

BROWNSBURG

SENTINEL



A News / Commentary Publication

Informative / Insightful

Nov. & Dec. 2015

2015 Year End Wrap Up

Special Town Council Mtg.

November BCSC Highlights

November 9th - The Town Council held a special meeting for two issues that were time sensitive. The first issue was ordinance 2015-34 General Obligation Bonds first reading. The Town received their net assessed value numbers from the State at the end of October 2015 to the Town's surprise the net assessed value was 104 million dollars higher than expected. With the net assessed value coming in higher the final tax rate would be 92.73 in 2016 or 4.5 cents lower than in 2015. Financial advisors for the Town advised the town to use some of this money to fund road improvements that will be needed for future economic development of downtown.

To take advantage of the current market, the financial advisors suggested to issue 10 year General Obligation Bonds for approximately 2 million dollars. If the bonds can be finalized before Christmas, the bond rate should be 2.5-3.0%. To make the end of the year closing, the 2nd and third reading would need to happen at the November 19th meeting. The additional debt would raise the Town debt to 72.9 million dollars or approximately 2900 dollars per capita assuming the population of Brownsburg is 25,000 people. It also changes the tax rate for 2016 to 94.33 still 3 cents less than 2015.

The money would be used to complete the road work needed to help the traffic flow around the proposed Bolt development and the Arbuckle acres changes. The project will include the Enderly Avenue connection, Parkway/Eagle Crest drive connection, Mill Street and associated property acquisition and engineering costs. The first reading passed 4-1. With Don Spencer voting against. Please see our website for a map depicting the location of the road improvements.

The second issue on the agenda was Resolution 2015-44 to amend the Wynne Farm TIF district. The amendment is to remove Rosemont section 1 and 2 and Northfield at Wynne Farm road to the existing south part of Northfield Drive. The reason for the amended limits was due to the difference of price of what the homes were thought to cost and what they are actually selling for now. This Resolution passed 5-0.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned. -- *The Editor*

Brownsburg Board of Trustees Meeting w/o Comments on Contract. -- Anne Sering

Full House! The Brownsburg Community School Corporation (BCSC) Board of Trustees met on November 9, 2015 in the Administration Building. When I arrived 25 minutes early, the parking lot was already fuller than it is normally. And when I left the meeting I noticed that people had to park in the lot adjacent to Jefferson Street. I inquired about the number of seats set up and was told the room was set up for 185. More chairs were added before the meeting started. Granted there were quite a few BCSC employees in attendance and a row or two of students receiving commendations from the Board, but still it was good that interest was that high. All this because of the renewal of Dr. Snapp's contract.

Extended Play is an extracurricular club that provides lighting, sound, and video coverage for BCSC. The club has access to state of the art equipment. The crew study and apply all aspects of broadcasting. Most of the content on BCSC-TV has been produced by this group of students. For their dedication and hard work the student crew received commendations from the Board. (See picture).

Mrs. Murphy, Coordinator of Communications, reported on the K-8 parents' survey. Of the approximately 80% who responded, over 99% were pleased with BCSC and the staff. Also, 97.98% felt that good decisions were made. The top three places where parents found information were from BCSC web site, school newsletters, and their student. Asst. Superintendent Kat Jessup added that between 98/99% of parents attended the parent/teacher conferences recently held.

Mr. John Voigt, Chief Operations Officer, listed the five maintenance projects scheduled for the summer of 2016: on-going repairs, interior updating, site maintenance, security update, and technology update. Most of this will be done in-house but some outside support will be needed. We learned the BCSC network is physically located downtown Indianapolis.

Mr. Starkweather, Coordinator of Technology, described the many ways technology is used within BCSC. Besides the white boards in the classrooms, automated lunch payment system, senior academy, Project Lead the Way (engineering classes), the visual arts have access to state-of-the-art equipment (same as Butler University and what was used to produce the music awards on a recent television production). His staff of twelve has 136 years of experience in technology. The school has purchased no new computers within the last 3 years. Nine hundred 4 year-old computers were purchased for a dollar each from the state and upgraded by the staff replacing 9 year-old computers. A question was asked about the cost of surveys. Survey Monkey was used which is a free software package that allows users to create surveys.

Adam Brower reported on the Brownsburg Education Foundation's Yankee Candle sales, Big Apple Bagels donating 10% of grand opening sales, and the upcoming 2016 Gala which has outgrown local facilities.

