

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P. O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
January 4th, 2023

The Whitehall Town Council held a special workshop meeting in the Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Ave, Wednesday, January 4th, 2023.

PRESENT: Mary Janacaro- Hensleigh, Kennedy Kleinsasser, Roy McBride, Linda Jung, Shawn Hoagland, Pat Peterson, Bill Lanes, Katy James

VISITORS: Kory Klapan, Tom and Carolyn Jenkin, Tim O'Donnell, Jeff Frink, Bill Gillespie, Bridget Morse, Leah Lewis, Dan Hagerty, Dana Brunet, Candance Ahlin, Maria Walker, Dave Cole, Jerry Ward, Jessica Ward, Logan Reiff, Jody Ryan, Michelle LaFountain, Curtis LaFountain, Todd Preece, Melany Muha, Maxine Samuelson, Gayle Patriitti, Wendy Briggs, Dean Briggs, Gina Ossello, Cory Tebay, Doug Salisbury, Josh R. White, Bryon Edwards, Terry Ross, Hannah Nieskins, Rich Johnson, Lonna, Johnson, Cody Hagerty.

Work Session

Mayor Mary Janacaro Hensleigh:

I would like to thank you all for coming to this special community get together. I want to welcome everyone and wish you all a Happy New Year. The last time we had this big of a crowd, we were talking marijuana, but then they made it legal and took away all my fun. So we'll get started. We have a presentation for you to get everybody kind of updated as to what we're thinking and where we're at. Go ahead Kennedy. I'll turn it over to you.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

All right. For those of you that don't know me, I'm Kennedy Kleinsasser, I've been living in the Whitehall area for almost my whole life. I grew up on a ranch outside of Silver Star and so ranching and cowboy community has always been near and dear to my heart. And growing up, my sisters and I played baseball together. It was the best summers that I remember having. And so when I started working for the town, I saw an opportunity to be more involved and maybe help with some improvements. And so May of this last year, I kind of spearheaded everything that's kind of going on, and so I put together the slideshow just to kind of get everybody up to date.

So we'll just talk about the history and the status of what's going on currently. The grounds of the complex were once owned by Jefferson County and then in 2004 they were given to the town. So the town took ownership at that time. And then the Facility Use board was created, which is now the Rec Complex board. The point of forming the Rec Complex board was to involve the town of Whitehall to partake in improvements functions and provide vision of growth and vitality. And then we're going to talk a little bit about the maintenance. So prior to ownership from the town and up until now, maintenance has been responsibility of the people that wish to use the facility. So Saddle Club took on the responsibility of arena and baseball and softball clubs interchangeably, depending on if they had softball or baseball had taken care of the fields.

With all the maintenance left at volunteer basis, the clubs have been trying their very best to keep up with everything. It's been a difficult task for both of them. Volunteer availability is kind of a constant challenge. Public works has been a great help to everybody, and so all clubs and volunteers are greatly appreciated, and the efforts do not go unnoticed. So then we'll talk a little bit about funding. From my understanding, the budget, when it was county owned they had pretty minimal funding from what I talked to with Ginger at the county. And then it was kind of inconvenient, anybody wanting to use the facility had to go to the county to get all of the stuff. So that's where the idea of giving it to the town kind of came in. And so after the town took ownership in the complex, there has been some funding from the town prior, the past few years it does not look like there was anything set up specifically for that. So Public Works has just been trying to help them out as they can. And so most of the maintenance, like I said before, is volunteer basis. And it's just kind of unclear what's expected of all parties involved, exactly what goes into what maintenance is required all the way around. And then all of the donations or everything that you see over there, the buildings, fencing, arena work, dugouts and stuff was all donation based or grant based, from what I can find. The records here are kind of hard and I don't have everything that I think that I need to try and find all this stuff. So I did the best of what I could find and I got some information from both baseball and from what the Saddle Club has told me and all that kind of stuff. So that's where all that came. And I know that Saddle Club and baseball worked really, really hard to get the donations to build up the facility to make it a usable space for everybody, and so that's really appreciated as well.

And then we'll talk a little bit about the revenue that's come in. I did give the council some packets and I went 10 years back of what went into that facility use fund. And so you can see there it is front to back, but there's not a ton of revenue that comes in. And in the handouts, a lot of the stuff that did come in is for deposits that actually get paid back to the people as long as everything came back good and there wasn't any issues with anything. So a lot of that got paid back and there's not a real clear way to search exactly who we paid them back to and who we got to keep. I would have to click for hours and hours, so I did not get those to you.

And so let's see. And then also in your packets as well, the Saddle Club and baseball included schedules and I included those for the past few years of what I could find. Like I said, I had hard time trying to track down all of that information. It would just be prior administration. I don't know where they would've kept all of that. So it's been kind of difficult to try and find all of that stuff. So now we are kind of toying with the idea of a possible grant. So we have the opportunity to apply for a Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Land and Water Conservation Fund recreational grant, and we could be funded up to \$250,000 if we are successful. It could be somewhere in the \$100,000 range, 50,000. It just depends on what they see fit for what we're looking for.

And so I'll read a little blurb that I got off of what exactly this grant kind of promotes. So the Land and Water Conservation Fund or the LWCF, is a federal grant program established by Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. The LWC encourages a full partnership between national, state and local governments in planning and funding outdoor recreational projects. The LWCF has two parts, the state side, which funds state and local projects, and the federal side, which funds federal land purchases. Montana State Parks administers only the state side and the state local portion of the LWCF. The 2020 to '24 statewide comprehensive outdoor recreational plan or SCORP, provides guidance to direct Montana state side apportionment of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program. Examples of eligible projects include ball fields, open space acquisitions, public parks, playgrounds, picnic facilities, walking trails and more.

And so what we need to apply for this grant, we had our engineer come and talk to the rec board in April. There unfortunately was not a quorum, so he drove from Helena, so he sat down and spoke with all of us about what we need and what it looked like to try and move forward. And so he reiterated that we needed to have some sort of maintenance program in place in order to go on with the application of this FWP grant. And so Roy and I actually went to the county commissioner's a month and a half ago or so, and

there was discussion of needing funds for a maintenance program. It was suggested by them that we apply for an ARPA grant for \$35,000 for this year. And they thought it was great that we were trying to get this grant and improve everything. And then they also recommended applying for another 35,000 next fiscal year to continue the funds for this maintenance program that we have to have in order to apply for this big grant.

So right now, if the council passes to have that ARPA money go through and we get granted, we hopefully will have two years of maintenance money to use. And I also attached some paperwork for you guys to go on with this next slide here. So it was also discussed at that meeting, and we've discussed prior with the rec board and everybody that they thought it would be a good idea to potentially do a mill levy. And that was discussed a little bit, and then it was kind of decided to do a high school mill levy district regarding just the Whitehall district. Basically because it is a broad but focused tax base. So we're not just focused with the city of Whitehall, we're focusing a larger area and the people that use the facilities that are outside of city limits as well. And so that was kind of the thought process behind that.

And then, let's see, it would get us guaranteed funds to maintain the complex for pretty much forever, as long as that mill is in place, which is something that would be huge for everybody, it would guarantee that we have the funds to mow the grass, take care of the weeds, odds and ends to try and do that. And then it would also involve, because it would be a high school district mill levy, it would involve, then elected board officials. So they would be elected and they would essentially take care of money management, events, scheduling, fundraising, budget and revenue maintenance and all that because it would be like a county board. So similar to the ambulance district that they just created.

