

BROWNSBURG

SENTINEL

Free Take One!

A News / Commentary Publication

Informative / Insightful

May 31, 2016

CONFLICT OF INTEREST ?

Nate Mantlo Brown Township Board Member:

"We are the fire territory participating unit, and as board members of those, it is our duty to do what's in the best interest of the fire protection territory. And I believe the fire territory attorney should also do the same. Through a public access request I was provided with some important information the other day, and I think that all board members, all of us should know this information and including Lincoln.

This information has to do with an email correspondence through the fire territory executive board, and Trish Leminger. And Trish Leminger was preparing an affidavit for then Chief Reinhart to sign. And that affidavit through the emails, we believe that it is the intent of that affidavit was to benefit the Town of Brownsburg in the annexation litigation.

Specifically, if this ploy by the town was successful it would negatively impact the fire territory by \$80,000 per year, 'cause that is the circuit breaker money that we've talked about. I've heard the Town of Brownsburg talk about that, I've heard Don Spencer talk about that. So Frost Brown and Todd and Tricia are aware that annexation remonstrators will need to show among other things, in order to be successful, that fire protection services are adequately furnished by a provider other than the municipality seeking the annexation.

are well paid, well reimbursed by fire territory funds.

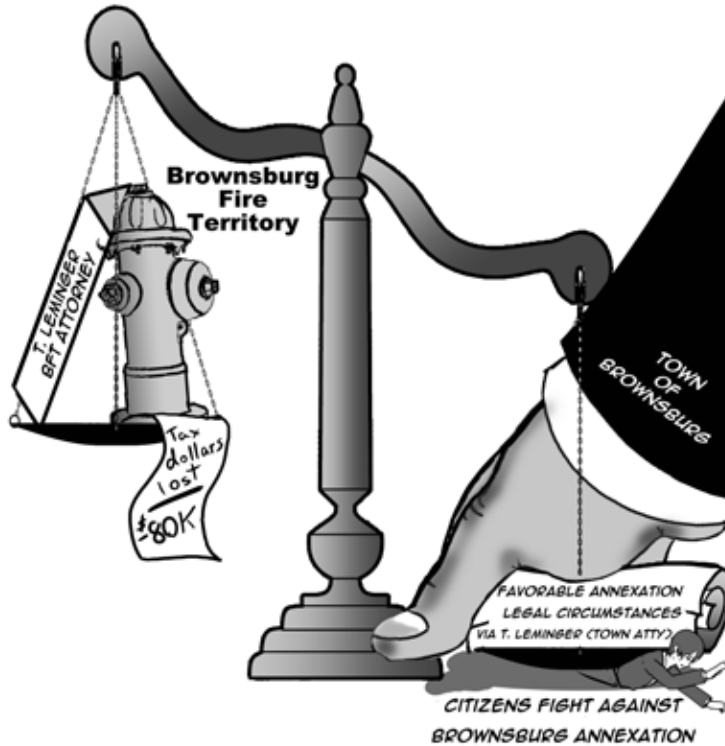
I've not seen this affidavit, and the affidavit was also corrected so there is a red lined, I am requesting copies of both of those today... Trish both the original and the final.

And also in closing it is my wish to let all of you know, what has been going on to our collective detriment. I have asked Mr. Jessen to inquire into this clear conflict of interest because there is not an attorney to protect the fire territory against the actions of the Town of Brownsburg.

I know from past meeting minutes that Mr. Kmetz has also asked Trish about a conflict of interest, with regard to her representing both the town and the fire territory.

And finally I ask all of you to join me in asking for the resignation of Trish Leminger and any attorney of Frost Brown and Todd from representing the fire territory and ask the executive board to hire an attorney without this conflict of interest.

Now if you have questions, I really want you to email me because I can provide you with these public access documents, so you can read them for yourself and make your own determination. I'd be happy to give you my email number, my email address after the meeting. Thank you. " -- Nate Mantlo Brown Township Board Member May 26, 2016



Tricia Leminger Attorney
Frost Brown and Todd Representing:
Town of Brownsburg and
Brownsburg Fire Territory
Photo courtesy of Tricia Leminger

Now within this email correspondence Tom Kmetz was very right to point out to Tricia that it indicates that the town provides all fire protection services. And Tom corrected her by saying and clarifying that is the fire territory, not the town that provides fire protection.