New Business consisted of recommendations to approve bus purchases, to participate in the Indiana Bond Bank Tax Warrant Program, and to authorize the signing authority and promissory note. The bus purchases had been discussed at a ... *continued to page 3*

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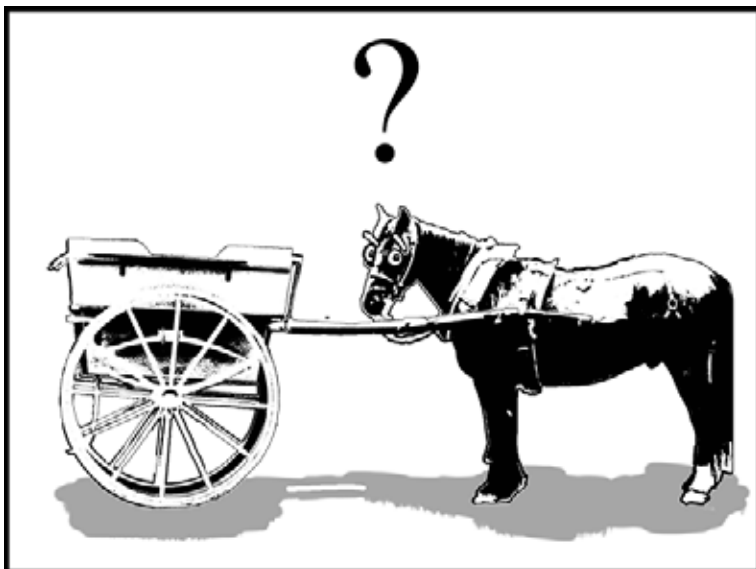
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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

My sincere thanks and appreciation to the men and women of Engine 131 and Medic 131. As I had a chance to witness first hand their second to none service as they rendered aid to a resident in need. The engine arrived on scene, quickly followed by the medic, before the call to 911 concluded. Everyone on scene knew their role, immediately taking the patient's vitals, asking questions, and reassuring patient and his wife he would be well cared for. While another took valuable patient history from his wife, while others were preparing the gurney for patient transport. This carefully choreographed teamwork instilled a sense of calm to not only the patient and his wife but also to the onlookers, the majority of whom felt powerless to render assistance. Seemingly as quickly as the team arrived, they determined the patient was stable for transport. Also, thank you to the person who stepped up and initially rendered aid until the Fire Department's services arrived. If more elected, hired, and appointed public servants were provided first hand observations of the services provided by all public safety staff, there would be less male member measuring contests between these organizations and members of town governance whose thinly veiled rhetoric claim total support.



2.5 Million Street Project and Bonds

Unbridled high jinks and mayhem continued as the Town Council accelerated the passage of Ordinance #2015-34 before year end. This ordinance burdens Brownsburg taxpayers with a debt not to exceed 2.0 million dollars, with the stated goal to reduce downtown traffic congestion, and to support future projects. The justification for the rush to pass the ordinance before year end was advice that interest rates are currently favorable and rumored to rise.

On the surface, these motives seem altruistic and align with effective stewardship of tax dollars and municipal debt. However on closer inspection, the use of the monies have less to do with addressing current downtown traffic flow and more to do with the support of future projects. The greater majority of these projects have yet to go through the formal scrutiny and approval process traditionally associated with town governance. Apparently, approval via standard town governance

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for projects more realistically related to this ordinance; the discussed changes to Arbuckle Acres Park, Recreation Center, and Brownsburg Town Center are merely a formality and have already been approved outside the view of the public. This assertion is supported by Town resident Todd Richwine who recently spoke at the November Town Council Meeting, saying he learned of the town's plans to build a road through his kitchen at church bible study. In the haste to pass the ordinance, the Town failed to notify the residents its passing would affect. It also seemed odd, members of the public which vehemently expressed opposition to any tax increase, most recently increases in support of public education were notably silent in both meetings where this ordinance was discussed. Even an outgoing town council member mentioned there are significant changes planned for Brownsburg over the next few years. One has to wonder, what weight the public's opinion on these will be given as they come before the various boards, commissions, and council; or if in the end, the processes of town governance are at this point a mere formality.

The resident learned a road would be built through his kitchen while attending church Bible study.

St.V's voluntary contribution to traffic signaling as a condition of agreement

St. V's Lawyer stated it may be "unconstitutional" to ask St. Vincent to contribute \$15,000 to traffic signage on 56th street. The town had proposed St. Vincent to bear 5% (down from an earlier 10%) of the overall cost of \$300,000. While technically correct, the town did not negotiate in good faith, as it was revealed during the proceedings the town had secured approximately \$240,000 in federal monies for this project leaving an unfunded balance of approximately \$60,000. In addition, the St. Vincent lawyer stated the town had always planned a traffic signal in that location and the traffic study, conducted at the town's request, indicated their facility would have minimal impact on traffic volumes. St. V's remained skeptical why this project should (in St. V's view) be responsible to fund a disproportionate amount of this cost. After consideration at the Advisory Planning Commission, the commission amended the ordinance and took out the need for St. Vincent to contribute to the traffic signage. It was nice to see a Commission listen and act quickly to reconcile the issue.