And so in your guys' packets, I also included a breakdown of what those mills could potentially look like. It's the colored sheets. Yep, it's that sheet right there. And Ginger from the county gave me this information. She also included what the maintenance budget is for the fairgrounds up there, which they have quite a bit more than we do. So she just kind of hit two numbers and she said it'd probably be a happy medium in the middle if that was something that we were looking to go towards. And that would be down the road, and if we decided to go this route, it would take approximately a year to get everything in order to get things going that direction. And so I included a picture of the rec complex now and just kind of what it looks like. I got this picture off of Montana Cadastral. I think it might be a couple years old, but I mean, as you can see, we could use a little more sprinkling system maintenance and stuff like that just to try and get it taken care of.

And so when we started toying with this idea through the rec board, I had asked both Saddle Club and baseball to get me a list of what do you guys want to see over there? What do you need improved? What would you like to see? And there was a lot of ideas that everybody had thrown at me and so I kind of just compiled the list. As far as getting some more stuff over there, it involves a concession building, maybe some public restrooms and gazebos. Maybe a walking trail, a little play area for the kids over at baseball side or improving the... I know that Saddle Club kind of has a little play pen over there on the arena side, and so it would be kind of nice to have something over there too.

And so these were just some ideas that kind of got thrown at me on what we thought would be a good idea. And then I kind of threw together a mock-up of, I took a lot of the current stuff and just added a few things like concession area, walking trail, gazebo, and as you can see, the baseball side changed a little bit. And this isn't set in stone, this is just ideas that were thrown at me. And so I kind of just threw something together to get a visual of what we see and what we want over there. So that kind of catches everybody up to speed about what we're looking to do and the potential that we have over there. And that's all I have.

Mayor Mary Janacaro Hensleigh:

So thank you, Kennedy. Thanks for those of you who don't know, the new water treatment plant, which is up there on the screen will go where the current softball field is now. So that's where the new water

treatment plant will be, and we'll be going out to bid in a couple months and start construction. So that's what's going on with that. So any more slides?

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

That's it.

Mayor Mary Janacaro Hensleigh:

Okay. So now's the time for the public to comment and to ask questions. So I ask that you come up to the podium and state your name. The reason we do that is so that we can get an accurate record for our minutes so that we have that as record.

I just want to remind everybody that the council's job is to make business decisions for the town. Their decisions are made on the information they receive. Our decisions that we make are not personal. They're business. I don't want anyone attacking my clerks or public works. They just work for the town and they're just doing their jobs. So let's keep it positive and civil. Go ahead, Tom.

Tom Jenkin:

My name's Tom Jenkin. I served on the rec board for about eight years before I was on the town council, while I was on the rec board, I approached the town council on several times, I used to do it every year. We started out with a budget, but the town gave the rec board about \$2,000. Over the years. I got that up to about \$8,000. Now, as far as I'm concerned, that should still be in your budget someplace. If it's not, then some town council did away with it. Now, when I was on the council, we used that money in conjunction with the Saddle Club for weed control and stuff like that. We had a guy out of Twin Bridges that worked on weed control that helped us, and that was maybe about \$4,000 worth, but that's with the help of the Saddle Club that went over there with their crew, pulled weeds and everything else and stuff like that. A number of different things, or organizations used that place over there. There were a couple of rodeos where the town got some money back. I know at a time, there was a time when we had a form that was going to be filled out in the office where people that wanted to use a facility, there was kind of a little scale of a deposit and put that in cash or check at the city office and they had to sign up a week or so ahead of time and get everything all planned out. And if it involved some of the Saddle Club equipment or something like that, they had to get approval from them and stuff like that in order to have that event go on.

Now, that didn't work real well. It wasn't followed up on in the city office. People would just say, "No, I'll just go and do my thing." And that happened a number of times. I was in conflict with some of those people over there that were trying to have something going on. They didn't have an approval to be there, first of all, and that involved insurance and everything like that. Some of the groups were really good. There were some rodeos over there, some people that did some of that stuff that had beer gardens going and stuff like that. God, they did a great job. Nothing but high fives for them. They did a great job.

Baseball, I think they had a tournament or two, but as far as I'm concerned, I never saw or heard of any contribution back from baseball to the city. Now I think you'd be hard pressed to find that, and this is not bad mouthing baseball. God, we need this for kids and everything. But just to set the record straight, the contributions that I saw, basically came from the Saddle Club for activities that they sponsored. I don't know, here's just a little bit of background from what I can remember when I was on there, but I took that job pretty seriously. As a matter of fact, my name and phone number was on the fence over there, so if somebody wanted to bring some cattle in, or horses, and leave them overnight or something like that, my name was on there, and I usually made sure that the water was on for them and gates were open and stuff like that.

And I did that for a number of years. I'm not trying to pat myself on the back, but that's how things kind of went with the rec committee and stuff like that at that time. No. Do you have any questions for me? I'll

try to remember as best I can. I remember that, I think the first year I was on there was a... Baseball, had an old riding lawnmower that they used for a little while, and they did mow their lawn a few times, but I have to give whoever the coaches were at that time, give them credit for that because they basically came back at night or something like that and did that.

When their mower went to hell. Kory and I found an old one we had over here in the shop or something like that, that was kind of on its last legs. We took that over and gave that to them, and they used that for a while.

Shawn Hoagland:

Do you know what years was that, Tom? Do you know? Ballpark year, eight years?

Tom Jenkin:

Middle eighties, someplace in there. Maybe a little bit later. Now. When did you start here Kory?

Kory Klapan:

What was that?

Tom Jenkin:

When did you start working here?

Kory Klapan:

Nine years ago, I think.

Tom Jenkin:

Nine years ago. Okay. Well, part of that stuff was going on. I worked with Kory on some of that stuff. Get some of this stuff done.

Mayor Mary Janacaro Hensleigh:

Thank You, Tom.

Tom Jenkin:

Thank you.

Mayor Mary Janacaro Hensleigh:

Roy, you can switch on the lights again if you would? Thanks. Anyone else? Comments, questions?

Pat Peterson:

I have a question. What was the last event held at the rec conference?

Lonna Johnson:

There was two omoksees held this summer and then Frontier Days, the Chamber rented it and held the Frontier Days Wild West Show, or whatever that was. Yes. And then there was also, the schedule was sent in, there was a-

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Yeah, there was a circus.

Lonna Johnson:

... Circus that was by the county,

Shawn Hoagland:

The circus and the Chamber Rodeo.

Lonna Johnson:

And then there was also the Helena Blues Club, I believe rented it this summer also. Yes. In the past, at the Rodeo grounds itself, we've had up to sometimes 26 events throughout the summer. Most events being sponsored by the Saddle Club. In the past years, we've had series of omoksees, one a month, a horse show. The Tuesday Night Barrel series was there for seven to nine weeks every Tuesday. Then they have also a high school rodeo in September, finished out the Saddle Club events. And then the Helena Blues and the district omoksees have come in and the circus and some other outside entities have used the facility, Frontier Days. Whitehall Chamber.

Mayor Mary Janacaro Hensleigh:

Roy?

Roy McBride:

Why do we not have the Barrel series anymore? Why do we not have Mule Days anymore?

