



BROWNSBURG



SENTINEL

A News / Commentary Publication

Informative / Insightful

January 31, 2016

A New Year - Same Issues

January Town Council Highlights

With the start of the New Year, the council looks much different. The incumbents are Ashley Bacsu (Hobbs), Dennis Dawes and Sean Benham, with Chris Worley and Brian Jessen joining at the beginning of the year. There is also a new Clerk Treasurer as Anne Hathaway takes over for Jeanette Brickler. The Town Council got right down to business with 4 meetings in January.

The first meeting was held on January 5, 2016. This was a special meeting to elect the president and vice-president of the council and to appoint members to the town boards and commissions. The first item on the agenda was the nomination and election of president and vice-president. Ashley Hobbs was unanimously elected as president and Dennis Dawes was unanimously elected as vice-president.

Next on the agenda was appointment of boards and commissions.

Advisory Planning Commission: Claire Rutledge with a 4 year appointment, Mark Tieken will fill out the remainder of Chris Worley's term and Chris Worley was elected as the Town Council liaison to the Commission.

Police Commission: Dennis Dawes was elected as the Town Council liaison and Richard Holmes was elected to a 3 year term.

Economic Development Commission: Joe Dunbar for a 1 year term and Robert McLaughlin was elected to a 2 year term.

Redevelopment Commission: Michelle Artmeier, Matt Simpson, Joe Hornett, Troy Austin, and Matthew Browning for 1 year terms.

Board of Zoning Appeals: Brett Scowden for a 4 year term

Brownsburg Improvement Commission: Robert McLaughlin, Michelle Artmeier, Mark Tieken, Randall Hackworth still need an engineer or an architect to fill the last spot.

Park Impact Fee Review Board: Ken McGee and Randall Hackworth for 1 year terms and have one more spot for an engineer.

Fire Territory Executive Board: Brian Jessen was elected as the Town Council liaison.

... continued to page 4

January BCSC Highlights

The Brownsburg Community school corporation board of trustees met the first time in 2016 on January 11. Mr. Brower opened the meeting with Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The first order of business was the reorganization of the board. The board elected Mr. Brower as President, Ms. Armstrong as Vice-President and Mr. Utterback as secretary. The next order of business was the appointment of the Corporation Treasurer Dr. Kendall Hendricks, the Corporation Purchasing Agent Mr. Barry Garner and Mrs. Sarah Shade and Mrs. Teresa Hemmerle as Corporation Deputy Treasurer and Assistant Purchasing Agent. The Board elected Mr. Brower as the legislative and policy liaison for ISBA. The Board skipped appointing a member to the Redevelopment Commission and they decided to postpone the appointment to the Brownsburg Education Foundation Member until the final Board vacancy is filled.

At this point, the Mr. Brower suspended the school board meeting and convened the annual board of finance meeting. Its first order of business was to elect Mr. Brower as President and Phil Utterback as Secretary. Mr. Brower then turned to Dr. Hendricks to report on investments for 2015. The School's investment return vary from .03 to .30 for an interest income of \$36,420 compared to 2011 when the interest income was as much \$76,000 and a decade ago the investment interest income would have been in the 6 digits. The investment policy for the last year was to keep minimal balances in the school's bank account in order to maximize investment. The decline of interest income was a factor of the economy not the investment policy. Dr. Hendricks recommended that unused funds from several accounts be deposited back into those accounts and the Board approved the transfer. The Board then moved to close the Board of Finance meeting returning back to the regular School Board meeting.

The Board then approved the consent items which consisted of the approval of minutes of the Board meetings on December 14th and 30th, the claims and the superintendent report. They then moved on to communications. First under this category was a presentation of a commendation to Dane Middlebrook who in January played in the US Army All America Bowl. The All America Bowl is for the top 60 8th grade players in the nation. Next the Brownsburg Lions Club presented a Community Service award to Melissa Smith RN for all she had done for the Lions Club and the children of the community.