Finally, thank you again to Anne Sering who covered various functions of town governance, as matters required me to travel out of state for nearly three weeks since publication of the last edition. This edition would not have been possible without her going above and beyond her normal duties.

Given what has transpired the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2015, this publication cannot wait to report the activities of those elected, hired, and appointed public servants have in store for 2016. -- *The Editor*.

Publisher / Editor - David Weyant

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November BCSC Highlights - *cont from pg.1*

past meeting and I had reported about the purchase. The Bond Bank Program allows BCSC to borrow monies at less than 1% (actually 0.85%) and is an annual procedure. The third item pertains to the property on Northfield Drive that the school intends to purchase.

BCSC Superintendent Contract Renewal

Brownsburg Community School Corporation Superintendent's Contract Renewed (November) -- *Anne Sering*.

Dr. Jim Snapp was given a new three year contract at the November 9, 2015 meeting of the Board of Trustees for Brownsburg Community School Corporation. Unlike the announced public hearing on the matter on October 5, where only Mr. Jeff Gracey spoke for the public after the Board members and the BCSC lawyer, Andrew Manna, had made their comments, over twenty people signed up to address the Board. At that meeting, all Board members except Phil Utterback spoke in favor of the contract. Mr. Bower stated that it would bring Dr. Snapp's compensation closer in line with like-size districts. Mr. Bower, Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. Sutton, and Mr. Runyon all cited Dr. Snapp's successful leadership in student achievement. Mr. Utterback stated that he has a difficult time with the proposed contract in comparison to what teachers, administrators and especially classified (hourly) employees received. Mr. Gracey did not feel Dr. Snapp should be rewarded neither for doing his job nor in comparison with other districts. BCSC should only be concerned with what is happening in Brownsburg.

Now with the vote pending, all Board Members held their positions. Those in opposition pleaded for the Board to vote their convictions; inferring that at least three of the five Board members were unhappy with Dr. Snapp. The Board did vote their convictions with Mr. Utterback voting against the contract (but not against Dr. Snapp). Essentially, all maintained the positions they expressed in October.

When given the opportunity to speak, eighteen citizens spoke. The first speaker, Mark S. spoke on the program Real Men Read in which men read and provide the book for kindergarten students. Of the remaining 17, five spoke against renewing Dr. Snapp's contract and 12 spoke in support of Dr. Snapp.

More than one person stated they had moved to Brownsburg because of the schools. One of those was Larry Johnson who spoke at length in favor supporting Dr. Snapp and the Board. He had moved to Brownsburg from Chicago where his taxes were much higher. When the time came he hoped to be able to sell his home which would be more difficult if the Brownsburg schools were not high achieving. This was backed up by Deann Daulton who was a realtor. She stated that if the schools became overcrowded, classroom teachers would leave for better teaching conditions; student achievement would drop and so would house values. Mr. Johnson also shared the fact that he was retired and other retirees needed to be willing to pay more to maintain

Contract Renewal - *continued from left.*

achievement levels.

Along with those who moved to Brownsburg because of the schools were many long time residents. Jim Graham who has lived in Brownsburg 43 years said he had never been more proud of the schools. He valued the education Brownsburg provided and urged the Board to maintain excellent schools. Karen Midkiff was a 22 year resident who had 2 children graduate from Brownsburg with another still in high school. She participated in Vision 20/20 which recommended smaller class sizes and control of costs, both of which had occurred under Dr. Snapp's leadership. Alyssa Johnson, 18 year resident, stated that she appreciated that Dr. Snapp personally knew her daughter and was actively involved in the schools. Mrs. Johnson stated that her older child was able to counsel the younger to avoid this hall and avoid this staircase. One favored teacher had already left Brownsburg for Brebeuf because of concern about class sizes and crowding.

Two of those speaking in support of renewing Dr. Snapp's contract mentioned the hostility that had occurred. Both Garen Carnes and Christianne Beebe have young children in the school system. Mr. Carnes noted Dr. Snapp's open door policy and the difficulty some may have with living with means but that building has to occur. He stated he had felt the necessity to take a more active part and urged others to do so. Mrs. Beebe complemented Dr. Snapp for his determination to work for the schools and mentioned that she has been personally attacked on the internet ("Brownsburg Residents for Fiscal Responsibility") for her position.