The town in its provider unit capacity, in my opinion and others, is simply the hired vendor for human resources, administrations, for which they



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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

I always become unsettled when I hear the phrase “Desperate times call for desperate measures”.

Yet Hollywood’s best screen writers could not have written anything more far-fetched than what unfolded during the month of May. The drama of the finish of the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 notwithstanding, the greater story line continues to play out in our small corner of the world.

The town council has repeatedly been made aware and cautioned of the obvious conflict of interest, where two separate and independent public service entities (the Town of Brownsburg, and the Brownsburg Fire Territory) retain not only the same legal firm, but the same attorney- Tricia Leminger. Anyone’s ability to maintain the delicate balance under “normal” circumstances would be met with serious doubt by the average area resident. In fact, such a reminder was one of the last warnings delivered by area residents before the dismantling of “General Citizens Comments” by an unanimous vote of the Town Council. A casual observer could easily make the case elected, hired, and appointed public servants became fed up with what in their perception was “Show Boating” and “Grand Standing” at the lectern.

These same individuals (and those private citizens who favor their actions) failed to realize the dramatic change in circumstances resulting from the Town of Brownsburg’s recent insatiable appetite for new lands (involuntary annexations). Now the Town and the Fire Territory are involved in a single law suit. Each public service entity has separate, distinct, and competing needs. In addition, the Town continues to under estimate the unrelenting, tenacious defense mounted by those opposed to being overrun.

The evidence available by public document request, was apparently compelling enough for a respected elected Brown Township Board member to publicly lay out the evidence, and call for Tricia Leminger’s resignation as the attorney, as well as anyone else from her firm Frost, Brown and Todd, to represent the Brownsburg Fire Territory in current and future legal matters. If these accusations prove true, what dire circumstances does the town foresee...one can only speculate.

Clearly elected, hired and appointed public servants are having a hard time distinguishing between wants versus needs. This plot twist in the story line occurred on May 25th where many present questioned if all available monies and or funding approaches were thoroughly evaluated and if so all of said options made available to the public. During the meeting one of the council members expressed this same concern. There are a variety of shiny objects for the town that seem to be more important than increasing wastewater/sewer capacity. Without this key element in place, all other shiny objects no matter how desirable will remain beyond their grasp. This publication is not making light of the tough decisions that face our public servants rather this publication suggests they should sharpen their pencils, prioritize their list based on the needs of the public they chose to serve and once those obligations are fully funded and underway then and only then should the town consider the shiny object that is fashionable at the moment.

It is disappointing to see public displays of ineffective leadership particularly by those who express the desire to hold those positions. Specifically, Town Council President Ashley Bascu failed to pick up a certified letter addressed to her residence and after fifteen days the letter was returned to this publication. As editor, I was disappointed to publicly expose Mrs. Bascu’s poor decision making at the May 25th special town council meeting, by hand delivering the envelope. Given her reluctance, to adhere to her stated commitment to the public that the council members would be available by various communication methods. I also sent Mrs. Bascu an email to all known public and private addresses with the same request contained in the certified letter which is to meet with her to gain greater insight into her decision to vote for the elimination of “General Citizen’s Comments”. I have received no response from her to date. Chris Worley, Brian Jessen and I continue to jostle our public and private schedules to set a time to meet. I appreciate the candid and continuous dialogue as we all struggle for this search to set aside this time.

Finally, due to the overwhelming amount of newsworthy material generated by our elected, hired, and appointed public servants combined with this publication’s space limitations, this months Brownsburg Park Board report provided by Anne Sering is unavailable in print.

We will make her report available on our website.

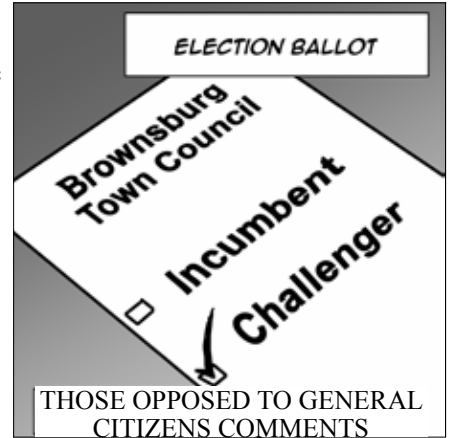


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May Town Council Highlights *-by the Editor*

May 12, 2016 Regular meeting of the Town Council.

The first meeting in May was opened by Mrs. Bascu noting that all members of the council were present.

Citizen's comments brought Kurt Disser to the podium. His comments were about ordinance 2016-09 which will go against 2014-10. This seems to be an interpretation issue where the town would be taking funds already owed the Fire Territory. The 3 million dollars in the special CAGIT distribution was supposed to be shared 51% to the town and 49% to the Fire territory which would mean 1.4 million to the Fire Territory and 1.6 million to the Town. The new ordinance would move 1.1 million earmarked for the Fire Territory into a fund for the Town. The SBOA memorandum and the new statute say that 51% to the Town and 49% to the Fire Territory. Then the Town must use their portion 75% to infrastructure and 25% anything else. This new ordinance wants to switch the numbers around and 75% of the funds upfront going to the Town and then 49% of the 25% left would go to the Fire Territory. Kurt asked if there was going to be a public hearing and asked not to pass the ordinance all in one night but make this evening a 1st reading and do research and come back and pass it at the next meeting.

Phil Parnin gave the Park Board report where he indicated Tobacco Free Hendricks County came to the Park Board to make the parks tobacco free. Phil was going to talk to the Town to see if they wanted to be included with the Tobacco Free policy. Once the Park Board understood if the Town wanted to be included, the Park Board would go forward with the Park Board policy.

Under previously considered there was one item which was Ordinance #2016-08 - An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Brownsburg Amending Ordinance #2015-31 Relating to the Town's Approval of Salaries and Salary Ranges for 2016. This was a proposed 2nd, 3rd Reading and Final Adoption sponsored by Sean Benham. This ordinance was being updated to correct an error regards to the Clerk Treasurer salary when there is an extra pay period. This ordinance was passed unanimously.

The first item on the docket for new for consideration was Ordinance #2016-09 - An Ordinance for the Establishment of Fund #257 (LOIT Special Distribution) - Proposed 1st, 2nd, 3rd Reading & Final Adoption (Grant Kleinhenz). This was the ordinance from Mr. Disser's comments. The information was given from DLGF memorandum and direct conversation by council with the DLGF. The ordinance does not need a public hearing, if there is unanimous consent from the council to do all three reading this evening. Full consent was given to pass the ordinance in one reading and the ordinance was approved.

The second new business was Ordinance #2016-10 - An Ordinance Annexing Real Estate into the Town of Brownsburg, Hendricks County, Indiana Pursuant to a Petition for Voluntary Annexation (616 S. Green Street) - Proposed 1st Reading (Brian Hartsell) A zoning variance hinges on the annexation of the property. The ordinance was passed on 1st reading with a public hearing on May 26th then final approval on June 9th.

Next up was Resolution #2016-16 - A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Brownsburg to Partner with INDOT to Improve the

Intersection of Green Street and Main Street (US 136) (Todd Wallace) This is the first step because INDOT dropped the redesign when they sold 267 to the Town. This will be a shared project with INDOT because of highway 136. Resolution was approved unanimously by the Council.

Last for new for consideration was Resolution #2016-17 - A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Brownsburg Confirming the Cancellation of a Retirement Account Established with the International City/County Management Association Pursuant to the Terms of an Agreement for Appointment of Town Manager Dated December 3, 2009 (Ann Hathaway) These funds are for the previous Town Manager and would allow the former Town Manager to roll the money into another fund. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Under Town Council items, Dennis Dawes stated that the application process was opened and several internal applications for Chief of Police. He also commended the police department for the work on a situation that needed the APC deployed because the situation was handled well. The police department communicated with the Brownsburg School Police department which kept the school buses out of the neighborhood.

His last remarks were from The Hendricks County Communication Center-911 board. The build out of the new communication center is going forward quickly and the LOIT monies are 340,000 a month which will pay for the operation needs for the center.

Then, Brian Jessen introduced Chief Larry Alcorn as the new Fire Chief. (See Story Page 7) He also stated that there will be a special meeting for the reestablishment of the equipment replace fund on May 26th. The meeting will be with Brown/Lincoln Township with the Town Council. After those comments the meeting was adjourned

May 25th Town Council Special Meeting to discuss the Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion and funding.

Mrs. Bascu opened the meeting and noted that Councilman Dawes was absent however all other members were present. There were two items on the agenda for the evening. First an update on the Wastewater project design from the design firm, Arcadis, and then a discussion on how it could be funded by Umbaugh

The Arcadis project management started his presentation by restating why the expansion is needed. First the current plant is at 85% of the designed capacity with some of the individual processes already at 100%. Second, there is a new regulatory mandated phosphorus limit which is a permit requirement which the Town has to meet by October 1, 2018. Third, there are upgrades needed to the disinfection system for safety and capacity. The plant currently uses chlorine gas and is at 100% capacity. Fourth, the polishing pond needs to be eliminated to prevent permit violations. Lastly, the plant does not have influent screening for solids. Currently, the solids flow through the system damaging the machinery.

The current plant was built in 1987 with a capacity of 2.4 MGD. It was upgraded in 2000, to increase its capacity to 3.5 MGD. The last improvement was done in 2011 but it did not increase the capacity of

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May Town Council Highlights - *continued from page 3*

the plant.

Originally, the Town was going to split the phases into 1A which were the urgent and critical treatment needs with no increase in capacity. Phase 1B was going to be the liquid stream capacity increase to 5.25 MGD. Then Phase 2 would be sludge handling capacity increase.

Sewer upgrades are needed because the sewer collection system is limited because the lift stations do not have the same rates and the interceptor sewers are not the right circumference. Phase 1 will connect Northfield drive interceptor to a new interceptor and a new lift station then into the plant. Phase 2 will extend sewer to proposed Ronald Reagan parkway the lift station site is at US136 and CR625E which needs to be purchased which is <1 acre.

The design is on schedule for the wastewater treatment plant. The 60% design documents were delivered on May 2, 2016. The 90% design will be submitted by July 2, 2016. The construction permit application can be submitted to IDEM after July 2, 2016. The sewer design is on the same schedule.

In an effort to reduce costs several actions have been taken. First, a third party consulting firm was brought in to conduct a study to identify cost savings. Secondly, there are continuously design reviews and discussions with plant staff to identify more cost savings. The construction project is focused on dire improvements to existing processes and future growth, plus the new phosphorus requirement. Current construction 20 million for the plant and 4 million for the sewer upgrades. They are trying to get it down to 22-23 million range. These changes that are lowering the price are being designed in but are going to ask for alternative bids with and without the changes.

The SRF loan application was submitted last year. SRF funding current rate of 2% up to 10 million dollars with any amount above 10 million the rate will be higher but still on the low side. A formal public hearing needs to be scheduled and a Preliminary Engineering Report needs to be submitted to IDEM by June 15 to get the 2017 funding.

The project schedule is currently planned as follows:

Proposed Project Schedule Summary

- Bid advertisement: 9/1/2016
- Bid opening: 11/1/2016
- Contractor selection and award: 11/30/2016
- SRF Loan closing: 11/30/2016
- Construction NTP: 1/2/2017
- ~1 year for sewer construction period
- Sewer construction completion: 10/31/2017
- 2 years for WWTP construction period
- WWTP construction completion: 12/21/2018

Grant is trying to have the public hearing between June 13th and June 15th. Also there have been questions around a public/private partnership or design build scenarios to cut costs. Jim Waggoner says with a design/build the cost comes afterward when you need to

immediately start replacing equipment. The private/public partnership will cost the city less but will probably cost the residents more in sewer rates.

Next for the evening was a discussion of the proposed rate analysis by Umbaugh & Associates. There are two scenarios: 1) everything all in construction cost of about 18.3 million plant, 3.8 million of the sewer, 4.7 million for design and other fees for a total of 26.8 million and 2) with the pieces taken out which is around 21.5 million.

Funding for scenario 1 the SRF opportunity is our best option but has a 10 million limit per year so 10 million bond issuance from SRF at the low rate and 10.790 bond issuance from the pool program at a slightly higher rate. The rest of the money would be split between several sources: 1) cash on hand 2.277 million and 2) possibility of coming up with another 3.8 M from other sources LOIT, TIF and other funds. Funding for scenario 2 would be the same except the pool bond issue would be 5 million instead of 10.790M. The subsidized rate changes quarterly-right now it is at 2%. The bonds are amortized over a 20 years with final maturity in 2038.

To make the increase less painful on the residents, the rate increase was spread over 5 phases. For scenario 1, the debt level stays at 2 million dollars. For scenario 2, the debt goes down to 1.6 million.

For scenario 1, the average customer has a sewer bill today of 33.44 a month with a 5 dollar sewer charge. The bill will increase by \$4.17 in year 1, \$3.03 in year 2, \$3.60 in year 3, \$5.03 in year 4 and \$6.80 in year 5. At the end of year five, the average consumer will be paying \$56.07 plus the 5 dollar sewer charge. For scenario 2, the average customer has a sewer bill today of 33.44 a month with a 5 dollar sewer charge. The bill will increase by \$3.14 in year 1, \$2.23 in year 2, \$2.23 in year 3, \$5.03 in year 4 and \$6.23 in year 5. At the end of year five, the average consumer will be paying \$52.30 plus the 5 dollar sewer charge. Umbaugh is also recommending raising the availability fee from the current level of \$4700 to

\$5730 for scenario 1 and to \$5280 for scenario 2. These rates for all five phases must be adopted by Middle of October 2016 to be in place in 2017 (see table below).

Mr. Kleinhenz added: "Then we also talked about there was one other element we talked about if for some reason the town can find or secure a million dollars in cash, a million dollars reduces the monthly increase by about 63cents I think it was for the average user. About 2% over the five phases If as we continue to crunch and find things we could come up with a couple of million dollars for instance like the general obligation bond that we talked to the council about earlier in April that could potentially reduce that rate increase by 2% so if we get 3-4 million dollars more we could reduce it up to 4%."

Councilman Worley stated it sounds like if we don't raise the rate, we don't do the project.

Grant's final comment was that if you look at the tax rate from 2011 to today, the tax rate has went from 1.14 to where it is projected .93 cents it is a decrease of 21 cents. The meeting was adjourned. **cont to p. 5**

**Under the current
funding proposals
sewer rates
for residential
customers could
potentially double.
Increases phased
in over a 5 year
period.**

Brownsburg Sewer Residential Rates								
Expansion Options	Assumed Current Avg. Bill	Est. Increase Phase 1	Est. Increase Phase 2	Est. Increase Phase 3	Est. Increase Phase 4	Est. Increase Phase 5	All Phases Est. Total Increase	Est. Total After 5 Years
Alternative 1	\$33.44	\$4.17	\$3.03	\$3.60	\$5.03	\$6.80	\$22.63	\$56.07
Alternative 2	\$33.44	\$3.14	\$2.23	\$2.23	\$5.03	\$6.23	\$18.86	\$52.30

Source H.J. Umbaugh and Associates Presentation: May 25th Special Town Council Meeting

May Town Council Highlights - *continued from page 4*

May 26th Special Joint meeting with the Brown and Lincoln Township boards.

The meeting was opened by Mrs. Bascu for the Town Council and noted Councilman Dawes was absent. Then the meeting was opened by the Lincoln Township board with all members present and lastly the Brown Township Board with 2 members present which is a quorum.

There were two items on the docket for the special meeting. First up was the re-establishment of the Equipment Replacement Fund Rate for the Brownsburg Fire Territory which was an advertised public hearing. To re-establish this fund it needs to be approved by all entities in the Fire Territory. The original tax rate was .033/100 dollars of taxable real property.

The public hearing was opened by all three boards. Mr. Jim Murphy came to the podium and remarked that even though the fund rate goes down, the value of fund does not because the assessed value is going up in the area. Mr. Murphy asked if anyone knew what the tax produced last year or the assessed value from this year. No one could answer his question. Mr. Murphy stated it was like getting a pay raise every year without doing anything. He confirmed that the money does not go away from year to year. He didn't mind the increase he just wanted everyone to do their homework before blindly approving the reset every year.

Next up was Donovan Peoples who asked Chief Alcorn how much was in the fund for 2016 and how much he expected in 2017. Chief Alcorn said that the 2016 fund was set at 650,000 dollars and if the max rate was re-established the fund would be at 271,000 dollars in 2017. Then he asked where does the money reside? Ann Hathaway confirmed that the town manages the money but it has a separate checking account and money market. Chief Alcorn stated that there is 506,000 dollars in the account right now.

The public hearing was closed and each board called for a motion to approve with all three boards unanimously approving the motion passed on 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading that evening.

Next on the docket was a consideration of Purchase of Equipment (Fire Engines) and Related Financing. The Brownsburg Fire territory Board met and it was determined that financing was not required. They will move forward with an advertised public hearing at Town Council.