Next on the agenda was a presentation on what the fourth grade at Regan Elementary is learning during character education by two fourth graders. Dr. Ken Schnepf then reported on the changes with the World Languages curriculum. The current curriculum consists of Spanish, French, German and Chinese. For Spanish, a student can take Level I in 8th grade and take Level II, Level III and Level IV (200 level Dual Credit and finally an AP class. For French and German, Level I, Level II, Level III (100 level Dual Credit) and AP are all offered only in high school. The Chinese curriculum is the same as French and German except that dual credit is not available. In the 2016/2017 school year, the 8th grade middle school students that qualify will be able to choose between all four languages.

Mr. Voigt delivered the operations report. First was the recognition of Officer Kim Kiritschenko and her dog Zeus who was awarded a special commendation by the United Drug ... continued to page 3

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

You may not receive the governance you vote for, you always receive the governance you tolerate. -- The Editor

Response to November Town Council Article by Anne Sering

After reading the commentary by Anne Sering in the previous Sentinel, I felt that several points need to be clarified concerning myself and annexation. I believe that misinformation is one of the biggest problems in Hendricks County media, so let me take them item by item.

Apparently some think my, to the point demeanor, is argumentative. One does not have time to candy coat issues when only given three minutes by the Town Council to coherently voice one's concerns. Remember that the meetings are video taped for all to see. I never said I appealed to citizens to stop bond issuances. I merely mentioned the statutory rights given to all citizens that allow them to do so and the probability of it happening in the future.

Also why the FACT that Brownsburg tax rates are over 36% higher than Brown Township's is something she should take up with the town. The last I looked, Hendricks County citizens do not make the Brownsburg tax rates. What the town does with those many millions of extra tax dollars is something that all citizens should be asking and demanding answers to.

I am flattered that she thinks that the noannexbrownsburg.com site is mine. I have nothing to do with it personally, but it does provide factual information about costs and frivolous litigation that is being filed by the town. Nowhere does the website say that if annexed it would cost the town \$50,000 per year in police costs. What it correctly states is, if annexed the Brownsburg Police Department will LOSE over \$50,000 per year. (that is from t.c. Member Don Spencer). Which means that the town will have less funds to protect itself.

It will also cost the town much more than \$50,000 for a police officer. I believe the last estimate was \$110,000 or more, per officer, after training, equipment and such. So the actual cost to the taxpayers of Brownsburg concerning ONLY the police department, will be significantly higher than \$50,000 per year if annexation occurs. But I can assure all that we are adequately provided police protection by Hendricks County Sheriffs Dept, Indiana State Police, etc. These services are also afforded to Brownsburg citizens due to an inter-local police agreement that benefits both the town and the county. It should also be known that our crime rate is much lower than the town of Brownsburg.

If the North area is annexed, the fire territory will also lose over \$80,000 per year. Thus town residents will receive less fire protection due to funds being taken by the town. (If you believe that less funding correlates to less protection)

If annexation occurs, the school system will lose over \$380,000 per year, the library will lose \$26,000 per year, Brown and Lincoln township will lose over \$30,000 per year. (there are also others that are adversely impacted) Now who is benefiting from our litigation? It appears any residents that EVER use any of those services are enjoying the spoils of our litigation efforts since 2013. I say to town residents, enjoy the funding dollars that we have saved you with our blessing. We DO NOT EXPECT anything in return for our efforts, from which the town residents have greatly benefited.

I believe that the chamber of commerce would take offense to suggest that the safety of Brownsburg is only afforded to north Hendricks County business patrons and Town citizens. Does that mean that Mrs Sering does not want anyone except Brownsburg citizens frequenting any businesses? I guess that goes for all the Indianapolis, Avon, Pittsboro citizens and visiting racing teams who spend their money in

the town. It appears that Mrs Sering is supportive of a very unusual form of DISCRIMINATION toward non Brownsburg residents!!! Perhaps there is no benefit to allowing any of these people to spend dollars in Brownsburg?

I am sure the new businesses that are considering moving anywhere near Brownsburg will want to know if they are not welcome here, simply because they do not pay the OVER BURDENSOME Brownsburg town tax rate.

Does that make sense to anyone?

Paraphrasing police chief Dove from a past town council meeting, the meetings are being recorded and people still seem to hear things that are never said. Overall this appears to be the case, but I do hope that Mrs Sering continues to write concerning various governmental meetings. I think that many people are confused by or may misinterpret current complex issues. Correcting such statements and providing factual details about the conduct of the town and its attorneys are extremely important to all. These issues are so complicated that the town employs anywhere from seven to eleven attorneys at times in order to conceal their conduct, steamroll, and bully various citizenry.