Lonna Johnson:

Mule Days themselves was a own group. The Long Years Mule Association, they have been like everybody else. They don't have people to work it. Tara Price and her family were the only ones. Saddle Club had worked with them as far as the gate crew and organizing all their vendors, but we never sponsored that event. Mule Days did. Their organization was asked to come back to Hamilton because they had a family over there that was willing to work with Price's. Therefore, they ended up moving it to Hamilton. The other reason why is, I'm not sure for sure, but every year when they did pay their fees and want their \$800 deposit back from the city office, it was like a nightmare getting it back from the past secretaries, or getting that funding back. They paid fees. The Saddle Club collected all the fees for the vendors and gave the town the 25% of every vendor that came in. So there was money that was brought in off of those vendors at that time. I don't have that number in front of me, but I believe it was over \$400 each time for just vendor fees that was collected. Plus they're usage fees was on top of that.

The Barrel Series, Gina and Hannah have done it the last couple years as a subcommittee for the Saddle Club, and they just chose that they ... And we didn't know that at the last minute that they decided not to do it, and they had postponed it and we didn't have notification in time to try to get it set up and find another committee member to host that. But we have had the Barrel Series here for almost 25 years

Gina Ossello:

And I can speak to the Barrel Series. I'm Gina Ossello. One of the reasons specifically for the Barrel Series was there were several other series going on around us. I think there was one Monday and Thursday. So we were a little concerned about how many people we would get. The other reason we didn't is because the grounds, our Whitehall facility is known to have poor ground. So we couldn't get a lot of people. The first year we did it, we would get some complaints and then we had a couple people

that didn't want to come back. So that was a factor this year as well, is that the grounds weren't good enough to do it. Then the on Kennedy, thank you for putting this together. It was very good.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Thank you.

Gina Ossello:

I can tell you from bringing some rodeos here, and my kids are in rodeo. This year, I went to Three Forks. We went to several rodeos, but when we went to Three Forks, it was standing room only and it was amazing how many people went. And every rodeo we went to, there was standing room only and it brings a lot of commerce to town. I would love to see that place bring commerce to town because it helps businesses, any business, and it brings people here and it puts us on the map.

I know, just like I said, with going to these rodeos and all the people that go, it just brings so many people to town. The other thing I see is, I have some friends that have run the facility in Dillon, and they bring in concerts, and motorcycle jumps and all those things. We have a better location than I think anybody, besides Butte, with us being relatively close to I-15 and right off of I-90. We're easy to get to. We're accessible and it's very easy for people to come here. There's no reason that we don't have an event almost every weekend in the summer there, whether it's motorcycle jumping. I know in talking to people, even with baseball, they had big baseball tournaments. We're really the only people, or the only town around us that doesn't have something almost every weekend at our facility. So I would love to see it improved and things happen. I would bring back a rodeo.

Dana Brunet:

Gina? You said the grounds weren't good and that's why some of the people didn't want to come back. What exactly is that-

Gina Ossello:

So, barrel racers and rodeo people in general, a lot of them have very expensive horses, and the ground is very important. So part of that ground, there's like a hard pan underneath it. So on some of the barrels you go around and it's only this deep, so the horses are hitting a hard pan. There was a horse I think two years ago that broke his leg over there in one of the youth rodeos. And it's just known you want good ground, fluffy ground. It does, it needs to be stripped and reworked again. I mean it really needs somebody that's a professional to go over and analyze the ground and have it redone. But when we were riding, it also has, just over the years, you can't get it level. It's just not level. And for the equipment that we had, we couldn't get it level. So it really does. So we have a bad reputation for our ground over there.

Dana Brunet:

But it's something that could be fixed?

Gina Ossello:

Oh, for sure.

Dana Brunet:

Okay.

Gina Ossello:

Absolutely. With some money, it can be fixed.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Don't be shy. We need to know how everybody feels if they think this proposal's a good one or if they don't. So come up and let us know what you're thinking.

Tim O'Donnell:

I'm Tim O'Donnell. I've been around that arena a long time. I've been in the Whitehall Valley over 40 years and I agree with Gina as far as the ground. I've heard it multiple times. I've been involved with the barrel racing industry specifically for a lot of years I guess. And it does need addressing. I know what these girls pay for their horses, the barrel racing, horses, training, entry fees, all the things that go into that sport alone. It's a lot of money. So they're not going to come here and run their horses on ground that going to potentially break their leg or go down and hurt the kid. I don't want my kid buried under a horse down there. So it's just, from a safety standpoint, that needs to be addressed. Yeah, it's going to cost a lot of money. The events, you could come to this town. It should be used more than just a Tuesday night Barrel Series and a couple omoksees a year or whatever. That arena has a potential to bring so much revenue to this community, surrounding area, and I just think we're wasting an opportunity there to bring people to this town. We've been to a lot of towns at two hours, we all do. We've been to Three Forks, Boulder, Sacco, Shelby, you name anything little two horse, one horse towns and they pack people into those towns, and they run a quality event. But those events don't happen with one, or two, or three or five people. There's a small army it takes to put all those events on.

So with that being said, I think this town needs to unify and move forward together with that rec center. It's a baseball game, little league field, whatever it is. Nobody should be butting heads on this rec center. That should be something ... I watched it come from very humble beginnings years and years ago when they had chicken wire and split rails around that arena. And it's a damn nice facility to be proud of right now today. And that was because of a lot of work from a lot of people.

And I just think we need to get behind each other, every one of us, and push forward and take that arena, that rec complex, to another level. It looks like there's a lot of money out there to be had, grant wise, and different things to be created. Generated ideas, fresh minds, energetic people. I think the potential is endless what that arena can do. In little one horse towns, like I was saying, they generate a lot of revenue in their communities that have little arenas just like that one there. And that's what I can share with everybody. Any questions or I can ...

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Thank you very much.

Hannah Nieskins:

I'm Hannah Nieskins. I'm the Whitehall School superintendent of schools, and I'm also the person that helped Gina run the Barrel Series. So there's kind of two different lenses I'll speak to. Just without belaboring the arena footing, basically for an ideal barrel race, you want level footing and you also want the ground above at the loose ground to also be level. So speaking specifically to the challenges of the ground, I mean it's an outdoor facility. Things settle over time. With certain events, especially like barrels and a speed event, with the barrels being placed in the same location, you start to dig holes in certain areas where those barrels were placed, and the level changes.

So in order to probably fix something like that, you would need to probably pull back the top soil and grade the footing, and repack it, and get it level and then put your loose soil back on top. Often sand is mixed in and certain percentages to help with water retention and those kind of things that play out there and so on. So it is a challenge to get right and it takes money. It's not an easy task and it's not a cheap task. So that's just something to think about as you think about possibilities for the ground. That's obviously a little less important for events that don't involve speed. Speed requires better ground.

Some other considerations for you, there has been discussion at the school board meetings and from parents to bring in baseball and softball as a sport for Whitehall Schools. You may know that Montana High School Association approved baseball and softball officially as high school sports. Before it was just Legion, and Babe Ruth and so on. But MHSA did make that those two sports official high school sports. Right now with the condition of the fields, we would not be able to practice or host games on those fields in our town.

Additionally, we don't have baseball or softball fields at the school. So our only opportunity to have the high school students participate in this sport would be to use the town's facilities. So if you do improve these and choose to do that, I would urge you that you make sure there is a softball and baseball field that meets the requirements of the Montana High School Association specs. In order to meet Title IX, we would have to have both a boys and girls sport. So we could not just have a baseball team or a softball team. We would need to have both. So I would ask that any improvement that's made ... The little drawing, I couldn't tell if one was a softball field and one's a baseball field, but Montana High School Association has all those specs and I would ask that whatever you do is forward thinking, because I do think that there is movement in our community towards that eventually.

Our school is growing. I've been here eight years and we've gone up 105 students enrollment in eight years, district wide. So we just got seven new students since this week, since we started back in school. So we are constantly growing and I think the bigger our school gets, the more activities we need to have for kids. I see baseball and softball down the road in our future.

As far as the levy goes, you had discussed a high school district levy. I think that's wise to include that larger area, because realistically, the people that are using this facility don't just live in town, they live in that greater Whitehall area, and that more accurately captures who would be utilizing the field. I would throw one more wrench into that levy and I just personally believe that you shouldn't leave out the pool when you're thinking about funding. The pool is forever short funded. It never has funds. Every year, they're fundraising to try to keep the pool open. Some years they've had to close it early. Those are ongoing challenges of keeping the pool running. So if you're doing a rec levy, why not include your other recreational facility, which is the pool? So I would ask you to consider that possibly as well. Again, asking the greater Whitehall area to help fund what we know that whole group of kids is using.

Then the last thing I wanted to mention is the school has an online booking system for facilities. We have gyms that are checked out for youths. We have the library, which gets used for public meetings and those kind of things. And we went to an online booking system, and I think that's something for you to consider with facilities such as this, is to have an online booking system that shows a calendar of when things are booked and when they're available to be booked. You pay your fees online, and so on and so forth. So I think should you proceed with opening up to the public for use, that you would maybe replicate something similar to what we're using at the school. It's not expensive, it's not hard to set up. I'd be willing to help.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Thank you very much Hannah. Roy?

Roy McBride:

To answer one of Hannah's questions or concerns. The county did tell us that we should put the pool inside of that program.

Hannah Nieskins:

Oh great.

Roy McBride:

To make it more viable for everybody. They said it would be easy to stick and in that district, it would fit very well. So it would be a twofold thing and that's what they recommended to us when we went and talked to them. They said, "Add it all in there." So that's been in the background and it hasn't come out really because we haven't been where we're at, but I think it should probably a good idea to include it because it just brings in a lot more people.

Hannah Nieskins:

Great.

Roy McBride:

But thank you for your comments.

Candace Reed-Ahlin:

My name is Candace Reed-Ahlin. I've lived here in Whitehall since 1972. I just want to say that the rec center and the rodeo grounds has brought us a lot of joy when we were kids, and I would love to see it maybe possibly turn into, maybe you could put in some RV spaces or something that could have a cap of five nights, and have electricity and so on. I know that's a little bit ... There's not a lot of money that would go into that since it's open land. Put some picnic tables in there, some cement picnic tables that can't be moved, and then possibly maybe a dog park. Just something to kick around. You need volunteers for any of this, call me.

Roy McBride:

Thank you.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Thank you.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Thank you, Candace. Other thoughts, comments?

Dean Briggs:

I'm Dean Briggs, I have an equine Center just out of town here. I appreciate everything Kennedy's done it. She did a great job.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Thank you.

Dean Briggs:

Looking at that last drawing and the suggestions, if we're going to have a rodeo and have a pretty big rodeo, it takes a lot of parking. So you start throwing a lot of stuff, and that area's not that big. It will not accommodate a big event, parking wise, if you start throwing a lot of stuff in there. Just something to think about. I do appreciate everything, everything's done, especially at the Saddle Club, they've done a great job, I think in the past.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Thank you, Dean.

Roy McBride:

Thanks.

Dave Cole:

My name's Dave Cole. I didn't exactly come prepared tonight to address what was presented here.

I thought this was going to be pretty much a meeting concerning a proposed resolution from the council that would directly affect the recreational complex board. I wasn't able to pull together on relatively short notice all of the documentation that I thought I would like to present to people to clear up a lot of miscommunication that's been going on. I was able to run across quite a few of the original minutes from when this board was formed. Just for a little information there, when the county asked to build it to the town, it was pretty clear to everyone that you were transferring the ground, but at that time, you had a woman's softball association, baseball association and the White Hall Saddle Club. And as has been pointed out, they were responsible for their own part of that facility. Things change. I realize that. Things go up and down. I believe there were at least five women's softball teams who were very active back in those days. But I believe at this point, a lot of this stuff, I was hoping maybe some of the council members in particular would be interested in some of the things that have gone on in the past, such as some of the struggles with coming up with use fees over there that were fair to everyone. This is a very unique situation that's been placed in the state where you had entities like the Saddle Club with their arena, and their clubhouse and everything already there. That was their property. The baseball team under the county, the things they had like some bleachers and different things like that. That was their property. So this was the only town we could find in the state when we went looking for answers and ideas to come up with rules and regulations. It's the only place that has this unique situation. And the others, whoever's putting on the rodeo and the horse events or whatever, they own the property. It's county property if they lease something like that.

I'm definitely not against improvements over there. And I have been away from the workings over there at the complex for at least a couple years. I'm not aware of what's going on lately. And in regards to the condition of the sand, I'm sorry to hear that because ... Wendy, it probably dates me and unfortunately folks, I remember when, about the time when you were serving concessions for those Barrel Series over there, what, 70 to 90 girls a night? And there were times I stopped over to actually talk to those girls to get their reaction. "Do you like this?" We know there's some things that's skewed on how it was originally put in and some other things like that.

At that point in time, all I got was positive feedback. So there's a lot of things that can't come out in a short meeting such as this. It takes so much time to look at the facts and everything. That used to be a swamp, for those of you who may wonder why it isn't so simple to just go over and add some more sand. At one time when a new electric line was dug in there, it was supposed to go around the arena.

Unfortunately at the last minute someone decided, "Well, we're just going to run it straight across because it's the shortest route." We had major issues with that for years. Proper people who knew the underlying situation we're not contacted and consulted. We've also witnessed a lot of grandiose ideas a few of you have mentioned, and I'm glad you get funding. I just hope you don't put the cart before the horse. I've seen so many things tried over there. At one time, remember the little fireplace stands and everything over there? Where did they go? Sometimes you can fund some of these grandiose ideas, but if you don't have the forethought to think of the maintenance and things like that, that money goes out the window.

We tried numerous times on that board to come up with other ways of creating money. The Saddle Club, most of you have no clue what they have done to build up that facility, but yet, as Gina well knows, as

well as some of your others, the amount of money it takes to put on something like a rodeo is immense. But at the same time, many times when entities came in front of the recreational complex board, they wanted to use it for free.

How does that work? Seriously, how does that work? How can it be free if you have all these costs associated with it? It's easy to claim a handful of people, "Oh, they should have done this or that."

I guess what this boils down for me tonight, because like I said, I thought this was going to be a totally different scope of need.

This would be great if they can come through and you can guarantee ongoing funds to support this, but there's no way to say this sweet. A lot of these issues and a lot of things that have gone on behind the scenes in the last two months that I'm aware of, logistically should have been taken in front of the Complex Board in the past. Maybe even go and approach the Saddle Club. I mean I don't think...

They have limited funding too, but if the arena was that bad, had you gone to the Complex Board and discussed it with them? Why wasn't all of this run through the channels like these options have been for years? I'd just like you to think about that.

Jody Ryan:

Question Dave, Jody Ryan. Is it a little presumptive to assume that the complex belongs to the Saddle Club or to the baseball club? Is that area not owned by the taxpayers?

Dave Cole:

Those properties and everything... Obviously I didn't even bring all that I found, but yes, if you go back to... This was the first resolution that we came up with 303, but in a lot of this paperwork it's very clear that there are maybe two sets of bleachers over there that the baseball own-

Jody Ryan:

I'm talking about the improvements.