Lastly, Consideration of such other matters that may come before the Township Board of Brown Township, the Township Board of Lincoln Township and/or the Town Council of the Town of Brownsburg. Ms. Leminger brought an item for amendment of the interlocal agreement for the Hendricks County Communication Center installation of new equipment on the existing tower. It was determined that the existing tower was not strong enough for the new equipment so a new tower will need to be built to do this there needs to be an amendment to the agreement. Lincoln Township and Town Council have approved but the Brown Township board had not. The Board had not seen the amendment so they will have a special meeting to consider the amendment.

At this point, the council and the two boards adjourned their meetings. Before the final gavel, Nate Mantlo reopened the Brown Township meeting so he could make some remarks. **Please see article on Conflict of Interest for his remarks Page 1.** After his remarks, the Brown Township meeting was closed and the meeting was adjourned.

May 26th Town Council regular meeting

Mrs. Bascu called the meeting to order indicating the Councilman Dawes was absent. Citizen's comments brought Kurt Disser to the podium. He stated that he disagreed with the ruling on the CAGIT funds from the last meeting and would be looking into the matter further.

Decorate the Rain Barrel Contest Winner Announcement -There were 9 rain barrels decorating in April and voting was held in May. There were 600 votes cast. There were two categories: 1) people's choice was Joy Vidimos and 2) Best Themed was Team Stormdrain (*see story page 7*).

Under bids and awards was the resurfacing Bid award for Northridge subdivision, it was awarded to Calumet Civil Contractors, Inc. for \$661,525 by a vote of 4-0.

Next up were department reports which this meeting was Police department and the Fire Territory. Chief Dove came up first and stated that the department was going forward with purchasing body worn cameras. However, they will not wear them until the policy is reviewed by legal. The Fire Territory report was delivered by Chief Alcorn: There will be a swearing in ceremony on June 4th for 6 new employees 5 firefighters and 1 paramedic. The Fire Territory also finished with the specifications on the new pumps and will be asking for appropriations later next month.

Under previously considered items was Ordinance #2016-07 - An Ordinance Approving the Reestablishment of the Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund - Proposed 2nd Reading and Public Hearing, Proposed 3rd Reading and Final Adoption (Grant Kleinhenz) . The current rate is .0417 and the ordinance requests to move the rate back up to .05. This is outside the general fund and allowed to be reset to maximum by statute. The increase will generate 102,000 additional dollars to be used for equipment replacement, IT, and maintenance on town facilities. Last time the fund was reset was 2009. The fund has been depleted over the last couple of years. Grant reminded the council that the tax rate has decreased by 20% since 2012. When asked how much money the current rate generates, Grant answered \$420,000 annually and the increase would make it \$525,000 in 2017.

Mrs. Bascu opened the public hearing on the matter and first up was Kurt Disser. Kurt stated that the town is not required to address this rate every year unlike the Brownsburg Fire Territory equipment replacement fund. Brownsburg is already 36% higher than Brown Township residents. Next up Rob Kendall stated that the circuit breaker

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The Motion to Increase the Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) fund rate failed.



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May BCSC Highlights - *Anne Sering*

The Brownsburg School Board met on May 9, 2016 for the regular meeting.

Duke Energy is sponsoring a two year program Real Men Read which enlists male community volunteers to read books to kindergarten students. During this first year around fifty men read five different books to each kindergarten class in the corporation. Each student was given the five books read to them. Superintendent Jim Snapp and Board President Adam Brower



presented commendations to those present who had participated.

Each month the elementary schools participate in character education by emphasizing a positive trait. May's trait was good citizenship, 'choosing to act in ways that benefit everyone'. Brown Elementary Counselor Kathy Browning brought three students who presented a skit demonstrating the trait.

Mr. Voigt gave a detailed list of maintenance projects for the schools. The project ranged from the gym and classroom replacements at Brown Elementary to carpeting at Eagle. It was noted via a question from Board member Kim Armstrong that the drywall was not holding up at Reagan validating her point that cutting construction costs by eliminating tile around doorways was not wise in the long run. Mrs. Heffernan pointed out that of the 33 scholarships presented to graduating seniors, eight came from employee payroll deductions. Dr. Snapp reported that policy changes voted upon were mainly updates because of law changes.