I think that when all citizens properly comprehend these detrimental impacts on ALL PROPERTY OWNERS IN BROWNSBURG AND THE COUNTY, which are DIRECTLY due to forced annexations, we shall ALL be on the same side. (Except those that plan to gain economically or advance their own political agendas by collaboration at the expense of the taxpayers.)

It should be noted that we already have overwhelming support from the citizens of Brownsburg and Hoosiers from all over the state who understand what is taking place in Brownsburg. Indiana is the only state in the union that allows unilateral annexation WITHOUT VOTER CONSENT (forced annexations) on such a scale as the North annexation attempt. It is ILLEGAL or inapplicable in every other state!!

If anyone would like more information, see the web site. Education on these issues is what will protect us all. I welcome INFORMATIVE debate on such important issues that concern ALL OF US in the Brown Township, Lincoln Township and Brownsburg areas.

Submitted January 20, 2016 -- by Kurt Disser



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Letter From the Editor

We apologize to our loyal readership, advertisers, pickup locations, and other supporters for the delay in publishing this month's edition. Unfortunately delays of this nature occur when you are a small two person volunteer operation. One member of the team is out of town experiencing life's pleasures extended to only a few, that being a great grandmother. While at the same time the other team member is enduring a debilitating month long illness which literally took him off line for the majority of the month. Thankfully, there is a happy ending to both stories, the great grandchild survived all the out pouring of great grandma spoilin's, and for me the worst is behind me and I'm on the long and slow road to full health.

Congratulations to Hendricks Regional Health despite facing long odds they ultimately prevailed having endured an arduous 4+ month process and received approval for a second curb cut on Ronald Reagan parkway. The compassionate care they provide their patients is also used as a road map for their business practices, working with various members of town governance, as if they were a small child about to undergo treatment, helping everyone to understand the necessity for the procedure, because after a little pain and investment, a positive outcome for all parties is the result.

This publication appreciates scheduling a special meeting to extol the town's performance, and announce to the community town governance goals and objectives. However, when viewed with a more critical eye, one has to wonder why the customer satisfaction survey in full and high-level report summary were not available on the town's website, for review prior to the meeting. Public comments were not on the agenda. Educating the public in advance, more effectively utilizes of everyone's time. Enabling valuable and perhaps thought provoking interaction between the community, and members of governance during the meeting where issues are discussed, objectives and goals are set.

Sidewalk at Brownsburg Village Center, it is obvious the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Many of those residents have mobility and stamina issues, is it realistic to have them to walk down Northfield to Green Street to cross? Please keep the citizen's needs and capabilities in mind, as staff works to solve this straight forward problem. If memory serves, the prior president of the advisory planning committee stated publicly, these people had earned the right to walk across the street safely. The town manger spoke that "staff" seemed stymied to offer any other solution. Perhaps the new city engineer could provide a fresh perspective towards solving this matter.

New council members campaigned on -- They would review, update, and strengthen -- Ethics and standards of conduct policies with clear and defined penalties for all members of town governance, boards, and commissions. Clarify acceptable conduct on and off the clock because as elected and appointed public servants are held to a higher standard and are really "never off the clock".

... continued to page 4

Jan. BCSC Board Mtg. *continued from pg. 1*

Taskforce for their work with the task force over the last three years. At the end of December 2015, the new Early Childhood expansion opened up with one of the classrooms already in use and the second classroom will be in use by the end of this semester. Lastly, Mr. Voight announced that the Brown Elementary Kindergarten and Gym project is now out for bid.

Mr. Brower than gave the Brownsburg Education Foundation report. The 2016 Gala will be held on March 1, 2016 at the Country Club in Indianapolis still has reservations available. Apples for Excellence sales were awesome over Thanksgiving selling over 600 apples in two days. The Brownsburg Education Foundation night at the Varsity Basketball game was held January 23rd.

