

**Indian Creek Water and Homeowners Association - Annual Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Towanda Community Center**

President: Barb Leathers

VP/Secretary: Barbara Ulbrich

Treasurer: Dave Schulthes

Water Chair: Bob Hancock, outgoing; Jim Larson, incoming

Grounds Chair: Fred Walk

Newsletter: Kathy Dumler and Ron Metz

Welcome and Introductions by Barb. Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting were read by Barbara with no suggested edits.

Standing reports were received.

Finance Report: Dave shared that the total amount in our fund as of 12.31.18 was approximately \$145,000. We continue to add consistently at about \$15,000 per year. We take in approximately \$44,000 and spend \$25,000-\$28,000 for maintenance of water (and related items such as electricity, chemicals etc.) and grounds. We are receiving about 1.6% interest on our Certificates of Deposit now. We anticipate repainting the water tower in 2-4 years at a cost of about \$110,000.

Grounds Report: Fred announced that our next workday will be on May 4 beginning at 9 a.m. and working until noon. Tasks include honeysuckle removal, cleaning up the trails, chipping brush, cutting down dead trees near the trails, and other work related items. We had hoped to do the highway clean up during this day, but since Greg Beneze will be out of town May 4, we will probably do that two weeks in advance of May 4.

Last year, over 30 dead ash trees were cut down along the bridge road and the brush chipped up for mulch that was spread on the trails. This kind of work would've cost around \$15,000 if we had contracted it out. Ash trees get extremely brittle when they die and typically crack off during strong winds and can cause a lot of damage. Fred had a controlled burn of the brush pile in January. The brush pile is not for big logs because they'll smolder and burn. He urged residents to take the brush to the pile and not place it on the trail please. Fred also emphasized that the brush pile is for brush only and not for construction materials, grass clippings or other yard waste.

This past summer Jim Kellenberger and Fred made arrangements to replace the worn out back tires of the tractor. The old turf tires were replaced with regular tractor tires that get much better traction. If you wish to use the tractor, pay Fred for the fuel, he will then replace the diesel fuel. The fuel fee is \$5.00 per half hour of usage. Do not let the tractor run out of fuel. It is very time consuming and difficult to get it started once it runs out of fuel. The tractor is designed for only light duty type work.

Rod Hinderliter, Kathy Hinderliter and Fred built fifteen birdhouses, two owl houses, one purple martin house, and repaired many of the original birdhouses in the common ground area. The new houses were installed on fence posts, and trees along and near the trails. The Audubon Society came out and did a bird count this past spring and fall. An Illinois Wesleyan University faculty member and his students came out to Indian Creek this July and conducted a mussel count of Money Creek. Please see recent newsletters for the results of the mussel and bird counts.

Water report. Bob reported that water usage averages about 16,000 gallons per day, with usage heavier during summer months. We've had some months when we've used a million gallons and that is very stressful to our water system. Overall expenses are about the same as last year.

The OmniSite warning system paid for itself in February, when the temperatures plunged below zero and our heater did not function. At that temperature, the standpipe could freeze and other equipment could fail. Frank Cottrell, our water manager, was out of town. Bob borrowed a propane heater from Rod Hinderliter. We used it for several hours, and then bought a small one for about \$100. The water chair will look into next steps on repairing or replacing our water tower heater, which is now almost 20 years old.

The water chair will begin flushing hydrants once temperatures become consistent. Flushing is always Thursday between 9 and 11.

Frank Cottrell is our water manager. He recently retired from his City of Bloomington job; but he'll continue to be our water manager.

There was a motion by Greg Beneze to elect Jim Larson as new water chair. Kay Liebenow seconded. Jim was elected by a voice vote to the Board water chair position. Frank Cottrell will continue as our water manager. Frank has also agreed to take on ICWHA's regulatory reporting duties. This will include the detailed, painstaking reporting to the Environmental Protection Agency. We had not increased Frank's pay for several years, though he has consistently provided excellent and timely service to us. An increase to \$900/month from \$600/month is warranted. We will still direct calls from subdivision residents to come to Jim, not Frank. Keith Whittum will be a backup to Jim.

Newsletter report. Kathy and Ron take turns publishing the newsletter. If anyone lives next to a new neighbor, please ask them for their email and phone and send to the IC news email.

Other items – Louis Kraft is a Money Creek township trustee. The township's annual meeting is April 9 at 7 pm at the township building. There are no agenda items for roads or bridges.

There was a discussion about the regular shooting practice by a rural neighbor who lives outside the subdivision. Safety and noise concerns have been voiced to the neighbor as well as to the McLean County Sheriff's Department and County Board members. The Sheriff's Department has spoken to the neighbor about shooting safety. According to the Sheriff's Department, the neighbor may shoot on his property as long as he abides by current laws. Fred shared that the state of IL has noise statutes that might be utilized to deter the shooting activity if it persists.
