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TOWN OF WHITEHALL

P. O. BOX 529

WHITEHALL, MT 59759

February 13th, 2023

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Ave, Monday, February 13th, 2023.

PRESENT: Council Members: Katy James, Bill Lanes, Pat Peterson, Linda Jung, Roy McBride, Shawn Hoagland, Treasurer Allissa Christensen, and Mayor Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh.

VISITORS: Kory Klapan, Liz Pullman, Bridget Morse, Dan Hagerty, Cody Hagerty, Jessica Ward, Lonna Johnson, Colton Anderson, Leah Lewis, Jennifer Downs, Maxine Samuelson, Patty Morse.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL

**Bill Lanes motioned, Roy seconding
Motion carries**

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Roy motioned, Linda Seconding
Motion Carries**

VI. REPORTS

Mayors Report:

Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh: The reason the mayor is in a even better mood than she already is because my Kansas City Chiefs won the Super Bowl, and so I'm quite-

Pat Peterson: I'm from Philadelphia, so be careful.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: I don't care. It was a wonderful game. So quite happy about that. Want to wish everybody a happy Valentine's Day tomorrow. And according to the weatherman, we're supposed to be having some nasty weather, so drive home safely tonight and watch the roads tomorrow. We're missing the art on the walls and we should be getting more in. I didn't realize how much we enjoyed it till it was gone and then it started looking real sad in here. So hopefully we'll be getting a new artist in by next month's meeting.

And then my other announcement is starting this Friday we will be working, but the office will be closed to the public. This is done in a lot of towns, and on Fridays, Alyssa, as you know, works four 10s, so she doesn't work on Friday. And it's very difficult when there's just one person in the office if there's people at the window and the phone is ringing and that. So we will start that this Friday and see how it works. But we will be here. If you need anything, call. And you can drop off payments in the box and should

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work out pretty good. So we'll give it a try. The attorney's not here, so we'll move on to the clerk treasury report.

Katy James: Mayor?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Yes?

Katy James: I'm sorry. Where you at with the railroad? You haven't been reporting on the railroad situation.

Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh: Oh, I will include that next month in my report.

Katy James: Wonderful, thank you.

Attorney Report:

No Report

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Allissa Christensen: Okay, we received the CDBG grant for 15,000 to redo our ordinances. So, I'm still waiting on a bunch of paperwork I have to fill out because free money is not free. And let's see, been working on DEQ updates. That kind of kept me preoccupied for a week or two. Let's see, floodplain, now that I'm a floodplain administrator, questions like that pop up every now and then. So that's fun. Working on bank Recs.

What has been keeping me busy the last three weeks are the balance sheets and reports that RD requires for the water treatment plant. I did the water reports back in August and then I had to do sewer and that was fun. And then now I have to do the general fund and they're very tedious. And I'm not an accountant so I can get the numbers, but I'm just not sure where to put them. But anyway, I'm working with Laura Sadler and I am getting it. So that's been keeping me busy.

Court, I think we are up to I think 15 or 16 cases so far for this year, which is good. Let's see. And we'll talk about that later. And yeah, day-to-day stuff, like I said, I have an open-door policy, so if you have any questions, please ask.

Public Work's Report:

Kory Klapan: So I've been working with Jeffrey's contracting on my two corners of both ends of 1st Street. We're going to have trouble taping that like we wanted. We're going to have to end up putting millings and packing them in there and chip sealing it. A paver is eight foot wide. We're only going to be about five feet on that, so we have to come up with a different plan there. But I think it's coming together.

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When this water treatment plant kicks off, we're going to fix quite a few main valves. The very first part of the project, there's probably six total. So on the street end, the town's going to replace where we have to dig them up. So that'll be a little bit of work putting them back together. Water samples were taken February 7th, water leak on Viola. We fixed two service lines. Water treatment plant plans are off to DEQ at a 100%, this is the second round on that. We sent them off thinking they were going to get approved. They had a few things they wanted fixed. They sent them back and they're fixed and now they're back to DEQ. The water tank, he told me today he wants a medium. We're 60% designed on the water tank, so that's good news.

The water tank will be a little bit behind the water treatment plant, but not a whole bunch. Sewer, we were finally successful on our discharge permit. We don't have to take any sewer samples for the next few years, so that's kind of nice. That's been quite an expense on the sewer end, so we're good. We'll have to do some in-house recordkeeping in samples, but nothing to turn into DEQ. Cemetery, we had one cremation, we moved the extra dirt out of the cemetery and we fixed a couple panels on the fence.

Fire Chief's Report:

Sherriff's Report:

Tom Grimsrod: Hello, my name is Tom Grimsrod, the sheriff of Jefferson County. My undersheriff James Everett is with me tonight. And I guess I'm here tonight to tell you all that open line of communication. I'm looking forward to that. Looking forward to working with the community. Right now we're sitting on about four positions that we're trying to hire as far as sheriff's deputies and one of those will be coming down to the Whitehall area. Also have a dog that's headed doing training right now and he'll be stationed down here in Whitehall with Deputy Meese. And Deputy Meese has been doing some work with the school down here and we're hoping to make him a more permanent fixture around the schools. Right now we're just using him for the time being. We'd sure like to find some more funding for another SRO besides him, but it's all in the works.