This brings us to the positions of those speaking against renewing Dr. Snapp's contract. Rhonda James presented a petition signed by those who were against renewing Dr. Snapp's contract. I was unable to hear exactly how many signatures she collected but she did have what looked like 4 or 5 inches of rolled up paper. I did hear her say she had 37 pages plus the on-line signatures. When I inquired about the number my source said there were a total of 240 signatures but of the on-line signatures 50 of the 183 were suspect. I suppose some of those were on-line aliases but invalid for a legal document. Her argument was that Dr. Snapp had made many "horrendous" mistakes, there was a 20 year debt, money was spent poorly, and the high ISTEP were due to the teachers. Vicki Chastain, who has lived in Brownsburg her entire life and had 3 daughters who had been in Brownsburg schools, spoke on the diversity in school. I believe she may have meant the referendum caused divisiveness in the schools which was disrupting to students, teachers, and parents. She stated 4300 people didn't want the referendum [to pass] and what the cost would have been to her had it passed. Agreeing with Mrs. Chastain was Linda Seber who stated that too much was spent but that others, too, were responsible. She wanted BCSC to stay in budget.

Tory Austin and Jennifer Cox, well known for their opposition to the referendum were the final two to speak against renewing

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November Town Council Highlights

Brownsburg Town Council: November 19, 2015

When one is used to being in the Town Council Room with only the Board in session, necessary town employees and less than a handful of citizens, seeing the Council Room every row(with the exception of the first row) populated was eye-opening! As I scanned the room, I saw people I recognized from School Board meetings, radio celebrities (?), those against annexation, those for annexation, business leaders and the curious along with the usual town employees. I was there to record my impressions of the meeting. Those looking for an exact accounting of what took place can check the Town of Brownsburg web site.

After the meeting was brought to order and opening procedures completed. Kurt Disser came to the front of the room. This surprised me as I was not expecting anyone to come forward and make 'comments relating to November 19, 2015 agenda.' In fact, I had never before had the occasion to hear Mr. Disser. But with his back to me, I could read where he stood: against annexation. Since I had not seen any annexation items on the agenda, I momentarily wondered what he had to say. He launched into comments about fiscal responsibility and the costs to citizens for bonds. He appealed to the citizens of Brownsburg (of which he is not) to stop future issuances of bonds. I was taken aback at his argumentative demeanor.

The next item on the agenda was the Consent Items. This too surprised me because all six items were brought forward at once. The minutes and memorandum were evidently okay because comments about costs were brought up. Three additions were made; at least one of which added \$90,000 to the claims docket. When writing this I looked up the Minutes of the Nov. 9, 2015 special meeting to see if this figure was listed. Most of the minutes pertained to the authorization of the Issuance Bonds of which Mr. Disser spoke. However, there was approval of Ordinance #2015-44 pertaining to economic development. Since this paragraph was truncated after the 3 line, one can only wonder what this was. Does this mean that only one page of text of the four page document was approved? According to the web site this item was created and modified within one minute on November 20. Which is understandable as it was only approved the previous night. Anyway, Vice President Dennis Dawes moved to approve all three items. Then the consent items were approved. I might mention that Ms. Leminger led the Council through the legal steps of all this. She more than earns her weight in dollars if not gold.

At this point commendations were given to the first graduates of the six session Resident Academy. The goal of the academy was for the 32 participant to understand how the business of the town works. Assistant Town Manager Brian Hartsell presented the commendations with those present filling the area in front of the dais. This opportunity will again be available to citizens in 2016.

The previously considered items passed. The first was the approval of salaries and salary ranges for 2016. The drop in salary ranges from 3% to 2% was the reason Don Spencer resigned as Council President. The second item pertained to budget changes and involved Chief Dove. Very little was said about this topic. The third item was the authorization to issue General Obligation Bonds for road improvements. In the minutes from the November 9 special meeting Town Manager Grant Kleinhenz remarked that the assessed value of the Town had doubled and this was the best way to recapture and utilize the funds was a bond issue. In the same meeting it was Attorney Leminger who let the council through the particulars of the Bonds and stated that it was critical that this be passed and acted upon this year. The principal is not to exceed \$2 million. The ten year bonds were advertised in the November 21 issue of the Hendricks County Flyer. Even with the issuance of the bonds, the tax rate for the Town of Brownsburg would drop from \$0.9735 to \$0.9433. With questioning from Don Spencer the Town Manager admitted the tax rate would be \$0.0718 less without the bonds. Don Spencer felt other

alternatives for paying for expansion of streets and was the only dissenting vote for the ordinance.