Dave Cole:

The grants that they got to do their improvements in the beginning [inaudible]

Jody Ryan:

So the property does not belong to the baseball club or to the Saddle Club?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

I'll have Ed answer your question.

Jody Ryan:

Yeah, thank you.

Ed Guza:

Sure. So the property itself does not belong to anyone except for Whitehall. I mean-

Dave Cole:

The ground, yes. The ground is the city's ground and before it was the counties. I'm sorry, properties, maybe I didn't-

Jody Ryan:

Yeah.

Dave Cole:

Yeah, like the bleachers and stuff that the baseball team have. Yes, those are theirs.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Anything that's permanently attached to the ground belongs to the town. Anything that has been bought with Metal Mines grants, any kind of grant funding belongs to the town.

Ed Guza:

And the Saddle Club is tended by the property under a lease?

Dave Cole:

Correct.

Ed Guza:

As well as baseball? I haven't seen the lease to the baseball club.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Yeah, we don't have a lease with them. No. The lease is for their Saddle Club.

Yes?

Tim O'Donnell:

Yeah. Tim O'Donnell, again, I don't know if I misinterpreted the direction Dave is going with this conversation, but again, I don't know how many members are in this Saddle Club. Anybody tell me that? The only reason I'm asking is, I'm sure they don't have enough to do, all this stuff that needs to be done and that's why I believe everybody in this room, if we all joined shoulders and went in one direction instead of standing there pissing in the wind, we can get a lot done over there.

And the Saddle Club, they've done a great job. I've been part of that Saddle Club over the years, but it's going to take an army, whatever we want to put up there for events. And so I think what happened in the past and the ground deteriorated and different things leave it in the past. Let's stay focused on what's down the road.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Exactly.

Tim O'Donnell:

Let's give up the past. We ain't in the rear view mirror.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Right and anybody can run for these board positions.

Jody Ryan:

Please run. Jody Ryan. I'd like to say thank you to Kennedy first off. She's put a lot of work into drawing this stuff up and here's putting forth the proposals and the ideas. My thoughts on the whole deal, I agree with Tim O'Donnell 100%. We need to leave the rear view mirror in the rear view mirror. I think the ideas that Kennedy has brought forth as far as maintenance for the next two years, have an opportunity to give us time to get this high school wide mill levy put together as far as maintenance and grants.

And once we get the maintenance things put together, then we have the opportunities to change things over there and make a difference. And I don't know, there's a lot of things that I think the Saddle Club could put forth to add to Kennedy's drawing that we could all benefit from. Drive through camping spots and whatnot and that could all fit into the rodeo parking that Dean addressed. I think you could add all that stuff in. That's where everybody parks already anyway. Well if we organize that... Kennedy come up with another drawing.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Okay, I'll get right on that.

Jody Ryan:

I think as Tim said, we can move forward. We can make that a city park, a Whitehall park, a Jefferson County Park, a Jefferson Valley park that we could all be proud of and I just think it's a good idea. I think it's something we should really try to do and make it something we can be proud of. Because a couple years ago I took a drive through all of them, I'm associated with baseball mainly.

I took a drive through all the baseball fields that the Whitehall little league baseball plays with. On one day me and my boys took a road trip and we took a picture of every baseball field from Twin Bridges to Sheridan to Livingston to Townsend, all on the same day. When you get to Whitehall and look at the picture you put forth to what we have in Whitehall, it's kind of sad to see. I could put that all together and give it to you on a thumb drive if you'd like it. I'll find all that stuff. I've got all those pictures and like I said, I took them all on the same day and we do not have anything to be proud of as far as the city park in Whitehall in my opinion. I mean we've got the drag strip down here that we call the City park.

I'm not too proud of that myself. I think we have an opportunity here to do something special and I think we should do what we can to make it happen.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Thank you very much.

Roy McBride:

Thank you. Did you get those pictures to Kennedy please?

Jody Ryan:

I will. Certainly.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Okay. Any other comments from the public?

Jody Ryan:

Anybody out here got a word?

Bryon Edwards:

My name's Todd Edwards, I'm a transplant here. My kid just got in high schools two years ago, something like that, three years ago. I've helped out with the baseball ever since he's been here. Losing that field is going to hurt us pretty bad. This town is growing. We broke records with numbers last year as far as how many kids were playing with that organization. It's not going to bring in a lot of money. But when you get up to the high school level [inaudible] Three Forks is in the process of building a five plex-

Jody Ryan:

You mean losing the softball field?

Bryon Edwards:

Yeah, for that water treatment. It's going to be hard with the Tee-ballers schedule of all the teams that we're going to have. It's going to be really difficult for us. But on the high school level, it has opportunity to give this town money because if you get a good complex you're going to have a lot of teams. A lot of parents, they're going to bring their money into this town. I only kind of see the baseball side of it. I'm not a rodeo guy or anything like that, but that's just my two cents.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Thank you.

Shawn Hoagland:

But you saw record numbers in baseball?

Bryon Edwards:

Oh yeah. Yeah.

Maria Walker:

Maria Walker. We had four tee-ball teams this year, which consisted of 10 plus kids. We had two rookie teams, which were about 11 per team, one majors team, two minors team, and a very large Babe Ruth team.

Shawn Hoagland:

Wow.

Maria Walker:

I don't have the exact numbers, but baseball has exploded this last year. It was a little difficult on what he said to orchestrate games as well as practice for all the teams and all kids. We ended up having to utilize the school playground a couple days a week.

Shawn Hoagland:

The trend that's going on with Title IX and sanction high school sports, as the baseball folks, what does that look like to you in a few years? I mean, is it just going to congest even further? More opportunity or will that spread things out? Because isn't Babe Ruth... It's not high school, right? That's separate?

Maria Walker:

Babe Ruth is 13 to 15.

Jody Ryan:

13 to 15 I believe.

Maria Walker:

And then that's kind of where we cap off. We don't have anything-

Jody Ryan:

Anything older than 15, then we fall into the legion team out of Three Forks.

Shawn Hoagland:

Okay, so high school would be another avenue?

Hannah Nieskins:

Yeah. Their seasons are slightly different so far. I mean MHSA is just now kind of working this in, but there are schools that... Like communities that have a legion team and a high school team both, like a regional region team-

Jody Ryan:

Then the high school season gets over before school gets over? Correct? The legion probably starts before then, but then a lot of times I think those kids play. Cory Tebay could probably speak to this a little better, but I think those kids-

Cory Tebay:

Legion started tonight so those kids could transition and play legion as well.

Jody Ryan:

I would guess they would cross between the high school and the legion because the majority of the legion season is throughout the summer. It's from now until the end of school, which is mainly-

Shawn Hoagland:

Basically means we would add that layer of age group on top of the growth you're already seeing. Right? Because above 15, above Babe Ruth, they're just waiting for legion ball but if we had high school, they'd be on our fields....

Jody Ryan:

in our town spending their money at the A&W. Baseball kids love the A&W

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Okay, any more questions, comments from council.

Bill Gillespie:

Bill Gillespie, lifetime resident here, I've been putting in time 60 years down there at that grounds. 4-H Club I'm in has been using it for 60 years to do their annual rodeo. It's their main money maker for the year. It's their only major event. I've seen that ground go from, like Tim said, big heavy wooden gates and

chicken wire and split rails and a death trap basically. Watched a kid get his leg broke out there because it rained and he was stuck in the mud. Boom. A cow hit him.

I've seen a lot of improvement and what we got over there now is a really nice facility. I have a couple things as far as the grounds like Gina's talking. Yeah, it's pretty hard to keep it level. When the Saddle Club went in there years ago and stripped that clear down, there was a pretty good consensus of how to do it and there's a lot of people involved. What a lot of people don't realize is what's under that ground. Okay?

You break that ground and there's no bottom in it. It's all clay and it's mud. So when they stripped it down and put a floor in there, it was leveled. It was leveled with the grater and it was set to drain. I don't know how many hundreds of yards of sand the Saddle Club has hauled in there of sand. I don't know how many hours I've spent in there. The Saddle Club is the only one that's given me a few bucks for fuel. I appreciate that.

I'm not saying I need paid, I didn't mind putting the time in, but the last few years the way that was, I didn't have the time for me to put into that ground to make it like it should be. I had a four foot land plane that set in there for three years. I had a 12 foot disc that sat in there for four years. That's mine. I put a tractor in there every year for the last 20 years. I just wrote the last check for the last tractor I bought specifically to put in there.

Granted it's not brand new but it does the job. There's a few in this room that's run it and a few that's helped me out. But when it comes time to prepping that ground, there's more to it than to throw a little water on it, run over it one time with that arena groomer and be done. You can't put two loads of water on it because it turns to muck and gets hard. And you can't put water on it and run over it one time and be ready to show. It's got to be worked. When I did it, I was putting, the night before about two hours. And then the day of, I put another two to four hours prepping that arena so it can be done. As far as being level, we've had Doug Salisbury's grader in there. I had my land plan in there for like say four or five years. Just last fall I made a deal with the county road supervisor to run their grader through there and true it up, so it can be done. Most of that is a lack of communication.

Now, I don't know for years, but it'd been a couple, three or four years ago I had time, so I sat down there and did that ground for the barrel series. There was a gal come through that put a barrel series and a little rodeo on down there and she did it all over the state. Two years in a row she told me that was the best arena she run. Yeah, there's a lot of prep time in it. It's not a 15 minute fix, so that's my short toolbox on that.

The other thing, Dean mentioned parking. How many in this room has been over there when they had a big rodeo going? Where are all the parking at? They're out along the railroad tracks because there's not enough room back there. And in the back where all of this complex is slated to go, that's where your contestants are and you sure as hell can't mix your contestants and your audience. It doesn't work. Somebody going to get hurt.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Can I say something?

Bill Gillespie:

Yeah, I'd like to see some of that, but where is the parking for some of this stuff? Somebody had an aerial photo, and granted the Mule Days isn't there. They had an aerial photo of the first year the Mule Days was there. There wasn't room to turn around in that place. Unfortunately I was out of town I didn't get to see it.

You're talking about putting on more events. I can remember when I was in school, baseball was big. They used to have softball tournaments down there all summer long. You use up a bunch of that ground, where are they going to park? I mean, I watched softball tournaments, go down there for a month at a

time every weekend. Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Yeah, it has capability. What we're lacking down there is people volunteering to do it.

Everybody has to be paid. Everything costs money. Nobody wants to pay to do it. That was touched on a little bit ago. Dave said, "Everybody wants to use facility like that, whether it's ball fields or whatever and not pay for it." The other thing that I got told a few years ago, and it kind of upset me at the time, I was told that, "Oh, whatever happens over there, doesn't matter to the town."

Well, I'm sorry, you've got barrel racing over there. You've got a couple hundred people in town. You've got 50 people in town. You're not going to tell me some of them people don't stop for gas, stop for a sandwich, stop for a beer. You've got a two day rodeo over there. What does that bring into town? You got your [inaudible] What does that bring into town? You got your softball tournaments, baseball tournaments. It's the same thing. You bring a hundred people in town, they're going to spend money in town. Every business in town should be behind it.

Jody Ryan:

Okay, one question, Jody Ryan again. To your volunteer point. I think that's what we're trying to get away from by going down this route and getting the maintenance money, is to get away from the volunteer shortage that we are in and to make it a taxpayer funded facility so that our volunteers... So we're not all sitting over there going, "I don't have any volunteers to chalk my baseball fields. I don't have any volunteers to disk the arena." I think that's where we're wanting to go is, as I can tell-

Bill Gillespie:

Well, that's part of it, but the-

Jody Ryan:

It's still going to take volunteers, don't get me wrong. It's still going to take volunteers to put on your events and stuff, but I think if we can go this route and go through the maintenance side of it and get the maintenance put in place, like Dave said, the maintenance, which is where we're going this two years, will hopefully give us the leeway to put everything else in place to maintain and nail down the maintenance end of the whole situation. As I understand it.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

And Kennedy, you had something to say about parking?

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Oh, I was just going to say, that drawing that I had up there, actually I did not change that. I didn't like push baseball into that side or add anything. There was just available space of where the road was and so I didn't add anything or push parking that direction.

Bill Gillespie:

Some stuff that they're wanting to incorporate into it all takes up space.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Sure, yeah.

Bill Gillespie:

Whether you want a pool over there, you want... A library had been mentioned over there. There's been all kinds of stuff that's been mentioned as far as me listening on the rec board.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Sure.

Bill Gillespie:

And it's all going to take up space.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Sure. But we all have to come to the same consensus of is this going to work over there and if it's not going to work, then we nix it off the list. And that's what we need to do, all of that.

Bill Gillespie:

Yes, but it's got to be done. It's not going to happen overnight.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

No.

Bill Gillespie:

Like you said, it's going to take time.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Right.

Bill Gillespie:

And it's going to take a lot of people and I don't think we want to get the cart before the horse and end up in a situation of where we're a have to situation. It's just, there's a lot of work that needs to be done before we jump to conclusions.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Roy?

Roy McBride:

One of the reasons we went to the county to get that done and get them to commit to help us. They don't want it back. I can guarantee you that that was expressed very adamantly. They do not want that used property back, but the object was, they're willing to help us make it a going concern to do what we need to do. The timeline to make the county work, to get them to do what they needed to do takes two years. First year, that's why the second year, if we go back and then they'll try to put it into their budget.

And when they do that, then that gives us a year to get everything lined up through the county, it takes over a year to get that bill into the taxpayers hands. Whether it passes or not, that's a gamble.

Bill Gillespie:

That's up to the taxpayer.

Roy McBride:

That's up to the taxpayers and if it doesn't happen, then we go back and start looking for donations from, I'm going to use an example, Town Pump, all these places, there's money there. You just got to ask for it. Kennedy found one that was for walking trails from, who was that from Kennedy?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Oh, I found that. MDT has a grant out for walking trails that we're going to look into.

Roy McBride:

It's a matter of laying a two foot wide strip of asphalt around there and hooking it to something. So there's money there. You just got to have somebody with the-

Bill Gillespie:

You've got to have a plan-

Jody Ryan:

And I think that's where we're at, we've started the plan and that's where we want to be. We want-

Bill Gillespie:

I don't think we want to jump in with both feet right now.

Jody Ryan:

I don't think we got a choice-

Bill Gillespie:

... and get committed to something we can't do long term when the money runs out. The grants aren't forever.

Jody Ryan:

Oh, I understand that. But once you get it up to where it should be making money that that's the ultimate goal is, get it to where it can make money. You can't keep nickleing and diming that.

Bill Gillespie:

That's why I say that, to get it... To make one of my points, to get it to make money, you're going to have to leave enough room there for Growth. You don't want to use up all your real estate and then have no place to park.

