

The Santa Claus Town Council met in special session on July 24, 2019 at the Santa Claus Town Hall located at 90 N Holiday Blvd Santa Claus, In. The meeting was called to order by President Michael Johannes at 4:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Kevin Burke, John Bowen, Michael Johannes & Seth Windell

Absent: Jason Little

Also, Present: Superintendent; Russ Luthy, Clerk-Treasurer; Kelly Greulich

COMMUNITY CROSSING GRANT FINACIAL COMMITMENT:

Russ Luthy stated to the council the second call for projects concerning the CC Grant 2020 is open, Buffaloville road would be our next project at an estimate of \$ 175,000.00.

John Bowen made a motion to have council president Michael Johannes sign the Community Crossing Grant financial commitment letter for 2020 and Seth Windell seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

BUDGET:

Kelly Greulich stated since our last meeting, during budget workshop the council discussed adding to the 2020 budget a Town Manager. Gathered some information on town's similar in population that have a town manager their budgets range from \$ 105,000.00 (Ferdinand) to \$ 275,000.00 (Syracuse). Here is a rough draft of a budget in regards to a town manager: base pay including cell phone stipend, deferred compensation, Holiday and safety bonuses \$63,800.00, payroll taxes \$ 5,000.00, office supplies \$, 2,000.00, miscellaneous \$ 500.00, gasoline/mileage \$ 3,000.00, telephone/internet \$ 1,000.00, outside service \$ 2,000.00, postage \$300.00, travel & training \$ 2,000.00, public notice \$ 400.00, vehicle/equipment repairs \$ 1,000.00, liability insurance \$ 2,000.00, software maintenance \$ 800.00, promotional expenses \$ 1,000.00, subscriptions/dues \$ 1,000.00, equipment \$ 6,000.00 and vehicle \$ 25,000.00 for a total of \$ 129,800.00. Assuming this would be a three-way split between general, water & wastewater budgets. This would come out to be about \$ 43,270.00 for each budget. Greulich stated the council could wait on purchasing a vehicle and just pay travel mileage to make sure the new position works out for the town.

A lengthy discussion followed

Kevin Burke suggested to the council to read the article that was in the Herald last night concerning the turnover the Dubois County police departments is having, it's just not us it is everywhere.

Michael Johannes stated there is no way we can take everyone's pay up in one year and be competitive, it's going have to happen over a period of two to three years.

Seth Windell made a motion to move forward with the budget 2020 with an increase of 10% in the general salaries and payroll taxes including adding the town manager and John Bowen seconded the motion.

Ayes: John Bowen, Michael Johannes & Seth Windell Nays: Kevin Burke Motion carried

John Bowen stated he had a comment concerning the DNR Grant, Bowen has about two weeks to get back with DNR with less frills. Bowen recommends adding the north loop back into the grant application.

Seth Windell stated people that use Yellig Trail want the gravel and not asphalt to run on. Maybe we should be talking to Richard to find out who is actually using the trails before the town goes paving everything.

John Bowen stated it is the intent that all the trails have a hard surface.

Russ Luthy stated he would like to put his two cents in concerning a town manager, not sure this is a good time for a town manager. Not sure the town can financially sustain a town manager and second of all the starting salary is going to be \$ 63,000.0, there is no way you are going to get someone to do that position for that money. Concerning the trail project that was discussed the other night I want to make sure I have council approval with making those alignment changes for the two parcels on the Santa Claus Lincoln Discovery Trail.

Michael Johannes stated he was under the impression that the trail was to stay in the right-a-way, how did this happen?

Russ Luthy stated technically the trail is still in the right-a-way but to accommodate the trail construction would have gotten onto the property, the design process first had a retaining wall that would have been about 400 feet at a cost of about \$100.00 per linear foot.

Kelly Greulich stated she had spoken with Russ Luthy about the 2020 trail projects. In 2020 the Eastside trail will Let at a cost of about \$ 1.4 million the town should be financially able to pay the 20% of that cost with the money appropriated in the 2020 budget. The rest of the Santa Claus Lincoln Discovery Trail will not Let until 2024 giving the town time to save up funding for that project.

ADJOURNMENT:

John Bowen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 P.M. and Kevin Burke seconded the motion.

Ayes: All Nays: None Motion carried

Michael Johannes, President

John Bowen, Vice President

Seth Windell, Member

Kevin Burke, Member

ATTEST:

Jason Little, Member

Kelly K. Greulich,
Santa Claus Clerk Treasurer