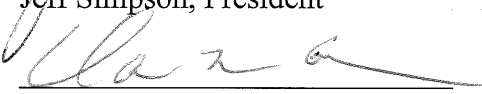
Mr. Doane thanked Chief Herron and his staff for progressing the Fire department so quickly. He said they have been working on standard operating guidelines for the department. He recommend that the council allow Mr. Huddleston to review those operating guidelines.

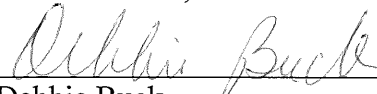
Councilwoman Buck made a motion to authorize Mr. Huddleston to review the standard operating guidelines for the Fire department. Councilwoman Graham seconded. Motion carried.

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

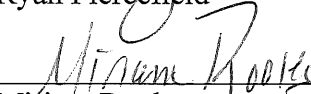
**EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL**

  
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Jeff Simpson, President

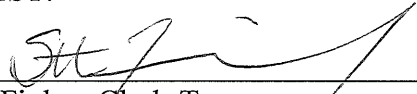
  
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Dawn Graham, Vice President

  
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Debbie Buck

  
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Ryan Piercefield

  
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Miriam Rooks

ATTEST:

  
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Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer