

**Albion Town Council
Special Meeting
Wednesday, December 27, 2017, 6:00 pm
Albion Municipal Building
211 East Park Drive, Albion, IN, 46701**

CALL TO ORDER: Town Council President Max Weber called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE: Max Weber, President
Don Shultz, Member
Vicki Jellison, Vice-President
Chris Magnuson, Member

ABSENT: John Morr, Member

OTHERS: Shannon McFarland, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
Stefen Wynn, Town Manager
Steve Clouse, Town Attorney
Matt Getts, KPC Media
Bernie Lawson (Arrived @ 6:05 PM)
Sharon Leitch
John Urso, Fire Dept
Chris Cavanaugh, Fire Dept
Rick Aldrich, Fire Dept
Tom Lock, Police/Fire Dept
Brad Rollins, Fire Dept
Gregg Gorsuch, Fire Dept
Aaron Knight, Fire Dept
Bob Brownell, Fire Dept
Shane Coney, Fire Dept
Bryan Peterson, Fire Dept
Johna Peterson, Fire Dept
Brian Tigner, Fire Dept
Erick Keirn, Fire Dept
Bob Bair, EMA
Kyler Likes, Fire Dept
Jason Koontz, Fire Dept
Mitch Fiandt, Fire Dept
Steve Bushong, Fire Dept

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from the regular meeting on December 12, 2017 were approved. Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Jellison, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Article in Fort Wayne Journal

Jellison stated that there is a very good article in the Fort Wayne Journal on December 25th about Albion. It states that the Town is moving in the right direction for a positive future.

OPEN DISCUSSION: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion regarding the transition from the current system of electing fire department officers to the installation of a paid fire chief

The Albion Fire Auxiliary appointed Aaron Knight as their representative for the Council meeting. Knight stated that it is their desire to return to a more autonomous structure. Knight presented the Council a proposed “contract” between the Albion Fire Auxiliary and the Albion Town Council.

Knight stated that the proposed “contract” would include the Albion Fire Auxiliary taking care of the manpower and the Town of Albion would pay for the equipment and maintenance of the building. They want to get back to worrying about fighting the fires and being volunteers. It wouldn’t interfere with the Town hiring a part-time chief.

Jellison asked if anyone had seen this proposed “contract” prior to the meeting. Knight stated that he was just handing it out for the first time to Council. Knight stated that Lagrange, Churubusco, Orange Township, and Sparta Township all use contracts.

Weber stated that the Council will take the “contract” under advisement. We will have our attorney look it over. It was noted that the hiring committee could possibly make an offer of employment to a candidate for the Part-Time Chief. The committee will meet again on January 3rd.

Shultz asked what this contract would mean in regards to the communication between the Albion Fire Auxiliary and the Town of Albion. Knight stated that there would be a more defined relationship between the Town of Albion and the volunteers. There would also be a clearer chain of command. Gorsuch stated that the Albion Fire Auxiliary would still want to elect their officers.

The Albion Fire Auxiliary stated they are looking for a fire chief that’s available Monday – Friday during the day hours. Council stated the individual would have to work an average of 29 hours (or less) per week. (However he or she can manage the hours.) It usually averages out to 3 ½ days per week.

Magnuson questioned about the Albion Fire Auxiliary stating that “we have managed our own affairs, coordinated our own training and commanded our own department with minimal involvement of the town government until approximately 2015.” She questioned if it was only related to the finances. Knight stated that it is more than just the finances; however, no other information was given.

Jellison questioned how the pay works when a firefighter goes from active to inactive. It was noted that if the firefighters don't do training, they must be placed on an inactive status. They can be at the scene; however, they can't do anything. If they can't make the training date, all the firefighter has to do is call with his/her excuse. Most of the training hours can be made if a trainer does hands on training or the firefighter could watch a video. It was noted that Urso, Cavanaugh, or Tigner monitors the training of the firefighters. Fiandt monitors who attends the meetings as the Fire Department's secretary.

Magnuson stated that half of the Part-Time Chief candidates that were interviewed felt they wanted to pick their own assistant and the fire body could vote and pick the other assistant. Weber stated that he wants a smooth transition. Jellison stated that anytime there is a change in leadership within the Town of Albion, we all have to work together and move forward.

Brownell asked if the Council had an opinion of the separation proposal between the Town of Albion and the Albion Fire Auxiliary. Weber stated that the Council doesn't have an opinion at this time. We are taking the "contract" under advisement.

Weber stated that the Council will stop accepting applications on Friday, December 29th at 4:00 PM for the part-time chief.

Fiandt stated that this is Albion Fire Department's 130th year as a department. We have always governed ourselves. He has worked under both instances. He has mixed emotions on the issue. Fiandt understands the Council wanting to take the "contract" under advisement.

He did state that we need the politics back out of the Fire Department. When asked what he meant, Fiandt stated that the Council is micromanaging. We had to revote all of our elections last year. Brownell stated that the chain of command isn't always followed.

Bushong stated that we need to work with the new part-time chief. There's no command during the day. He said they want the paperwork to go to the part-time chief.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & PAYROLL VOUCHERS:

Shultz motioned to approve Payroll and Accounts Payable Vouchers as of December 21, 2017, seconded by Magnuson, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, submitted and reviewed, attested by Shannon McFarland.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to be brought before the council in special session, Shultz motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 pm, seconded by Magnuson, carried 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. The next regularly scheduled meeting is to be held on January 9, 2018 at 6:00 pm, at the Albion Municipal Building, 211 East Park Drive, Albion, IN.

MAX C. WEBER, PRESIDENT

VICKI E. JELLISON, VICE-PRESIDENT

CHRISTINA K. MAGNUSON, MEMBER

JOHN D. MORR, MEMBER

DONALD J. SHULTZ, MEMBER

ATTEST: _____
CAROL A. SELBY, CLERK-TREASURER