

**The Inglis Town Commission
held the Regular Commission Meeting
at the Inglis Town Hall Commission Meeting Room
and Remotely via Zoom
on January 5th, 2021 @ 6:00pm**

Present Were:

**Mayor Merritt (attended Via Zoom), Comm. Brennan (attended Via Zoom), Comm. Morin,
Comm. Schwing, Comm. Webb, Comm. Williams
Attorney Fugate**

Motion to Adopt Agenda

Commissioner Morin made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Brennan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Prayer and Pledge to the Flag

Comments, Ordinances, ETC.

- 1. Attorney Comments:**
- 2. Ordinance/Resolutions:**
- 3. Contracts/Agreements:**

Consent Agenda

- 1. Minutes: Regular Meetings 12/01/2020
Budget Workshops
Budget Hearings
Workshops
Public Hearings
Special**

- 2. Financial Statements: November 2020**

Commissioner Schwing made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Morin seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Regular Agenda

- 1. Planning:**

Commissioner Webb stated a Planning Commission Meeting has been schedule for Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 at 6pm.

2. Code Enforcement:

Commissioner Morin stated there will be a Code Enforcement Board Hearing on January 21st, 2021 at 6:00pm.

3. Old Business:

4. New Business:

A. Discuss reimbursement request from the Chamber of Commerce President Richard Streeter for charges to have the septic pumped out and to have the drain field replaced due to damages caused during the construction of the addition at the Fire Station. (John MacDonald, Fire Chief)

Chief John MacDonald addressed the Commission stating after the addition was built at the Fire House he was informed that a complaint was made at Town Hall by Mr. Streeter.

Chief MacDonald stated he met with Mr. Streeter and according to him during the construction phase the heavy equipment damaged the drain field and he had to call a Septic Company and have the septic tank drained.

Chief MacDonald stated he was there during the phases of construction when the concrete was poured, the footers and all of that was put in place as well as when the building was erected and no heavy equipment was around the area where the septic tank and drain field was located.

Chief MacDonald stated he was informed by Kelly that works for Central Florida Electric that she had informed someone on a piece of equipment that was removing the vines from the trees that they were near the location of the drain field.

Chief MacDonald stated the only piece of equipment that would have been being used for the removal of the vines that Mr. Williams used to clear the sight but he did not see any signs of anything that would have caused damage to the drain field.

Chief MacDonald stated he brought this before the Commission to be decided upon, he had also informed Mr. Streeter this would be on the agenda tonight for discussion but with the Covid issue he did not want to attend in person.

Commissioner Williams stated Kelly did come out when he was mowing the vines and the piece of equipment he used was on the slope of the end of the drain field where no pipes are located and the track machine he used would not have hurt the drain field even if he had gone across it but what he had done was cut down some vines that were going from the building to the palm trees.

Commissioner Williams stated he was informed by Kelly that they had to have the septic pumped out a couple months ago and they do not want to damage it anymore and that was the end of their conversation.

Commissioner Williams stated after the building was completed the septic had to be pumped again which was done by the same company that was used prior, in light of that he called Joe's Reliable Septic and spoke to him regarding this and was informed that he had informed them then that they needed a new drain field because the field was just not working correctly and that was why the septic tank was filling up and then when he had returned the second time he reiterated to them again that unless they wanted to keep paying to have the tank pumped every couple of months they would need to replace the drain field.

Commissioner Williams stated the building was built back in the 1980's according to the permit and there was no record of a permit pulled since then for a new septic tank or drain field installation so with that being said he is going to recommend that they don't do anything with it.

Commissioner Brennan asked Commissioner Williams if he was making a motion to that fact.

Commissioner Williams stated he intends to if this is the proper time to do so if John MacDonald is finished with his comments.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to deny paying for anything, to pump out the septic tank or the drain field. Commissioner Brennan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Discuss short term rentals in the Town of Inglis. (Comm. Schwing)

Commissioner Schwing stated she had a resident contact her regarding short term rentals and hoped to discuss putting rules in place.

Commissioner Schwing read a letter she received from a friend of hers that lives in Crystal River and she feels this could eventually impact the Town.

Attorney Fugate addressed the Commission stating that unless the Town had rules in place prior to 2011 concerning short term rentals any issues fall under State laws.

Mayor Merritt stated having attended multiple hearings over the last 4 or 5 years she can tell the Commission that this issue is going to continue to come up but what she has heard is that it is the property owner's rights and they cannot violate them.

Commissioner Schwing stated the only thing that she thinks the Town could possibly do is put an ordinance in place regarding how many cars are allowed on a property, that they are tagged and behind fencing, and maybe then they could combat how many rooms are rented out at one time in a two thousand or three thousand square foot home and that they have licenses to operate.

Commissioner Morin asked if there is any input on the taxation by Levy County when it comes to these, do they pay a bed tax.

Attorney Fugate stated that a bed tax would not be something that the County would handle it would be the Department of Revenue.

Dave Banton, Code Enforcement Officer Town of Inglis addressed the issue regarding the licensing for Bed & Breakfast Rentals.

Mr. Banton stated they are required to have a Business Tax License in order to be registered to operate and there are rules that must be adhered to, there cannot be any outward indicators that there is a business being run in your resident and there cannot be any parking/driving issues caused in a residential area.

Mr. Banton stated if he is unaware of an issue like what was described by Commissioner Schwing then he can't hold people accountable.

Eric Vanovermeiren addressed the Commission via Zoom connection regarding short term rentals.

