

Rocky Ripple Town Board Minutes 7/8/2014

Town meeting began at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council member Carla Gaff-Clark opened the meeting and introduced Larry Weaver, an independent insurance agent who wanted to talk to the town about private flood insurance. Larry said that there is now an alternative to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). He said that Lloyds of London has entered the flood insurance arena as a 3rd party flood insurer and he has sold several policies within the town of Rocky Ripple that have been underwritten by Lloyds of London. Larry said that Lloyds usually costs 40% to 60% of what NFIP FEMA flood insurance costs, or .7% versus NFIP's 2% of the insured amount. Larry's phone number is 317-222-6206 and his email address is larry@weavgrp.com.

Council member Brad Barcom then talked about the Record of Decision (ROD) that the Army Corps of Engineers handed down on 6/27/2014. The Corps has officially endorsed the Westfield Alignment to complete the Indianapolis North Side Flood Reduction Project, Phase 3B. However, the city of Indianapolis, the co-sponsor of the project has rejected said alignment and has asked the Corps to perform an "analysis" to finish the levee project on the West bank of the canal as opposed to the East side, the alignment currently endorsed by the Corp's ROD. Brad Barcom noted that he contacted the Corps directly and their representative said that they are only capable of endorsing and funding the alignment that supported by the ROD. As it stands, the city cannot gain funding for the West bank alignment without further analysis and review by the Corps. Brad will follow-up with the Corp's project lead to gain a definitive understanding of the funding process for the West bank alignment.

Council member Robert Tomey spoke to this point and expressed concerns about the City of Indianapolis' intent to finish the levee project on the West side of the canal. He said that this alignment would be devastating to Rocky Ripple. Not only would it take one of the town's streets from which we get Local Roads and Streets (LRS) funds, but it would also take 10 to 15 homes from Rocky Ripple which constitutes a significant portion of the town's tax base. Robert Tomey stated that because this West bank alignment would only adversely affect the Town of Rocky Ripple and not help it in any form that he proposed that the town of Rocky Ripple "adamantly" oppose the West bank alignment officially and also that the town seek legal council to ensure that no Rocky Ripple homes are taken if neither the city of Indianapolis nor the Army Corps of Engineers is willing to offer the town any form of additional flood protection for the town of Rocky Ripple. Robert Tomey proposed a resolution to oppose the West Bank alignment and to seek legal council to defend Rocky Ripple against the West bank alignment of the levee. Brad Barcom seconded the motion and Carla made the vote unanimous. The town council members said that they would seek council who specialized in areas of imminent domain.

At this point, Mandy Redmond and other citizens of Rocky Ripple requested that the city of Indianapolis come to a town board meeting and explain their intentions with respect to the levee project and flood protection for Rocky Ripple. Brad Barcom said that he would call Lori Miser and request that the city come to the August board meeting to explain their plans. Brad Barcom and Robert Tomey also stated

that they would like to schedule a meeting with Congressman Andre Carson to discuss the concerns of Rocky Ripple. Robert Tomey said that he would work to schedule the appointment.

The Board opened the discussion up to public concerns and Joseph Tanasovich said that he would like to propose that Rocky Ripple seek the assistance of the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs to review the Rocky Ripple budget with respect to its income and expenses. He said that currently the town is bringing in 130.00 per person while spending 160.00. The board voted unanimously to move forward with the project and Brad Barcom volunteered to be the primary contact for said project.

Robert Tomey asked if everyone approved of the new paint scheme that Dan Foreman used on the Town Hall garage. Everyone agreed and Dan was given the go-ahead to finish the project using the same paint scheme on the town hall.

Mandy Redmond asked if recent meeting minutes were available. She said that they weren't online. Brad Barcom said that he would see to it that meeting minutes were posted on the town's website.

Officer Mike Keifer noted that John Stohler and others filled potholes in town and everyone was grateful. Robert Tomey floated the possibility of getting a hopper for the town for future patching endeavors. Mike also noted that he would get routine maintenance done on the town truck. Dan Foreman said that he would pressure wash the truck when he washed the backside of the town hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.