

**The Inglis Town Commission
held a Special Commission Meeting
at the Inglis Town Hall
on April 27th, 2021, at 6:00 PM**

Present Were:

**Mayor White, Comm. Brennan,
Comm. Levesque, Comm. J. Schwing, Comm. S. Schwing**

Special Agenda

1. Discuss and review the request for proposal received for legal services.

Commissioner J. Schwing stated the Town has received two proposals, one from The Fugate Law Firm and another from Gilligan Gooding, Batsel, Anderson & Phelan, P.A., Attorney Anderson would be assigned if Gilligan Gooding, Batsel, Anderson & Phelan, P.A. came to be our town attorneys.

Commissioner J. Schwing found interesting about one of the attorneys with the firm, Gwendolyn Williams, was that she is an attorney for a small town in Marion County with under 500 residents, showing that she has experience working with small towns.

Commissioner Levesque stated” I actually talked to all these people and there’s a team of lawyers on their team. They will send one person out here, but everything is talked amongst all of them and there’s multiple lawyers for Marion County. Their firm is located in Marion County also.”

Mayor White stated that he also spoke to them and thought it was interesting that Christopher Anderson recently became a managing partner of this firm but did all his internship under the Town Attorney for Levy County.

Commissioner J. Schwing stated “we wanted to get the best educated attorneys for the best price, their fee is \$235 per hour for attorney services and no additional fees for Paralegal Secretarial time. The firm also charges separately for direct costs.”

Commissioner J. Schwing then stated that Fugate law firm increased their prices, The town was paying \$500 for the retainer fee, and it is now \$750 per month.

Commissioner S. Schwing stated he read through the proposals as well and Gilligan Gooding, Batsel, Anderson & Phelan, P.A. specialize in State, Local and small municipality law and that they are involved in supporting the Sheriff’s office.

Ruth Ruppert addressed the Commission asking, “Is the reason for these proposals because you’re not happy with Mr. Fugate or is it that its just a money thing?”

Commissioner Levesque asked Ms. Ruppert if she has ever read the towns police contract.

Ruth Ruppert stated “I didn’t have a need to read the police contract”

Commissioner Levesque stated, "My opinion is that we just want a new clean slate we're trying to fix things here and if you read any of our contracts that he's put us into their not for us there for them."

Ruth Ruppert stated, "So you're not happy with his job performance? That is all you had to say."

Commissioner Levesque stated, "I kind of wanted you to understand a little bit."

Dick Streeter asked, "If we get a new attorney would they pick up whatever litigation is in the process for the junkyard?"

Commissioner Levesque stated "Exactly."

Code Enforcement/ Zoning Officer Dave Banton asked the Commission if we have reached out to the towns that Gilligan Gooding, Batsel, Anderson & Phelan, P.A. represent to get feedback from them.

Commissioner Levesque stated, "I did reach out to another lawyer that is familiar with this firm and asked him what he thought, he said if we got this firm to represent us, we would be lucky, Yankeetown tried to get them to represent them, and they didn't want to go to Yankeetown."

Fire Chief John McDonald asked the Commission if Gilligan Gooding, Batsel, Anderson & Phelan, P.A. is familiar with Fire Assessments.

Commissioner S. Schwing stated he was reading through the biographies on these attorneys, and they do enter the area that John McDonald is talking about, that they do assessments.

Mayor White asked if we had a motion for anything.

Commissioner Levesque asked, "do we want to make a motion to release Fugate?"

Commissioner J. Schwing stated she did not want to do that until we had somebody else in place.

Commissioner J. Schwing asked the Commission "are you okay with the two that we've received here or are you looking for more qualified attorneys before we make a decision?"

Commissioner Levesque stated, "my personal opinion is that if these people would represent us, we would be lucky."

Commissioner S. Schwing stated "I would say that I would only be for releasing the Fugates until we have a new attorney on board."

Commissioner Levesque asked, "Can we legally hire another attorney before we release the other one?"

Town Clerk Darlene Slattery stated " I think truthfully what you need to do is hold Fugate for now before you get the contract back from them and review it to see if everything that you want is there and then give a date as to when they can start, and then that way we can turn around and release the Fugate law firm."

Commissioner J. Schwing asked if we wanted to put a time limit on the contract so they could make changes periodically.

Mayor White stated, "30 days I can get rid of you or 30 days you can get rid of me."

Commissioner J. Schwing made a motion to accept the contract from Gilligan Gooding, Batsel, Anderson & Phelan, P.A. Commissioner Levesque seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Discussion regarding the Inglis recreation committee.

Mayor White stated he had a meeting with Commissioner Brennan and that all of the parties there seemed to have the kids' interest at heart.

Commissioner Levesque asked, "I need to know if these meetings are public meetings for everybody including myself."

Commissioner Levesque stated the reason he asks this is because he tried to go to the meeting, and he had Lenny and Helen tell him he was not allowed there because of the sunshine law.

Town Clerk Darlene Slattery stated "The meeting that was called was a meeting at the pub, it wasn't a posted meeting. That is the difference, if it is a posted meeting like this one is then yes Scott can be there he can sit there and not say anything...he could listen, the minute something is brought up for voting at a regular commission meeting he would have to relieve himself from the meeting or recuse himself from the vote that night. So that night being that it was not a posted meeting to protect himself yes, he had to leave because you can't have two commissioners at a non-posted meeting."

Lenny Licata stated that because of covid the Inglis Recreational Committee group had not met in over a year, that they discussed meeting with Andy so he could talk to Commissioner Brennan and see what goes on with the Inglis Recreational Committee.

Commissioner J. Schwing stated that now is the time you can discuss what happened at that meeting.

Helen Ciallella stated they were trying to catch up because they did not have any events last year and that is what the meeting basically was.

Commissioner J. Schwing asked who was on the Inglis recreational committee?

Inglis Recreational committee chairman Raejean Laflower stated Juliana Robledo is the vice president, then there is Terry Norton, Lynn Tate, and Lenny Licata.

Town Clerk Darlene Slattery asked when the meetings would be held.

Raejean Laflower stated they think they decided on the third Monday of the month at 4:30 P.M. in the commission room.

3.Use of Town equipment for cleanup of properties

Commissioner Levesque stated he had been using his own equipment to clean up yards, but he had a specific yard that was full of garbage furniture, he found out the town had a dump trailer and reached out to see if he could use it and it became a big issue, so he went out and bought his own dump trailer.

Mayor White stated he thinks we need to help any way we can, and that Scott is using a lot of his own time doing what Dave the Code Enforcement officer needs done. Mayor White also said he talked to Wayne the towns public works supervisor and there can be liability issues using town equipment and issues with cleaning up one person's yard but not another.

Commissioner Levesque stated they are trying to utilize whatever they have instead of paying to go out and have this done.

Public Works Supervisor Wayne Moore stated that town equipment is only used on town property, town right away and town easements.

Commissioner J. Schwing asked Wayne "what about liability?"

Public Works Supervisor Wayne Moore stated the town employees are all insured because there hired here.

Commissioner J. Schwing made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Levesque seconded Motion carried 4-0

Attested By: Town Clerk

Approved By: Mayor

Transcribed By: Jaden VanHorn