Old Business started with a public hearing and a recommendation from Dr.Hendricks to receive approval for an additional appropriation of 4 million dollars for the rainy day fund. The public hearing was opened and there were no public comments so the hearing was closed. The Board then voted to approve the appropriation. Next was a recommendation to transfer \$350,000 from the transportation fund to the rainy day fund. This overage was mainly caused by lower fuel prices. Dr. Hendricks then asked for approval to set up public hearings in March to amend the leases so that the school can go forward with refinancing their debt. They have an opportunity to move from 4.5% to just above 2.0% on 06, 07 and 07B debt. The last recommendation from Dr. Hendricks was to ask approval for the ability to take out funds if needed for the refinancing and then reimburse the school funds when the financing goes through. All of Dr. Hendricks recommendations were approved.


For new business, the Board approved the adoption of new Math Textbooks and the contracted service agreement for property maintenance.

Dr.Snapp's superintendent comments highlighted the recent ISTEP scores for Brownsburg. When looking at the percentage of students that passed both language and math, Brownsburg ranked third in the state behind Zionsville and Carmel out of 292 school corporations. The ranking was propelled by a 1st place rank in Math and a 4th place rank in language arts. This is the schools highest ranking in the last 4 years. Dr. Snapp also announced the community working session the first of which was held on January 26th (See the article on the community engagement on page six).

Lastly, Mike Runyon announced his resignation from the Board of Trustees due to relocation with is work. In the February Sentinel, we will report on the interviews and announce the newest member of the Board. -- *The Editor*

Publisher / Editor - David Weyant

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January Town Council Highlights - *cont from pg.1*

Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership: Sean Benham was elected as the Town Council Liaison

Water Service: Mike Good for 1 year.

Metro Planning Organization: Todd Barker and Grant Kleinhenz for 1 year terms

Northfield at Wynne Farms Advisory Board: Jennifer Knox, Charlie Lawrence, Donovan Peoples and Jay Puckett for 1 year terms.

Town Manager's Advisory Board: Mark Tieken, Claire Rutledge, Joe Almon, Frank Lamar, Kevin Koonce, Jeff Ball, Travis Tschaenn, Chris Snodderley, and Eric Spoonamore.

The last order of business was to approve the payment of \$115,000 for the multi-use trail between the High School and the Library.

On January 14, 2016, the Town Council met for its first regularly scheduled meeting of 2016 with all council members present. The first order of business was the approval of the utility connection for a property on 650E. Latter in the meeting, the Town Council heard the first reading for the voluntary annexation of the property on 650E.

At this meeting, they awarded the bid for the roundabout at 300N and S. Green Street. They approved the rezoning the St. Vincent Health site to Planned Development. Lastly, the Town Council approved the year-end transfer of funds within the 2016 budget and encumber any funds for Purchase Orders started at the end of 2015 but not paid as of yet. During Town Council Items, Ms. Hobbs appointed engineer Lori Young to the Northfield at Wynne Farms Advisory Board.

On January 19, 2016, the Town Council held a special meeting to review the citizen satisfaction survey results, and review of goals and priority setting for 2016. One note, that only 4 members of the council were present as Ms. Hobbs was on her honeymoon and from now will be Mrs. Bacsu.

In June 2015, the town completed the biannual survey of citizen satisfaction. 1400 hundred random surveys were sent out with 423 people responded about 31% response rate. The Structure of the survey was divided into three pillars: Community characteristics, governance and participation. 85% of respondents rated quality of life in Brownsburg as good or excellent. 90% of residents rated Brownsburg good or excellent as a place to live. Overall Town services, 76% rated Brownsburg as good or excellent. Overall sense of community, 65% rated the town good or excellent. Each of the pillars were divided into eight major areas: safety, mobility, natural environment, built environment, economy, recreation and wellness, education and enrichment and community engagement with Safety, mobility and economy seemed to rise to the top.

Next, Grant Kleinhenz went through a review of the goals and priorities. In 2012, the town identified 46 initiatives were identified has top priority. By the beginning of 2015, 22 of the projects had been 100% completed. By the end of 2015, of the 22 remaining projects 14 are either complete or more than 75% complete. So in 4 years' time, 78%

of the original 46 projects are either complete or majority complete. 2012 identified 46 initiatives by beginning of 2015, 22 had been 100% completed. In 2015 of the remaining 24 projects, 14 are complete or substantively complete. Of the original 46 78% are either fully completed or majority completed. Grant went through the remaining projects giving updates and then asked for the Council members to give suggestions as to priorities. Each member was asked for their top 2-5 priorities. First up was Mr. Benham with 2 priorities: Green Street/Main street intersection, Main Street redevelopment (East). Next, Mr. Worley added his priorities: Development of New downtown/Arbuckle acres, Main Street and Green Street intersection, and access to the new downtown-alternative transportation plan. Mr. Jessen then added his priorities: building a homeowners association contact list, adopting a Brownsburg businesses first attitude, explore preserving Brownsburg history, and an exploratory group to become a city.