Jody Ryan:

I understand that and those are concerns. We're trying to address the baseball thing because we took one of those fields to do that. We got to replace it. We know that. Kory knows that, he's talked about it. We're trying to figure out where to put it where it doesn't take away from the other side. It's a process and it's going to be a long process, and everybody, I'd say, get on board and let's go. Tim, don't look in the rear view mirror. That's history and it's done.

Bill Gillespie:

But you better learn from it. Oh, you got to learn. We learned that you can't learn from history or not. We can't. Anybody else have a question for me?

Jody Ryan:

No, not for you. Jody Ryan, question for the board again, which, in the argument that's going on, does the city council work for the rec board or does the rec board work for the city council?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

The rec board is a volunteer board.

Jody Ryan:

It works for the council?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Yes.

Linda Jung:

They don't work, it advises the town council. They don't work for us.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

All boards are advisory boards.

Jody Ryan:

Thank you.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Yes. And we couldn't run without our boards.

Jody Ryan:

Oh, I understood.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

They do a wonderful job. They bring the information to the council, they inform the council so that the council can make an informed decision. So yes, we're very indebted to all our boards. Any other public comment?

Shawn Hoagland:

I just want to comment?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Sure.

Shawn Hoagland:

On Bill Gillespies position about the cart before the horse, and I really feel like we're trying to do this in the right order by getting these maintenance, the ARPA money first, a county grant, second shoot for the mill levy, which I haven't been here that long, only 25 years. But mill levies are tough around here. But it's a goal we have to try. We have to educate the public and get them to understand how beneficial this vision would be if we won't get it all, in my experience. We all have the vision. I've talked to Dave Cole, saddle Clubs, had all the vision of a permanent concession and real life bathrooms, not honey pots and all this stuff. It's all great, but it takes a bunch of cash, the cart before the horse would be committing to something like that and having no way to keep it up and keep it growing.

All we're saying here is let's all get on the same page, whether it's Saddle Club, baseball, town Council, all of us together. It's way easier to step one, go get these maintenance funds that might unlock up to \$250,000 that make some of this stuff reality. The day to day of what happens in the summer, yeah, there's a change in who administers what, who does what, but if we're all heading forward, not putting the cart before the horse, but get those maintenance funds first, figure out, talk more with Bill about how the ground, how we can get the ground as somebody, I'm Gina's husband, been around that arena a lot with WBRS, maybe we need to do more. Maybe that's what all these guys are doing. Three Forks, Helmville. We've been to all these rodeo grounds trying to figure out how they get it done. And maybe it's just more time investment, but maybe it's an investment in real arena footing. I don't even know if there's such a thing. Peel it off, get it regraded, so it drains. Like Bill said, it's been done and he's done. And then reeducate the people that actually are grooming that.

With this 35 grand. My thought is we have somebody that becomes the expert. They are the groomer. They take care of that ground. It's not a volunteer hopping on a tractor just trying to get it done after they get off work and before the barrel series starts. We have somebody actually committed. And to me, that's not the cart before the horse, that's being responsible. It gives us opportunity to grow. If we crap out, we crap out, but if we're all doing it together, I think there's going to be more volunteers heading in the same direction. It'd be a lot easier.

I believe that we can raise that money on a perpetual basis. Whether Mill happens or not, it seems like these funds are there and there's an opportunity to kind of regroup and get bigger on all fronts. I had no idea. I mean, I knew baseball was important just for kids, but to hear how it's grown even makes this more imperative that we, I mean, just the arena's one thing, but there's a whole other massive part that's good for commerce, good for the town, so we don't want to get before the horse. But I think these steps are right, because there's no harm, no foul. You lock these two things up at the county level, the ARPA and the county for two years. To Jody's point, we buy time, just communicate a little better on where we want to go and then go after those bigger funds.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Thanks, Shawn. Maxine?

Maxine Samuelson:

Okay. I want to segue on what Sean was saying. My name is Maxine Samuel. No. And Hannah, before you came here, when this pool was being built, the school was asked to be a part of it because we had hoped that somehow it'd be an enclosed feature at some point in year round swimming lessons for students. But that didn't work. And I think that adding the pool to this proposed mill levy would be a lot more successful because we did talk about becoming a park. I was on this pool board for 10 years and we did talk about hope, hopefully getting connected with the rec board. And I think that would be beneficial, even though the pool has completely different ideas over the saddle club, over rodeo, over baseball. One thing.

Jody Ryan:

If I could interrupt just one second, Jody. They don't though all of them are youth opportunities.

Maxine Samuelson:

But pool, they have a hiring process and they have to be certified in different things like that. Those are the types of things that I'm talking about that are different. But one thing I noticed on the last slide, and Kennedy, you did an awesome job.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Thank you.

Maxine Samuelson:

And thank you for getting the cute little dog tags this year.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

You're welcome.

Maxine Samuelson:

You have a tennis court proposed over here. There is a tennis court at the school. Is that in bad shape or what?

Hannah Nieskins:

It's completely uninsurable. So our insurance company came in, it hasn't been in use for four years, so there was terrible frost heaves. Someone earlier mentioned that where the arena was used to be a swamp since it is still a swamp. Same with, unfortunately, the area surrounding our school, that used to actually be a ravine through there. And the tennis courts--

Maxine Samuelson:

We drain the pool into that area, goes right into White Tail Creek.

Hannah Nieskins:

Anyhow, the tennis courts have, you can walk out there and look, but 18 inch deep frost heaving where they're completely unplayable. To fix them was going to be over \$600,000. And so that was the year that the school, then school board chose to not spend the \$600,000 and to transition to golf. And so that's when we made that transition. We haven't had tennis there for years.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

And Maxine, those were just ideas that were given to Kennedy. None of those are written in stone. Those were just ideas from everybody and she just compiled.

Maxine Samuelson:

I understand. I just questioned about the tennis court. I know that we hate to even mention this, but the water treatment plan, and I'm going to say it very quietly, does it have to go where it's proposed to cover? I don't know which of the fields, ball fields would be lost.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

So Maxine, that question is about three years too late. We're getting ready to go out to--

Kory Klapan:

I can answer her real quick anyway. Kory, Public works. So at the time we were looking for every other option possible. It was supposed to go here in this building, this building's too small, complications. We had to find a new location. The only other location would be clear out to the sewer lagoon property. We own the field and it would've added 2 million to our water treatment project. We thought that was unfeasible. So at the rec complex when we started that, it was going to go in the corner of sugar beet and division was where we very first thought that was in the flood plain. So that's where it had to get moved out of the flood plain. That's how it ended up there. We really had no other option. Any feasible option.

Maxine Samuelson:

So that bottom part here is where you're saying, right?

Kory Klapan:

No, it's going to be

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

It'll be just right across this.

Maxine Samuelson:

Sugar beet. You were saying that--

Kory Klapan:

That's where we wanted to put it, but that was in the flood plain.

Maxine Samuelson:

So is that area workable for the things that are proposed there? That's

Kory Klapan:

What, yes. There's part being proposed there, I think.

Maxine Samuelson:

Well, you have a gazebo and

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Those are just ideas.

Maxine Samuelson:

Playground. Yeah,

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Those are just ideas.

Maxine Samuelson:

Right. I don't know if they could be moved or whatever. Okay. I realize that this is just an idea session.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Right. Okay. Any other public comment?