Chief Dove spoke on approval of 'additional appropriations' which he stated were better described as 'reimbursements' for overtime, maintenance on equipment used by other departments, etc. This was a public hearing but no one chose to speak on the matter but this item was approved.

Greg Anderson presented a resolution designating an economic revitalization area for both real estate and personal property which allows for tax abatement for Don Schumacher Racing. For this the town will receive \$166,000 over 7 years on the building and \$31,206 over a 5 years period on equipment within the building. This is an example of the dilemma the Town and BCSC face. If the expansion did not occur, the town and school would lose. If the expansion occurs without the tax abatement BCSC would gain more. When you take the amount and look at it on a yearly basis \$30,000 received for each of the next 5 years doesn't seem much to write home about.

Other town managers addressing the Board were the Director of Development Services Todd Baker, Wastewater Superintendent Kathy Dillon and Human Resources Manager Claudine Sutton. Mr. Barker spoke on the Contract Lumber parking lot expansion, IU Health oversized signage, Maplehurst grain silos and the single story rental units being erected on the South side between County Road 300 N and Northfield Drive. Ms. Dillon spoke of the recognition the department received in a national trade magazine and at the annual conference of the IWEA (Indiana Water Environment Association). When the lady sitting in the row behind me rose to speak, I was surprised because all the town employees usually sit on the left side of the room facing the Council. The police and fire department employees sit on the right side or at the rear of the center section. Human Resources manager Claudine Sutton is relatively new to the town. I also had the impression that the position is also relatively new as she talked about handbook revisions and on-board education something Attorney Leminger does for the various Boards.

General Citizens Comments brought forth six citizens. Mr. Disser returned to speak again. This time he spoke to remind the Council that the annexation battle was continuing. He also took offense at the cost to the Town for Attorney Leminger to continue to represent the Council when she changed law firms, and comments made by Board member Rob Kendall. (The anti people only have another month to knock Mr. Kendall.) He finished his comments with a threat to organize the citizens of Brownsburg to fight for fiscal responsibility and a comment that the tax rate for the Town of Brownsburg was 35% higher than Brown Township. I would suggest my tax rate is 35% higher because I pay for police so Brown Township residents can safely shop in Brownsburg, local street maintenance so they can drive through Brownsburg to shop or go to Avon to shop, and maintain and expand parks for their youth to enjoy. I did check out Mr. Disser's web site noannexationbrownsburg.com in which he states that it would cost us \$50,000 more a year in police costs if they were annexed. What he didn't say was that was the cost to add two police officers to service Brown Township which is probably more protection than they are getting from the sheriff's department out of Danville.

Two of the speakers were familiar to me in that they had spoke at BCSC Board of Trustee meetings. Lisa Gallo confronted the Council for the 3 minute limit for comments. She stated that this fact was not to be found anywhere in public records and that was not uniformly practiced. She requested that rules should be listed and it was an obligation not an indulgence. I suspect this was in reference to Scott Smith not being able to complete his remarks at a previous Council meeting. Garen Carnes spoke on the hostility that still seemed to exist between the Town and BCSC following the referendum. He felt additional joint meetings with citizens' comments allowed needed to

... continued to page 5

November Town Council *cont from pg. 4.*

be held and not pursued on social media with personal attacks. Also, BCSC Superintendent Jim Snapp, who had attended the Resident Academy, spoke to complement the Town on the effort to reengage the community and express his being impressed by the professionalism of the town employees.

Police Chief Dove rose to speak about the involvement of the Brownsburg Police Department in the capturing of the bank robber who was responsible for at least 11 robberies. The robber would change his appearance when robbing. The FBI complemented Brownsburg for leading to the capture.

Todd Richwine complained that he had not been notified that the town intended to put a road through his kitchen but he did get notified about doubles being built. My advice to Mr. Richwine is to get a lawyer before he signs anything. This is from my experience of receiving a couple hundred dollars for losing part of my front yard and concrete driveway (I spent more on concrete than the town paid me.) while my neighbors down the street received thousands. Being a cooperative citizen is not rewarded. I guess I shouldn't be too upset. It is sort of like the Bible story where the workers hired in the morning received the same amount of pay as those who only worked an hour. But then Brownsburg is not representative of the kingdom of God.

Since this article is rather wordy and does not represent the view of the publisher, this might be the last Council meeting about which I am asked to comment. -- *Anne Sering*

December Town Council Highlights

Because of the end of the year schedules, only one Town Council meeting was held on December 17th with all present members in attendance. The meeting started the usual way with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The first item on the agenda was citizen's comments on that night's agenda. While most meetings there aren't any comment, this night there were two people with comments.