Lastly, Mr. Dawes added his priorities: meetings with Brownsburg School Corporation, proposed community recreation center to consider at looking at other properties around that location that can be

Mr. Jessen suggested forming “...an exploratory group to become a city.”

purchased, employee survey, and new fire chief promoting from within if possible and the chief live within the town and township territory

Closing, the town approved a resolution that will allow the town to look for partnerships when doing request for proposals for the recreation center.

Finally, The Town Council met

on January 28, 2016 for the second regular meeting of the month with all council members present. This meeting was very short with two items of interest. First, the Town Council approved a non-exclusive license agreement with Lightbound LLC to install fiber optic Lines in Town of Brownsburg Right of Ways. This approval allows fiber optic to be installed from Green Street to the Bank of Lizton at 56th and Northfield. The other item was a discussion regarding removal of disparaging language and conduct provision for Town Contracts & Agreements. This provision was added last year and has been troublesome during contract negotiations. The Town Council unanimously approved the removal of that language going forward. Lastly, it was announced that Grant Kleinhenz will give the state of the town address at the Chamber of Commerce lunch meeting on February 17, 2016. Nonmembers are welcome to call the Chamber for more information at 317-852-7885. -- *The Editor*

Letter From the Editor - *cont. from pg.3*

We suggest existing policies are reviewed in light of advances in new media, acceptable business conduct and the like. Once completed, publish the updated standards on the town's website incorporating annual review, adherence to and confirmation of understanding of these policies by signature to all those who serve the public. Place the signed documents on the town's website. Doing so, is a step towards regaining public trust; which quite simply was destroyed these past few years.

Thank you Dennis Dawes for advocating for more frequent, formalized, and substantive meetings between the town council and Brownsburg Community School Board -- “None of us are as good as all of us” -- Ray Kroc founder of McDonalds.

Thank you everyone for your service to the community. -- *The Editor*



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Beginning Their Terms in 2016

Clerk-Treasurer - Ann Hathaway

Ann is a resident of Brownsburg since 1994. She and her husband of 26 years, David, have three children who are well educated by and have been involved in Brownsburg schools. Born in Greensburg, Indiana, Ann was graduated by Greensburg Community High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Ball State University.

She has 21 years of accounting experience in the contracting, insurance and banking industries. Education: B S in Accounting from Ball State University. Community Affiliations: Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce, Board Member of the Brownsburg Kiwanis, previously serving as treasurer. Funeral Dinner Volunteer and Adult Choir for St Malachy Church.



Town Council Ward 2 - Chris Worley

Chris has been an involved citizen with the Town of Brownsburg since becoming a homeowner here in 2004. Following Town government closely, both as an interested citizen and a reporter for a town newspaper, he became familiar with the operations of most all aspects of Town government. He has served on the Advisory Plan Commission since 2014.

He has one son, a graduate of Brownsburg High School. His community interests include a volunteer mentoring program for the broadcast of Brownsburg High School sporting events. Chris has been a contract employee of Allison Transmission for the past 24 years.



Town Council Ward 3 - Brian Jessen

Brian is a Project Management and Marketing professional for almost ten years. Currently, he works in procurement for EmployIndy, helping the long term unemployed return to work.

He is married to Ronna Jessen and they have a son (and daughter-in-law) and daughter (and son-in-law) with one grandchild. Education: Purdue University



All public servant biographical info courtesy of Town of Brownsburg



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January 19th, 2016 ... continued from page 4 Special Town Council Meeting FY2016 Selected Goals and Priorities

The following selected projects were discussed during the meeting. Please see our website for corresponding drawings and diagrams.