The most contentious item of the evening was an announcement that the appointment to the Redevelopment Commission no longer needed to be a Board Member. Dr. Snapp was informing the Board of the change when the Board selected the Board appointment in July. Conversation ensued in which it was mentioned that maybe Barry Gardner be appointed because he was more knowledgeable. There was a period of time that no one from the Board attended the Commission meetings primarily because it was a non-voting position and the information provided the other Commission members was never made available to the BCSC Board member appointee. The discussion caught Philip Utterback, the present appointee to the Redevelopment Commission, by surprise. He appeared to take the discussion of a replacement personally and remarked that he had volunteered to be the appointee and had learned quite a bit by attending the meetings. Although Utterback did not raise his voice or look upset, it was apparent a nerve had been hit. It didn't appear that Mr. Gardner was aware of his involvement in the issue. Dr. Snapp backed off and stated that he was just informing the Board of the change in the law allowing a non-board member to be appointed. Stay tuned to find out who will be the BCSC representative on the Redevelopment Commission.

Dr. Snapp announced the May Community Meeting would be finalizing much of the information and that at the April meeting the majority of those present voted to add Lincoln Elementary attached to Reagan Elementary and to remodel/replace the older sections of the Brownsburg High School. He noted that in the five taxing areas in Brownsburg, sixty percent of the homeowners were at the tax cap. See elsewhere in this publication an article on the May Community meeting. The next and final community meeting will be held on June 7, prior to the June 13 Board Meeting. A solution to the over-crowding in the Corporation will likely be voted on at the July 8, 2016 Board Meeting.

Under new business, six recommendations were passed. The first was a recommendation to purchase new special education buses. Kim Armstrong asked questions about the bus uses. The buses were to be used for pre-school not special education. It was good to have Kim back after missing a couple of meetings because she does question and

comment on items. The 2016-2017 Food Service Budget was passed. Meal prices will increase for the next year. However, Kim Armstrong said that parents could buy lunches for less than it cost to pack a lunch. There was a discussion of what was included in the food service budget. Generally, the furnishings are included in the building costs. When food service needed to purchase two new commercial kettles the cost did not come out of the food service budget. Mrs. Jessup presented recommendations on Secondary Math Books, High School textbook rental fee and laptop rental and repair fees. Mr. Gardner asked for authorization for a public hearing at the June meeting for discussion of expansion of the early learning center. Four classrooms will be added to the building. Dr. Snapp's ending comments were about transportation for early childhood, the prom, and the Senior Dinner.

May Engagement Meeting - *Anne Sering*

After missing two of the community meetings because of a conflict, I attended the May Community meeting at White Lick Elementary. Situations change. This time it appears as if circumstances have changed for the better. We were told Brownsburg High School could be remodeled and an elementary school built without an increase in property taxes. In fact, homeowners below the tax cap could see a decrease in the tax rate. Wow! How?

Financially, three things have happened since the referendum failed. First, three years of debt reduction payments have been made. These payments reduced the debt by approximately \$48 million. Second, refunding of bonds saved \$13 million in interest. Third, the assessed value of property increased. In November, 2013, the assessed value increased 3.484% for 2014. In November, 2014, the assessed value increased 5.136%. And this past November the assessed value increased 6.811%. The increase in assessed value is due mainly to the increase in new housing (apartments and homes) and new businesses.

The renovations in Brownsburg High School are also surprising. By taking the lockers out of the hall ways, the passing space is doubled. Part of this recovered space is accomplished because students will no longer be blocking traffic when accessing lockers. By the renovation adding a second story to the core of the building two objectives are reached. First, more classrooms are added and secondly, students will be able to travel across the second story. Presently the two second story areas cannot be reached without going down a stairway and up another. In planning the renovations to enable the high school to house 3000 students, plans are already in place for enabling the facility to hold 4000 students. This could be accomplished by doubling the size of the senior academy and adding classrooms to the existing main building at predetermined and planned for spaces.

The session ended with Dr. Snapp asking if anyone had questions. Those asking questions were citizens who tend to be skeptical of anything and maybe everything the administration puts forth. Troy Austin asked about the bonds. Tom Lacey suggested the administration address future planning every five years. Jim Murphy wanted to know why the administration was not doing the future additions for the 4000 student capacity now. Jennifer Cox was concerned about maintenance and repair funds being contained as a limited budget item. David Weyant asked if any legislative changes had made this proposal possible.