First up was Sabrina Graham, her comments were directed towards the forced voluntary annexation of a property on 650E. This property is in the annexation zone and proves what the remonstrators said would happen back in 2013. When the new property owner went to the county to get a new septic permit the County refused stating their ordinance that if the property was within 300 feet of a city sewer line then the home owner had to connect to the city line. This owner's property has a sewer line across the front of his property. When he went to the town, he had to sign a waiver of remonstrance and then per city ordinances had to voluntarily annex to the city to get the sewer connection.

Then Kurt Disser approached the lectern to comment on the consent items which still had a bill from KGR for 6700 dollars and already had a bill from FBT for 83,000 dollars to fight the annexation. Kurt questioned what work KGR was still billing to the town and how could FBT have already spent that much money on the litigation. With no other citizen comments, this portion of the evening was closed.

Next up on the agenda was the sewer connection on 650E. Grant Kleinhenz stated that the waiver of remonstrance had been signed and voluntary annexation was a town ordinance when receiving sewer connection. They asked the owner if everything was ready to be signed and the owner was concerned for his zoning since he is a hobby farmer. With this issue on the table, the connection to sewer and the voluntary annexation was tabled until January.

With no old business, first on the new business list was Resolution 2015-52 which is a resolution approving a term sheet between the redevelopment commission and Hendricks Regional Health to fund Ronald Reagan Parkway improvements for the new health facility. Under the agreement, Brownsburg agrees to make 2.6 million dollars of road improvements to Ronald Reagan Parkway to include traffic lights and center medians near the new health facility. The road improvements will be funded by Bonds that are not secured by

Dec. Council Highlights- *continued from left.*

property in the Town. These Bonds would be purchased by Hendricks Regional Health at 2% over 20 years. By doing the funding in this way, it frees up the TIF dollars to be used for the Rec Enter, Bolt development and Arbuckle Acres mixed use projects. The final agreement will be completed in January/February time frame but approving now allows Hendricks Regional Health to finalize purchase of the property. This resolution was approved 5-0.

Two other ordinances concerning health care were on the docket. First, 2015-35 for St. Vincent Medical facility to be built in the Lincoln Business Park asking for it to be rezoned to PD. The rezoning will allow St. Vincent to utilize the property for an urgent care, primary care, outpatient surgery and imaging. This proposal was amended at the Advisory Planning commission when it came to light that the town wanted St. Vincent to pay 15,000 towards road improvements which was supposedly 5% of the cost. However, the Town was going to get reimbursed from the state so the Town cost was going to be far less. St. Vincent objected to paying for something that was being reimbursed and asked that the reimbursement be removed from the ordinance which the recommendation from the Advisory Planning Commission removed the obligation to pay for the road improvement. First reading passed 5-0.

The second ordinance on the docket for health care was amending the approved ordinance for the Planned Development for the Hendricks Regional health facility. The amendment was to allow more construction trailers and to have bigger signage during construction. The amended ordinance passed 5-0 at first reading.

Ms. Hobbs read a proclamation for the 200th anniversary of the State of Indiana. December 11, 2015 started the Bicentennial Year Celebrations for Indiana which the Town of Brownsburg will be participating in many events during the year. It was announced by Mike Arnould during the Chamber of Commerce report that Grant Kleinhenz will present the State of the Town at the February 20, 2016 Chamber lunch.

At the end of the evening, the Town recognized out going members of the council Don Spencer and Rob Kendall and outgoing Town Clerk Treasurer Jeanette Brickler who had served the Town for 28 years.

After the presentations, the Town Council was adjourned to return with a new face in 2016.



Receiving service awards Jeanette Brickler for 28 years of service (far left), Rob Kendall 4 yrs (center), Don Spencer 4 yrs (right center). Congratulations !

Mr. Kendall - Investigations Continue

544 days have past he *still* refuses to provide the data to back up the "FACTS" he quoted in a 2014 Town Council speech.

Dual Office Holding - The public awaits Final Ruling from the State Attorney General The matter is in the hands of the Indiana State Attorney General for a final ruling. *This matter is not closed.*



Contract Renewal - *continued from pg. 3*

Dr. Snapp's contract. She listed her three R's for not renewing the contract: resources, referendum, and retaliation. Since her children fell within the autism spectrum she felt the resources were not being used to benefit such children. The referendum would have been a piggy bank for education. She accused Dr. Snapp of bullying and, in contradiction to Mrs. Johnson, her daughter's involvement was the opposite. Mr. Austin added to Mrs. Cox's complaints about Dr. Snapp attitude. He made some comment about Dr. Snapp needing a Doctor of Healing degree rather than a Doctor of Education. He stated there should be no tax increase and that Dr. Snapp (or the Board) needed to complement and forgive others and express gratitude not entitlement.

The final comments from the Board and Dr. Snapp were what one might expect. Dr. Snapp thanked those who supported the renewal of his contract. Adam Brower stated that decisions had not been made on the prospect of more referendums in the future. Public meetings would be held. He summarized by stating that the Board didn't lose; kids and schools lost. In reference to Mrs. Cox remarks, he listed his three R's: respect, renown, and renew.

Because the 4300 figure was touted as voting against the passage of the referendum, I looked up the numbers. It was true that 4307 voted against passage, 3753 did vote for it. The difference was 4% of the voters. I don't consider that a landslide victory. The second referendum lost by 52.46% of the vote to 47.54% in favor. It also occurred to me while writing this that, as often the case, those complaining about a particular type of behavior exhibited those same behaviors. Personally, I dislike disagreement especially when it is not based on fact and can't be reasoned with. As I see it, something will have to be done and there seems to be a mindset among some that whatever is asked for is not necessary and must be wrong. Some time back another school referendum failed. The ensuing fixes ended up costing the taxpayers more than if the referendum had passed. I am concerned the same will come to pass this time. Furthermore, I don't believe 8060 voters represent the entire school district. We all lost because of complacency and self assuredness. -- *Anne Sering*

BCSC December Board Meeting

The Board met on December 14, 2015 with an audience of over 75 people. The first item of business after the routine items are passed is the issuing of commendations for exceptional service of some type. The Lions Club was recognized for providing vision screening for all children in the Brownsburg area. Besides BCSC schools, Bethesda and St. Malachy students were also screened. Brownsburg Family Eye Care and Bogan Eye Care also participated. The organizations screened 3500 children this year. This task used to fall solely on the school nurses. Also receiving accommodations for the Best Buddies program were three staff members. This international program for middle school students matches up a special needs student with a friend who is willing to help them navigate the often difficult middle school years. At this point in the normal progression of the meeting

BCSC Dec. Board Mtg. *continued from left*

all those who are attending in honor of those receiving commendations leave. At this meeting that did not occur. This led to the realization that all the non-BCSC persons were present other reasons.

When it came time for comments from patrons, the procession of speakers began. A sister, long time friends, present and past students, parents and fellow coaches praised Coach Bret Neylon for his performance as a track coach, mentor, diligence and the inspiration he provides to all who know him. The fathers of students were especially emotional in their plea that Mr. Neylon be permitted to continue in his coaching position. The underlying reason for his supposed dismissal as coach was inferred to be due to BHS's performance in their conference meet. The reason for using 'supposed' is that no official action has been taken by the Board of Trustees who ultimately approve all personnel changes. It was stressed by those speaking that Neylon's athletes perform well in sectional and regional races for which they have been trained to reach their peak. One father stated his son's performance as an A/B student when he had been a C/D student was due to Neylon's influence. Bryan Eakle, courageously as a nontenured math teacher, spoke on Neylon's behalf stating Neylon had inspired him as a teacher and as a coach. Coach Neylon inspired him both physically and mentally. More than once the expression 'student athlete' was used to point out that students were encouraged to be success in school work as well as running. Each speaker was recognized with applause as they finished speaking. Those who have authority over Coach Neylon's position, Superintendent Jim Snapp, athletic director Kellie Waggoner, and Principal Bret Daghe, listened with expressionless faces.

Dr. Scott Wyndham presented information on educational outcomes for students with disabilities. End of year assessment for students in K-5 show a 10% improvement in reading assessment over the past 3 years while the student population has remained steady (68.6% up from 58.3% passing vs. 95.7% for all students). IREAD, third grade assessment, has all students improving from a 95.4% passing rate to 97.8%. The students with disabilities have improved from a 52.7% passing rate to a 79.25% passing rate the previous school year. High School graduation rates had risen steadily since 2010 but did drop this year primarily because students can choose to remain in school until the age of 22. The preschool programming continues to see an increase in number of students with disabilities applying. A student enrolled in the transitions program spoke explaining how he was able to given an opportunity to work at Boulder Creek during the school year and then was hired to work there for pay during the summer. It is apparent that in Brownsburg every student matters.