Downtown Mixed Use Development & Recreational Facility—Funding plan currently being developed, RFP for funding partner to be issued at week's end. \$2M General Obligation Bond issued in 2015 to fund infrastructure improvements to support the downtown development plan. Bond issued though overall corporate tax rate decreased from .9735 in 2015 to an estimated .9433 in 2016.

Gateway Project Phase III—Trail crossing from west side of Green St to east side with extension under I-74 to Citgo and then north east to access residential areas. Project to bid in spring 2016 with summer through end of 2016.

Bicentennial Trail— Trail will link B&O Trail in Brownsburg to Avon Trail system. Plans are 30% complete and construction expected to begin in April 2016.

Sidewalk at Brownsburg Village Center—Sidewalk to link Roland Manor with existing sidewalk in front of Chase Bank. Anticipated project start in Spring 2016.

Street Resurfacing—\$2.3M in resurfacing to be completed in FY2016, including \$1.15M from FY2015 carried over. Streets include S Green St from Airport to southern Town limits, and parts of Hufford St, Odell St, and CR 900 E.

Design of Cardinal Property Upgrades

In final stages of engineering. Delayed into 2016 due to Thornburg Parkway realignment and stormwater challenges. Portions of this project will be constructed at same time as RTP Trail.

Utility Rate Increase—Waste Water Treatment Plant & System Expansion Project Financing for \$22million facility/collections system upgrade.

White Lick Creek Greenway Design – Possible 2017 design with construction in the 2019 timeframe; trail would link W. Northfield Drive trail with Arbuckle Acres Park.

Engineering for a Regional Stormwater Detention Facility at the Ronald Reagan Parkway – Part of FY2016 budget (\$858K). RFP will be issued over next 90 days by new Town Engineer. -- *The Editor*

Brownsburg Hires Town Engineer

Todd C. Wallace, P.E., will be on the job starting Monday, February 1.

Wallace has more than 10 years civil engineering experience, and has worked on numerous residential subdivisions, school improvements, and large-scale commercial projects. Previously, he was the senior project manager and Indianapolis office site group lead at The Schneider Corporation. A Brownsburg resident, Wallace holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. He has a professional engineer license in Indiana and several other states.

As the municipality's first Town Engineer, Wallace will perform professional and technical engineering duties for the Town. He will be responsible for the management of all phases of complex civil engineering public works construction projects.

Courtesy - Town of Brownsburg



BCSC Community Engagement

The first in a series of seven community engagement sessions was held Tuesday, January 26th. More than 140 residents attended cramping what at first seemed ample room in the Brownsburg High School Large Group Instruction Room. Vicki Murphy, BCSC Communications Coordinator, said the numbers could have been greater, she noted there were nearly 40 people who were unable to attend or signed up only to receive information electronically. Still those numbers were offset by the more than 20 people who showed up at the meeting foregoing preregistration. School administration, and everyone present were pleased with the large turnout.

The room was arranged using tables breaking the crowd down into small work groups, each table had a staff member from BCSC to coordinate each group's efforts. People were surprised to learn not only would they be listening to various presentations; they would be given "assignments" along the way to allow the administration to receive real-time feedback from those present.

Adam Brower, President of the School Board of Trustees opened the meeting, welcoming those in attendance, and Adam reminded everyone to be respectful of each other's opinions moving forward would be key to success.

"Grateful for big turnout for tonight's Community Engagement Session & all who came to work together for solutions"

-- Dr. Jim Snapp

The Dr. Snapp, Kat Jessup, and others from the administration committed to answering all questions as quickly as possible. The evening's presentation, meeting summary, and list of questions would be available online. For consistency, the administration asked everyone to please commit to attending all the meetings. They also extended a welcome to anyone who was unable to attend, as all meetings are open to the public.

At the end of the evening, at least 200+ consensus questions and 90 more questions which fell outside the work group's consensus questions were captured.

Everyone, was please with the results of this first step which will be used in part to set the direction for future meetings.

Meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 24, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 7 and July 26.

Goto <http://www.brownsburg.k12.in.us/communication/great-community-great-schools> or contact Vicki Murphy at vmurphy@brownsburg.k12.in.us for more information. -- *The Editor*

Kat Jessup, assistant superintendent at BCSC, was the primary presenter for the approximate 90 minute meeting. While there was a set agenda of materials to cover, portions of the meeting were set aside for each table or working group assignments to write down their questions which would later be posted for all those present to review.