I'll have to admit I would make a very ineffective investigative reporter. But all in all, I probably am a happier person than if I were more questioning and less accepting of what I am told. If you have access to a computer you can look up the administration's presentation and review on the website. The document for the May meeting is fifty-nine pages in length. If you're so inclined the public library has computers and would be glad to help you find the documents on line. The next and final community meeting on this subject is June 7 at 6:30 p.m. at White Lick Elementary. This is the Tuesday prior to the Board of Trustees who will be meeting June 13 at the Central Office.

May Town Council Highlights - *continued from page 5*

tax protection is not lost money and the council needs to stop thinking that way. He asked the council not to raise the rate or at least leave it at its current rate.

Chief Dove asked what the increase would cost a person who owns a \$200,000 home? A rough calculation by Ann Hathaway was 12 to 16 dollars per year.

Next came the Town council comments which were led by Brian Jessen. Brian had checked how other communities use the CCD fund and found that 90% of towns use it for public safety. Mr. Jessen stated if the fund is used for public safety only he would support the increase but not for buying trucks. The town needs to plan ahead and he will not support the measure.

Chris Worley stated he saw the CCD as one component of the corporate rate. He will support the measure.

Sean Benham asked if we decide not to establish this year what will happen. Grant stated we will have to cut out some of the new vehicles but not services. We will not impact safety by not doing the rate raise

Ashley Bascu said they could look at it again next year...especially with the water treatment plant coming up.

Grant was asked what the tax rate would be without the increase and he stated .914 or better.

After the discussion, Mrs. Bascu called for a motion. Chris Worley made the motion but no one seconded it so the ordinance died.

The first item under new for consideration was Resolution #2016-18 - A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Brownsburg Providing Final Approval for the Recommendations of the Brownsburg Improvement Committee, Inc. with regard to the Award of Funds Under the Town's Facade Grant Improvement Program (Greg Anderson) - five façade improvements worth 25,000 dollars: 1060 E Main street, 1042 E Main street, 22 E Main street, 17 railroad street, and 734 E Main street. 1042 E Main and 17 Railroad Street will be continued because they are still under discussion and will be brought back later. The other three are up for approval and was passed 4-0. There will be another call for applications later in 2016.

The second item was a Motion to Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Hendricks County Board of Commissioners and the Town of Brownsburg for a Stream Monitoring Gauge (Lisa Christie) The gauge will provide baseline level of flow characteristics and water level with rain. The agreement essentially gives the town installation for free and the town just pays for 1/3 of the yearly operations cost around 7600 dollar with Hendricks County paying the other two thirds of the fees. The resolution passed 4-0

The last item on new for consideration was Ordinance #2016-12 - An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Brownsburg, Indiana Amending Title III, Chapter 34, Sections 34.075, 34.076, and 34.077 of the Brownsburg Town Code (Phil Parnin) 1st reading this evening. This is an amendment to the language of the parks and recreation non reverting operating funds trying to manage the funds for BASE. It will establish a separate fund for BASE for 2017 for ease of reporting and management of funds. It came with a favorable recommendation from the Park Board. It was approved for 1st reading 4-0.

With no comments from the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned.



2016 Rain Barrel Decorating Contest Winner

Congratulations to "Team Storm Drain" for their winning entry into the Town of Brownsburg's Storm Water Department Rain Barrel Decorating contest. The award presented at the Thursday May 26th. Town Council Meeting.

There were 9 rain barrels entered in the decorating contest in April and voting was held in May. There were 600 votes cast. There were two categories: 1) people's choice was Joy Vidimos and 2) Best Themed was Team Stormdrain (pictured left).

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Brownsburg Fire Territory's New Fire Chief

Larry Alcorn Brownsburg Fire Territory's new Fire Chief was unanimously elected by three separate but equal members of the Brownsburg Fire Executive Board-- Tom Kmetz Brown Township,



Dovonan Peoples Lincoln Township, Brian Jessen Town of Brownsburg May 5, 2016. Previously Larry had been the Director of Administrative Services for the BFT.

Larry is no stranger to the responsibilities of chief having retired from the Wayne Township Fire Dept. in 2012, obtaining a rank of Battalion Chief after 30 years of service. He started as a contractor serving BFT in 2013 and was hired full time in 2014 as the Director of Administration Services. Brownsburg is very

lucky to have a man with his experience and depth of knowledge already working for the BFT making his appointment to Fire Chief a seamless transition for the Fire Territory.

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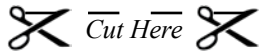
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