This year's new Coordinator of Transportation, Nick Meyerrose, presented information on the transportation department. BCSC has 81 yellow buses and 9 white activity buses, employees 3 office staff and 4 mechanics along with a student mechanic, 93 permanent drivers and aides, 16 substitute drivers and 9 substitute aides. There are 43 school bus routes; 2592 elementary students are transported on 43 routes; 1491 middle school students are transported on 32 routes; 1398 high school students and 61 St. Malachy students are transported on 25 routes. And these routes cover 3,512 miles in ... *continued to page 7*

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BCSC Dec. Board Mtg. *continued from pg. 6*

a day. For the last school year, buses traveled 19,563 miles for high school athletic events.

Mr. Voigt presented high lights of BCSC enrollment forecast for 2015/16 to 2025/26 which was prepared by Susan Brudvig, PHD. Over the past 15 years the student population has increased by over 3000 students. The growth has mirrored new home construction in the area with every year showing an increase in students. Most of the continued growth will occur in the southern 2/3 of the school district. With steady growth, the student population is projected to increase from the present 8192 to 9,800 as projected from 6,711 in 2005 and 7435 in 2010. However the projected student population could actually be as great as 11,720 or as little as 7,660. The base forecast projected 7,700 new homes in 20 years. Interestingly, if parents of BCSC students 'age in place' and grow older in their current homes, new home building is necessary for enrollment to remain stable but if housing turns over, enrollment can stabilize or even grow without a surge in new home building. This actually occurred in MSD of Wayne Township. It is expected the secondary growth will be greater than the elementary growth.

The new business conducted was mainly routine: a few changes in high school curriculum, end-of-year payments and transfers, authorization of court representation, notice to taxpayers for additional appropriations (rainy day transfers) and related financial matters. Dr. Snapp made no comments. -- *Anne Sering*



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November Park Board Highlights



-- *Anne Sering*

The Brownsburg Park Department met on November 12, 2015 with all members present. The prime news of the night was the proposed plan to replace the small playground near the splash pad with a new one that would have features usable by toddlers. The free play environment equipment is being offered with a \$20,000.00 grant from Game Time. The proposed set retails around \$81,000. The \$20,000 budgeted for the repair of the existing set can be used toward the purchase. So the set can be obtained for a little more than half of the retail price. The set will cover a 40ft. X 40ft. area. Some of the parts of the old set may be saved as replacement pieces for existing equipment. The present structure is 15 years old which is not an uncommon age at which to retire equipment. As a comparison, it would cost between \$200 and \$300 thousand to replace.

Director Philip Parnin said the more recent cost estimate for the Safe Route connecting Brown Elementary, Eagle Elementary and the library came in 55% over the budgeted amount. Both of the previous estimates were also over budget. There are two choices: change the scope of the project or find additional funds. He also discussed the park project in front of Bob Evans. Parnin stated it was a quality of life project. It will eventually be part of the trail that connects with Arbuckle Acres. Before that can occur crosswalks and traffic pattern changes will be needed. His final comment was new council members had met w/ Board members Phil Utterback & Michael Klitzing.

December Park Board Highlights

The Brownsburg Park Department ended the year on a high note with the signing of the fifth inter-local agreement between the Brownsburg Park Department and the Brownsburg Public Library. The agreement details responsibilities between the entities and also has some agreements on capital projects. The library director, Denise Robinson, pointed out that both organizations serve the same populations from birth to senior citizens. Ms. Robinson highlighted two new projects. One involves installing Little Free Books stations in Arbuckle and Williams Parks. It was later pointed out that a Brownsburg citizen has already established a Little Free Library on South Odell St. The other project planned would print book pages along a trail so that a book could be read while exercising.

The other positive was approval to purchase land along White Lick and adjacent to Arbuckle Acres. The land will be purchased for approximately \$16,000 from Levin which will bring the town closer to being able to access funds from impact fees. The town is within 11.3 acres of required acreage. Impact fees are paid on new housing construction. Once the town has the required acreage, it can use these funds for new construction projects. The money is not to be used for maintenance or salaries.

Other information: Elaine Wright was promoted to the new position of marketing manager. A study of website users found more men (54%) than women accessed the site. The Park Department is studying the possibility of outsourcing mowing and mulching services. Two criteria are cost savings and time savings. When bad weather causes delays it is possible that an outside source could provide more manpower to get back on schedule. The delay in the Gateway project in front of Bob Evans Restaurant was caused by vendor error. The roof and structure parts for the shelter were not manufactured correctly causing problems. New parts will be provided. Kevin Enders, Youth Services Manager was awarded a scholarship which will enable him to attend a conference which will broaden his knowledge for his position with the Parks Department.

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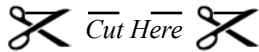
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