The goal was to create consensus questions which the administration would collect, answer at a later date, in turn be used as input into subsequent meetings.



January Park Board Highlights



The Brownsburg Park Board met on January 21, 2016 with all Board members present.

The first item of business was the election of officers for the current year. This was quickly managed with all agreeing to keep their present positions. Michael Klitzing will continue as president and Scott Latimer will continue as vice president. Laura Stechmiller will continue to serve as secretary. The remaining Board members are Lindsey Jackson, Phil Utterback, Carla Palma and Tracie Morris.

Jennifer Cox spoke to the Board concerning the Brownsburg Older Adult Alliance which was formed in December 2015. The purpose of the organization is to provide helping hands and social activities for adults 55 years of age and older in the Brownsburg area which would include all of Brown and Lincoln Townships. Mrs. Cox did not have a specific request for the Board but was primarily present to make the organization known and to offer support with the establishment of a community center. Brownsburg Older Adult Alliance is truly a fledgling organization with a handful of members.

The Personnel Committee is conducting an Assessment of Services. As part of this, Director Philip Parnin told the Board they would be contacted to arrange individual interviews.

The policy for Events on Town Property is in the process of being developed. The policy will have all requests for events to be submitted to the Town Manager's office rather than the Park Department. This change is necessary so that all departments affected can be notified and that all ordinances (state, federal, local) will be followed. One such overseeing body is Homeland Security. The Policy should be in place by March 2016 following a general public meeting. Tracie Morris expressed concern on how this policy would affect small groups who might find the paper work and procedure involved daunting. The Town of Brownsburg is in the process of setting up a web site. (I attempted to look up policies on the web site just out of curiosity. I hope the new process will be transparent and easy to use.) This was approved by the Board subject to final terms. One term is a more defined description of who the policy affects making it clear it does not involve a citizen renting a shelter for a party.

The Father/Daughter Dance was sold out and people are being placed on a waiting list. There was discussion concerning other organizations holding a like event. The event is being held in Brownsburg High School Cafeteria which limits participants to 550. Camp registration begins on February 16. The unspoken warning register early.

The Town web site has a link to the Request of Proposals seeking capital contribution partners for the proposed new multi-generational Brownsburg Community Recreation Center. The purpose of securing partners is to generate additional revenue for the Town to use in the design, construction, engineering and expenses in the facilities construction. Hopefully those who would use such a facility will get good news this year.

Indiana Park and Recreation Association gave two awards to Brownsburg Parks. The first award was for resource improvements for business operations; the second for innovative programming (B.A.S.E. Program). This was for the before and after school program that provides physical activities and study help to students. Philip Parnin noted what made this especially appreciated that the awards were determined by Park and Recreation employees from outside of Indiana.

Two citizens addressed the Board. Jim Sering asked about the status of having a 'beer tent' at events held in the parks. This was something brought up by the Town Manager's Advisory Board. No official policy has been developed. Ken Magee questioned the Board concerning the proposed policy for events and its affect on the Lions Club. Parnin stated that it would not apply to the Bundy Lodge which is regulated by the Lions Club and its contract.-- *Anne Sering*

January 18th Brown Township Meeting Highlights

“All Hail His Majesty the King”-- Notes from the Brown Township Annual Meeting. January 18th 2016. Received Jan. 24th 2016.

The Brown township meeting was called to order by John Gootee at 6:30PM on Jan 18th, 2016. However, Mr. Gootee evidently hadn't noticed that his chairman position had expired almost two weeks ago (on January 5th to be precise), otherwise he would have asked for the election of a temporary chairman to lead the board in the official elections. Charging ahead the ersatz chairman asked for the pledge of allegiance and for the October 26th minutes to be approved. Approval of the minutes drew protest from a Nate Mantlo who stated they were already approved last November. After a brief temper tantrum, the Gootee stated this is the official approval, and we do not need Mantlo's vote. The vote went ahead and the minutes were again approved, which under normal circumstances would be a harmless mistake born of confusion. But the Oct 26, 2015 meeting minutes are the official record of the budget meeting and the officially-approved version was provided to the state board of accounts last year, and his majesty John Gootee maintains they were not official until Jan 2016. Trustee Tom Kmetz will have to deal with this mess.