Meeting

A. Council determination on Resolution 2022 - 21. Updating rec complex bylaws. Is there a motion?

Roy McBride motioned, Pat Peterson seconding.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Any discussion? All those in favor?

Lonna Johnson:

Is it open for discussion?

Pat Peterson:

To be honest, I was not prepared to vote on these things tonight.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

You can abstain.

Pat Peterson:

Because I thought it was strictly a working session, not to be.

Linda Jung:

I agree.

Pat Peterson:

So, I will be upstanding from voting on this. We can vote on it Monday at our regular council meeting. That's my preference.

Maxine Samuelson:

What are the changes in the bylaws?

Linda Jung:

Maxine Samuelson asked that and just add more members to the board, right?

Katy James:

And the elected board?

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

No, that's existing board right now. It would be the board that's existing now. And the elected board is through the mill, the county mill. So that's way down the road.

Maxine Samuelson:

So how many members are currently on the board and how many are being proposed to be added?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Seven.

Maxine Samuelson:

Is that the answer to my first part of the question?

Roy McBride:

Adding two.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

The board to include an individual representing the following: one member each representing one of the following, A rodeo. B baseball, two members at large from the town, two members at large from the surrounding area out of town limits. One member from the town council who will act as chairman of the board and will only vote in instances of a tie. Any questions? So total seven. Yes.

Linda Jung:

Why aren't we attending the Saddle Club? Is having one of their members on the board or is that considered under the rodeo?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

They would be at large from surrounding areas or if they're a member inside. So anybody from anywhere, the Saddle Club, baseball, anybody can run for these board positions. Gotcha.

Lonna Johnson:

Lonna Johnson. So we have had on the rec board, Sean has been part of it. Curtis has been a part of it. We had form all in place. Some of this stuff has been on the existing resolution. This resolution, in my opinion, should have been brought towards the rec board. It was not brought towards the rec board. The first time I heard it was at the last city council meeting.

I do agree with adding more people onto it. We tried filing a new one with removing when Sean was on the board, removing softball and adding baseball to take over those areas, those forms and the resolution that we tried doing at that time was presented to the city and Summer did not file that resolution. So the last existing resolution on file is 2014. The one prior to that was 2004. I agree with adding two more people onto it, but it specifically states in the last resolutions that baseball gets to earmark their representative and Saddle Club gets to rec, have their representative, and it is those people are then approved through the council. I think you need to have a person from baseball that's involved with it on a daily basis and also Saddle Club that's involved in this area. And that would be remaining on there.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

that would be rodeo.

Lonna Johnson:

Correct, yes.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

So those are both included in the resolution.

Lonna Johnson:

Right. But we as our own individual groups in the last resolutions, it states that we, Saddle Club, or baseball gets to pick our own representatives to sit on the board for what's saying.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Right.

Lonna Johnson:

The other, there's an item in there on, I believe it's line-item number 13 on the new resolution that was not brought in front of the rec board, was added about any previous properties or I can't even remember the exact quote on that. And so I had some concerns with that, that those items were not addressed at the rec board meeting, which was a meeting for the grant money and on the last day of November. And so this resolution had never been brought towards or voted on for us to pass it on to city Council. Therefore, I'm asking if you guys would please, I mean, I'm not afraid of adding the new people to it, but there's some things that I think the rec board themselves, if we're an advisory council, should have had the opportunity to look at that before it went to a city council.

Dave Cole:

Okay. Do I make a comment as well?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Go ahead, Dave.

Dave Cole:

Dave Cole. Again, I don't know if they're in this packet. This same situation came up, I believe it was 2000. If you as a council want to look at past precedent when the ability of the Saddle Club, baseball, and softball to offer their own representatives that had been the precedent from the beginning of this board in 2004, it only makes sense. Also, traditionally, the other two positions you could apply for, the mayor could suggest someone, but you could also apply for those positions naturally on all this stuff.

It's the council that makes the final determination. But what needs to happen is that the council needs to know what's what else is going on behind the scenes on some of this. But this was tried in 2012 and the council voted it down and left it as it had been set up in the beginning of this board that the mayor may present at large representatives. Those representatives could also apply for the position and then it's up to the council to approve the Saddle Club, Women's Softball Baseball Association naturally would send their own names over from their organizations to represent them. And then of course, it's final opportunity to finalize that is of course the city council. But that's just past precedent.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Okay.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

So there's a motion and second.

Bridget Morse:

Mary? I have a question on the numbering of this. Isn't this year 2023 or wouldn't it be number 2023-01?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Yeah, we can change that.

Bridget Morse:

The actual resolution number.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Yeah, that's what was just brought....

Bridget Morse:

I don't see that as appropriate to number it last year.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Thanks Bridget. That's an easy fix. Okay. Any more discussion from the council?

Shawn Hoagland:

I don't want to go to a vote yet. I was talking to Kennedy earlier. I read through this in detail, not that I'm opposed to it. I mean, I believe we have to make some choices and go forward and hope we all go together. But I mean, there's some cleanup that I would like to add to look at. There's some language, a couple things that just don't flow. There's, there's ground maintenance included, but not limited to the ball fields, which was 4-C. It doesn't really define that 4-D is addressed in 0.9. Very small stuff. But I don't want to vote and approve this as it's written. I want...

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Okay, so we have a motion and a second. So we have to vote. So you can either vote yes or no or abstain.

Voting as follows:

Roy McBride:

Yes.

Linda Jung:

I'm going to abstain.

Pat Peterson:

I abstain.

Shawn Hoagland:

I still have a further question. So, abstain. If this fails, is it killed?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

No.

Shawn Hoagland:

Can we amend?

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Yes. Then we'll make another motion to table this for the Monday meeting. Okay.

Shawn Hoagland:

Nay.

Bill Lanes:

No.

Katy James:

Abstain

1 in favor, 3 abstained, 2 not in favor.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Okay. Motion fails. I just need a motion to move this to Monday's meeting.

Shawn Hoagland: I make a motion to move the approval of this resolution to Monday so that the town attorney can review proposed changes. Linda Jung seconding.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Is there any more discussion?

Maxine Samuelson:

I have one question. It's Maxine Samuelson. It's been my understanding that the town representative acts as a representative on any of the boards that that person is on. And that person would not have a vote, also would not have not be a chairperson of a board. Can somebody look into that to see?

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

So that was also changed, I believe in 2014. Maybe it wasn't 2014, but I know that it was changed to let a council member be a voting member and sit on as a chairperson. And then I have the resolution in my office, I think.

Lonna Johnson:

On which resolution?

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

I think it's 2014.

Lonna Johnson:

But it, on just the rec one?

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Yeah. Yeah, it from prior it was voting basically to just let one of the council members be. Because prior, I guess they were just on there as a tiebreaker.

Lonna Johnson:

I think in the 2014 it says they are non-voting.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Yep. And then it changed.

Lonna Johnson:

It hasn't been changed since 2014 due to the fact that the one that we tried proposing that we redone did not get submitted. Summer.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Okay. I don't know. I just have one that signed in my office that says that the council member becomes a chair member and a voting member as well.

Mayor Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh:

Okay. Yeah. So is there any more discussion,

Linda Jung:

Kennedy, if you, I'd like to see that.

Kennedy Kleinsasser:

Yeah, I can make you guys copies. Yep.

Motion carries unanimously

- B. Council determination on accepting county ARPA grant money for future maintenance at the Rec Complex.

Linda Jung: I'll make a motion that we approve the ARPA money draft, Roy McBride seconding.

Motion carries unanimously