

# Council President Lynch signs intent letter

Don Ogle, Director of Business Retention and Expansion for the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of Elkhart County and Matt Eckerd of Umbaugh & Associates came to the Bristol Town Council Tuesday evening work session to discuss initial details of the proposed relocation and consolidation of the Utilimaster Corp. headquarters and factories by Spartan Motors Inc. This would allow for single building production rather than in 16 at present. At the Thursday evening Council Meeting, the Bristol Town Council reviewed a letter of intent to consider a variety of tax incentives for

Utilimaster to move operations to the 425,000 square foot empty former Odyssey building on Earthway Drive in Bristol, Indiana from their present site in Wakarusa, Indiana. The EDC had advised that they will assist Bristol in finding a blend of property tax phase in and economic tools to develop an incentive package that will be attractive to Utilimaster while maintaining benefits for Bristol. The letter that Bristol Town Council President signed after discussion with the rest of the Council signaled to Utilimaster that Bristol is interested in entering into a mutually beneficial agreement. This was the first step that is

needed by the State of Indiana to be officially informed of Bristol's interest so that the State can begin the process of determining any State incentives. Exact details will be worked out among the various parties. Utilimaster was acquired by Spartan Motors of Charlotte, Michigan in 2009. Utilimaster is a leading manufacturer of walk-in vans and commercial truck bodies for the delivery and service market place. Among their customers are FedEx, the U.S. Postal Service, UPS, and Frito-Lay. Founded in 1973, it was previously owned by Holiday Rambler and then Harley-Davidson.



Matt Eckerd, Umbaugh Associates and Don Ogle, Economic Development Corp. came to Tuesday Council work session

## Infrastructure debt payment begins



Most properties along Commerce Drive were annexed in 2008 and have access to town water and sewer, thanks to an agreement with Wagner Land Development to fund the initial infrastructure installation. is a pleasant sight

In April of 2008, prompted by requests of businesses along Commerce Drive to obtain hookup to town water and sewer, Bristol began the process of annexation of most properties on Commerce Drive and 77.53 acres of the old Blakesly Farm. Wagner Land Development Company owner of Blakesly Farm agreed to fund the \$575,000 to put in the water and sewer lines while Bristol would annex the property and put in lift stations. And if the North Division TIFF area within the next 15 years generated funds, Bristol would repay up to 60% of TIFF funds in that year. Finally in 2011, the TIFF fund got approx. \$70,000 or which 60% would go to pay toward the debt to Wagner. Town Attorney Glen Duncan asked the Council to approve such payment, which they did. Town Clerk Mary Ryman will issue the check to Wagner and Duncan will advise them.

### Monthly Police Report

January 2012 statistics: Calls for Service: 868. Calls for service were up 107 cases over January 2011. Criminal Cases: 46, closed by arrest: 5. Citations: 25. Warnings: 60. Property Damage accidents: 8; Personal injury: 1; Fatal: 0. Even though weather was mild, accidents were up in Jan. Junk & Abandoned Vehicles: Tagged: 2; Fixed or Removed: 0; Impounded: 3. Officer Swallow reminds everyone of the Semi-Annual Pancake Breakfast on Mar 24 from 7am to noon at Evans Restaurant. This is a fundraiser for equipment for the Marshal's Posse who help with crowd control at many local events.

### Town Clerk Report

Jill Swartz sat in for absent Town Clerk, Mary Ryman. She announced that the final signature for the Town's contract with the Fire Department has been received. A bond for Police Officer Lynch was presented approved. Linda Powell was reappointed to a four year term on the Park Board. The work on the women's restroom is nearly completed, including a much needed new floor. Jill will get costs for the work to determine if Council wants to redo the men's restroom as well; will not be as extensive or costly for the men's. Approved a switch from payroll 457 plan to 401A for added savings.

### Other Town Issues

Town Manager Bill Wuthrich reported that the chemical building had been relined with plywood and the 2 well houses relined and floors epoxied. To comply with INDOT standards, street signs being moved to west side of north/south streets. Requested and received Council approval for 20 red cross flags to be put up downtown for National Red Cross Month in March. Wuthrich will ask for someone to put notice on the electronic sign so people will know what the flags are for, as some have asked in previous years. Early notice: Town cleanup days will be May 4 & 5 this year.



Hardings became Mor For Less in Jan. 2003, but may return to being a full line Hardings store by Summer 2012. Details not yet firm.



Students of the old Bristol High School in 1905, They are lined up waiting for their horse-drawn transportation home. Some of the students came from as far away as Michigan



Bristol O'Hair Port  
a new look

