BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2006 at 7:30 a.m.
(Regular meeting was called to order after the Executive Session which began at 7:30 a.m.)
MAIN MEETING ROOM
MINUTES

I. **CALL TO ORDER -** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Clark at 7:55 a.m. Other members present: Jerry Baffa, Dr. Jim Lipton, Marc Goodman, Terry Rogers. Staff members present: Tom DeGiulio, Town Manager, Peg Porter, Recording Secretary, Chief Nick Panich, Lt. Kurt Matz, Lt. Ed Strbjak, Det. Ray Schweitzer, Det. Bryan Ayersman, Chief Jim Knesek, Dep. Chief Bill O'Brien, Steve Kennedy, Town Attorney. Others present: Officer Jeffery Huckaby, Town Councilman Rob Mangus, Town Councilman David Nellans, Jerry Miller, Prompt Ambulance, Ron Johnson, Calumet Press, Carolyn Thompson, The Times.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Items from the July 20, 2006 Meeting – There were no minutes for this meeting due to cancellation. Items were presented for approval at the August 17th meeting. It was moved by Dr. Lipton, seconded by Mr. Goodman to approve the items from the July 20, 2006 Regular Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion was approved 5-0.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 18, 2006 – It was moved by Dr. Lipton, seconded by Mr. Goodman to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 18, 2006. All members present voted aye. Motion was approved 5-0.

C. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 22, 2006 – It was moved by Dr. Lipton, seconded by Mr. Goodman to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 22, 2006. All members present voted aye. Motion was approved 5-0.

D. Fire Department Activity Report – It was moved by Dr. Lipton, seconded by Mr. Goodman to accept the Fire Department Activity Report and place it on file. All members present voted aye. Motion was approved 5-0.

E. Fire Department Disbursements Report – It was moved by Dr. Lipton, seconded by Mr. Goodman to approve the Fire Department Disbursements Report and place it on file. All members present voted aye. Motion was approved 5-0.

F. Police Department Activity Report – It was moved by Dr. Lipton, seconded by Mr. Goodman to accept the Police Department Activity Report. All members present voted aye. Motion was approved 5-0.

G. Police Department Disbursements – It was moved by Mr. Dr. Lipton, seconded by Mr. Goodman to approve the Police Department Disbursements. All members present voted aye. Motion was approved 5-0.

H. Community Service Officer Report – Received and placed on file.

I. Police Training Report - Received and placed on file.

J. COP Monthly Report – Received and placed on file.

K. Prompt Monthly Report – Received and placed on file.

L. Misc. Correspondence – Received and placed on file.

III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

M. Request of Ples Honeywood to Appeal Suspension – It was moved by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Goodman to reject the Appeal of Suspension from Ples Honeywood. All members present voted aye. Motion was approved 5-0.

N. Items Regarding the Disciplinary Charges Against Officer Jeffrey Huckaby – It was moved by Mr. Baffa, seconded by Mr. Goodman to reinstate Officer Huckaby with back pay effective immediately. All members present voted aye. Motion was approved 5-0.

O. 2007 Budget Discussion – Mr. DeGiulio will be notifying the Board of a date and time to discuss the Police and Fire Department budgets.

P. Establish Date for Sgts. Oral Interviews – Chief Panich to begin working on dates and times with the Board members.

Q. * Information Regarding Lack of Quorum - As a result of an article that Mr. Ron Johnson wrote and published in the Calumet Press about the lack of quorums at Board of Safety meetings, Mr. Mangus investigated the issue and responded with a letter to Mr. Johnson. The letter was sent via regular mail and e-mail. According to Mr. Johnson, until a copy was handed to him at today's Board of Safety meeting, he had never seen the letter. Mr. Mangus read the letter aloud to the audience. Mr. Johnson questioned the reason for the letter, was it the issue of rescheduling the joint ambulance meeting? Mr. Mangus responded no, that it was more the tone of Mr. Johnson's article than the meeting schedules of either the Joint Ambulance Committee or the Board of Safety. Mr. Johnson insists that the Board of Safety has lacked a quorum twice in the last 2 years. Dr. Lipton stated that a lack of quorum twice in the last 10 years did not seem that unreasonable considering all meetings held by the Board, not including special or additional meetings. Mr. Kennedy questioned the quality of the organization that Mr. Johnson writes for that he had not seen a letter that was sent on July 25th and today is August 17th. Mr. Rogers stated that 2 out of 60 meetings seemed very consistent. Mr. Johnson continued to state that 2 meetings lacking a quorum in the last 18 months is the issue, not one particular member. Dr. Lipton addressed the joint committee issue, he stated that he attended the 1st Joint Munster/Highland Ambulance Committee meeting, and then stepped down from his appointment and asked to be replaced so that he would not have to miss future meetings. The Board continued to request that Mr. Johnson's article be corrected. There was no further action required.

IV. PENDING ISSUES

R. Fire Rules – Continue Discussion at Future Work Study – Still pending.

V. CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Knesek reported that Engine 2224 which is a 1997, failed its pump test. Repairs are estimated to be at about $10K. No affect on serving the community as a pumper, but may affect the ISO rating since it should be a 1500 gallon a minute pumper and is now considered a 1250 gallon a minute pumper. The department will have a new pumper arriving in December. Mr. Mangus asked if these tests were done in-house and if not, what were the costs. Chief Knesek said that company by the name of Fire Service conducts the testing and that he did not have the costs available at this time.

Chief Panich informed the Board that an arrest has been made that will possibly clear several burglaries that have occurred recently. Det. Janiga would be filing charges today.

VI. BOARD'S COMMENTS

Mr. Baffa requested that the Board of Safety review the issue of the fee recovery for Police and Fire Services in regards to non-residents. Mr. DeGiulio will place it on the agenda for the next meeting in September.

VII. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – 3 minutes for an individual and 5 minutes for a group.

No comments from the public.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Goodman, seconded by Mr. Rogers to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 a.m. All members present voted aye, motion was approved 5-0.

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Thomas F. DeGiulio
Executive Secretary

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Peggy J. Porter
Recording Secretary

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