Steve Schwing asked the Attorney or the Mayor if they know if any of the legislation that they've tried to pass is it, let's say they limit it to where they're not allowed to do this is residential neighborhoods versus commercial, has any of that been affected that they know of.

Attorney Fugate stated they will not be allowed to do that unless the State legislature changes its mind, we can't strictly prohibit it in any of the zones.

Discussed followed.

5. Dept Report by Commissioners:

A. Budget & Finance.

Commissioner Brennan gave the revenue report for the month of December.

B. Water Dept.

Commissioner Williams read the report from the Water Department.

C. Maintenance/R&B.

Commissioner Schwing read the report for the Maintenance and Road & Bridge Departments.

Commissioner Schwing had a question on the Road & Bridge Budget line items.

Public Works Supervisor Wayne Moore stated the line item being questioned was for the work done on the traffic light by Wave-Tronics.

D. Law/Fire.

Commissioner Webb read the reports from the Sheriff's Department and Inglis Fire Rescue.

E. Land Use/Code Enforcement.

Commissioner Morin gave the floor to the Code Enforcement Officer Dave Banton.

Mr. Banton stated the Code Enforcement Board will meet this month on January 21st, 2021 at 6:00pm and there are approximately seven (7) cases that will be readdressed and hopefully there will be resolution to these cases.

Mr. Banton stated there will be another board meeting tentatively scheduled for February unless things change between now and then.

F. Planning.

Commissioner Webb stated there will be a Planning Commission Meeting this next Tuesday, January January 12th at 6:00pm.

G. Health/Welfare/Rec.

Commissioner Morin stated the next Farm Share Food Give Away will be on January 13th, 2021 and as usual it is a first come first serve basis, so plan to start lining up early, last month all the food was gone by 9:15am.

Commissioner Morin stated the South Levy Market Place has been disbanded at this time.

Commissioner Morin stated the Christmas Parade was a wild success and many thanks to everyone that contributed, Scooter Haven's Float, The Grinch Who Stole Christmas won and a lot of the kids that came out received toys and candy as well as visiting with Santa.

Commissioner Morin stated there were twenty-nine (29) families that were taken care of through the sponsoring by local clubs and businesses, these families were supplied with a Christmas Dinner and specific clothing and toy items that had been requested.

Commissioner Morin reminded all in attendance that she has the DCF Access Office open here at the Town Commission Room every Tuesday between 10am and 2pm.

H. Animal Control.

Commissioner Webb stated the Animal Control Officer is in attendance this evening for anyone that has not met her to please do so before leaving tonight, she is doing a fantastic job.

6. Public Comments:

Peter Williams addressed the Commission regarding a road issue.

Town Clerk Darlene Slattery addressed Mr. Williams concerns stating his address is located out in the county and any issues he may have need to be addressed to the Levy County Road Department so if he contacts her tomorrow she will give him the phone number and contact person.

Harry Brodhead addressed the Commission stating he usually attends the meetings in person when allowed too and he noticed at the last two meetings there has not been a Deputy in attendance and is wondering whether there has been any changes with that or have they just been tied up on service calls.

Steve Schwing addressed the Mayor asking if she has any information on Woodard & Curran since they were supposed to have their septic to sewer conversion report completed by the end of December and they were going to have information whether or not it's going to be feasible.

Mayor Merritt stated she spoke to Justin DeMello with Woodard & Curran and they are putting the finishing touches on the Feasibility Study and with Covid it has slowed things up and she thinks by this next month they will have it ready to go.

Commissioner Webb stated she was in attendance at a meeting of the Special Work Group with the Levy County Commission, Crystal River, the Yankeetown Mayor, Dan Hillard from W.A.R., to work on whether to get a special district group to incorporate everybody that wants to be involved with the wastewater, we will meet again in March, but Woodard & Curran will be attending the meeting next month to do a presentation on what has been done to date and will be for presentation with public notice.

Steve Schwing asked if there is a final tally on the cost for the Mastadon Bridge.

Town Clerk Darlene Slattery addressed Mr. Schwing stating she does not have the totals in front of her so if he would come and see her or contact her tomorrow she will get the information to him.

7. Workshops & Special Meetings:

8. Town Clerk:

A. Discuss quote for lease from DEX Imaging, LLC., company that services the Town Hall copy machine that is in need of parts that are no longer available to make the necessary repairs.

Town Clerk Darlene Slattery addressed the Commission stating the copier machine is no longer able to be repaired due to the age of the machine and feels that since each office has a printer her suggestion would be to purchase a scanner/printer for the Water Clerks desk since it is the oldest printer in the office and is beginning to have issues and to keep the big printer for parts for the one located at the IMB.

The Commission consensus was to leave the decision to the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk Darlene Slattery stated the information on the shots that was previously discussed is available at Town Hall.

Town Clerk Darlene Slattery stated this next week is qualifying week for anyone interested in putting their hat in the race for the upcoming General Election they can pick up the Candidate Packets beginning Monday January 11th, 2021 and these must be completed and returned before 5pm on Friday the 15th, 2021.

Town Clerk Darlene Slattery stated the office has been extremely busy lately so if anyone has requested anything to please be patient it will get to you.

9. Comments:

A. Mayor:

Mayor Merritt stated she has nothing further to discuss at this time.

B. Commission.

Commissioner Morin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Schwing seconded. Motion carried 5-0,

Attested By: Town Clerk

Approved By: Mayor

Transcribed By: Darlene M. Slattery