Still thinking he was chairman, board member Gootee asked for the 2016 board elections, with Jason Welsh and John Gootee electing each other secretary and chairman, respectively. Curiously he termed this an election of a corporation, and of board officers and of a financial board officers – bewildered, we continued to listen.

At any rate, after the chairman's status became official, he asked the trustee to present the annual financial report. Mr. Kmetz stated in the year 2015, none of the \$5k in the rainy day fund was spent, which is not a surprise as it is never spent and each year rolls over into a +\$700K account that just sits in the bank. The trustee spent \$11K of the \$30K budgeted for poor relief, mainly to help those in need with utilities and rent. Gootee asked him if he was still using the “step down payments” a method where they make it as hard as possible to obtain additional poor relief. Trustee Kmetz confirmed, to which Gootee expressed his pleasure, and Kmetz went on to say that the poor must first present a shut-off notice. Afterward the Trustee discussed administrative expenses where by it became apparent that he pays himself \$20K to distribute \$11K to the poor and \$1.5K to mow a few fields, and the board is paid \$500 each to approve the budget and oversee expenditures. The rest of the budget was fixed debt for the fire station. The board voted 3-0 to approve the annual report, and it was stated that this is the annual meeting, a point that takes on significance below.

After Kmetz finished speaking Kurt Disser attempted to ask a question to which the chairman barked “NO !” three times in a row - awakening at least two citizens in attendance. Kurt hushed up and Gootee was again pleased with himself until board member Mantlo read from the Indiana code 36-6-4-11 that “at the township legislative body's annual meeting, the executive shall submit to questions from the legislative body or taxpayers concerning expenditures of the township.” Red-faced Gootee retorted by reading an email from the “township lawyer,” Steve Buschmann that stated that citizens may speak but government officials need not answer and cited an irrelevant statute. Jason Welsh agreed the statute was self explanatory, so Kurt Disser got to ask his questions of trustee Kmetz regarding mowing fees etc. The trustee agreed to set an appointment

to answer his questions.

At this point the conversation veered to turning on a streetlight at the 1000N State Road 267 intersection as several traffic accidents have occurred there over the past 10 years. The conversation meandered here and there with some recommending a roundabout or a stoplight and Fred Arkonoff offering to pay for the light and another citizen stating she regularly bolts out in front of cars during high traffic. Finally, Gootee emerged from his slumber and asked for a motion to turn on the light, provided the town lawyer approved our decision. The motion was made to the affirmative 3-0. Trustee Kmetz asked permission to see if a township could set up a website and all agreed. *Kmetz then announced he is re-appointing Steve Buschmann as township attorney even though he supplied the incorrect interpretation of the incorrect statute to answer the question at hand (see above).*

The citizens comment portion of the agenda was contentious because the “king” was still under the assumption they had occurred under the taxpayer inquiry of the annual report stated above. Furthermore, he insisted: “nobody may mention the annexation.” At this point Mr. Mantlo blurted out “this is a government and Gootee is not the king”. So, the citizen's comments portion ensued with some general grousing about annexation and how the township would lose \$25K a year and the fire territory would lose a bunch of money. Ms. Weyant asked if the Township had plans for the almost \$800K in the bank that had accumulated and adds to each year. Trustee Kmetz said they might buy land for a park that the whole township might enjoy, and John said that if there was a way we could give it back to the taxpayer we certainly would but I've been on this

board for 12 years and haven't found a way. Gootee also stated the only way to reduce taxes was to reduce spending but he “could not keep the state from giving the township all those extra tax dollars each year”. One thing for certain is his majesty: 1) has directed the trustee to give as little as humanly possible to those in need, 2) has decreed that the township residents against annexation are not to be heard from, and 3) probably is hatching plans to build a roundabout that all the citizens will agree to.

The meeting was depleted of topics and John had supper waiting so the meeting was adjourned. -Bob Tolman (Editor's notes (1) Thank you Bob, for your insights into the recent Brown Township Trustee's meeting. We await your future contributions. (2) Mr. Gootee has publicly stated he has access to legal counsel, we suggest remedial training for Mr. Gootee to understand all of Indiana Codes 36-6-6.)



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