Shawn Hoagland: Good reports back on that by the way.

Tom Grimsrod: Right on.

Shawn Hoagland: From the students, I have a couple in the school.

Tom Grimsrod: He has a wonderful personality, real people person. I think the kids will enjoy visiting with him and develop that bond that's necessary to end problems before they arise. [inaudible 00:08:59] anyways. But I guess what I want to say is that I'm very open to communication with the town council, with the mayor, for the folks down here

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in Whitehall. Being on the road for the last 24 years you just hear bits and pieces of things between the communities and here I stand that I'm responsible for it all and I will be responsible. So door's always open, phone's always working.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: So do you think it's possible to have someone come to the council meetings once a month and give a report?

Tom Grimsrod: Yep.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay.

Tom Grimsrod: And if I'm not here, the undersheriff may be here or it may be the captain. Mercer's now lieutenant with the sheriff's office. Yeah, there's no reason why that can't happen.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Wonderful. I think people would like that to just know what's going on. Definitely.

Tom Grimsrod: I guess I'd like to make it down as much as I can. Like I said, I am responsible for what takes place at the sheriff's office and I answer for it. So if I don't have an answer I'll find one out.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Perfect.

Tom Grimsrod: As far as the needs of the community go, really just have to be educated on that. Dan asked me a question today about [inaudible 00:10:10] and I asked him about the past practices because honestly I have to look at past practices, and if there isn't any then we have to sit down and have a discussion on what things would look like. Yep.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Wonderful.

Tom Grimsrod: Any questions?

Pat Peterson: I had a need to call the sheriff's department and they were in my house within five minutes. Exceptionally helpful and they were unbelievable.

Tom Grimsrod: That is good to hear. And if it's any other way, we'd like to hear it.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Wonderful. Thank you very much. And you're welcome to stay for the whole meeting, but if you want to get ahead of the storm, you're welcome to leave.

Tom Grimsrod: It didn't start snowing until we pulled in and snowing pretty heavily, so yeah, we might do that.

Commissioner Report:

Dan Hagerty : Good evening. Got two things here. As of last Tuesday evening, Jefferson County now has a new health director by the name of Jim Murphy, who resides in the northern part of the county. So he'll be an asset so we can get things rolling there in the health department all over again. And then also as of today, Doug Dodge, our Jefferson County Disaster Emergency Services coordinator presented an in-depth orientation of how incident command structure works in different scenarios to include wildland fire, flooding, earthquakes, et cetera. He then explained how the state or federal entities play a role in the outcome of the incident, whether a resource or financial assistance, his training was geared for all different forms of government. An example would be town or county, and I know I saw some of the city government there today.

A. Committee / Board Reports:

Planning Board:

Linda Jung: Okay, I'm just going to kind of go over the minutes because you folks didn't get these. We kind of had a crazy month. We were supposed to have a meeting in the 1st of January, but we didn't have any applications. We then found out that we were in violation of MCA, that the first month of every quarter the planning board has to meet. So we quickly got a meeting organized and met our 48-hour notice and we discussed a few things. This is basically what we discussed.

First of all, we need to update our bylaws so that is in there, so we're aware of it instead of having to go to MCA and look at it. We have a place to start because Jefferson County had the same problem and they alerted us to that. And so we kind of have their template to look at to get ours started. So the subcommittee will be working on getting new bylaws up and there's a lot of things that need to be updated. So I'm kind of excited about it. We're meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10:00, the subcommittee, and just hashing it out and getting it done.

Also, one other thing that was interesting is there's a house bill 246 out there and it's talking about allowing zoning for tiny houses. It hasn't gotten all the way through the legislation yet, but they've got it in a session, I think it's April 4th is when they're going to review it again. Hasn't become law yet, so they're still talking about it, but it sounds interesting and I think it'll really help us decide what we can do about tiny houses. Just need some direction. And other than that, we'll meet on March 6th as normal, next month. We'll get it done right. That's it.

Recreational Complex Board:

Roy McBride: We had a meeting. At the meeting, members were brought forth for the new board. We voted on those to approve and sent forward to the city council. We also approved two applications for events at the rec complex. One was BY's rodeo and the other was Frontier Days and the RA rodeo, we approved the use of the facilities. BY paid their \$800 damage fee. I don't know if we've received the stuff from the rodeo people-

Kennedy Kleinsasser: She was in communication also.

Roy McBride: Okay. So, we're talking to her about getting those. We recommended also that we put somebody on from the pool to add to that board since the pool is going to be part of that program. That's pretty much what we did.

Pool Board:

No meeting.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery:

No meeting.

Water/Sewer/Garbage and Streets/Alley/Sidewalks:

Katy James: Okay. We met on the 2nd of February. Everyone was in attendance except for Roy, I believe. And we discussed water treatment plant. We were advised that 100% design only days before they sit down to prepare the proposals. Water tower replacement we were told is a separate project. Kory provided an explanation of the process for the construction of the tower.

Bills to be adjusted. We adjusted three, we had a total of six complaints, but three of them did not submit the proper complaint form so they'll be addressed later. New business fiber optics. Kory reported he had Ron working on verifying a lead they received on some fiber optic. And future grant proposal for storm drains. That's a plan of future proposal. And then Kory reported pretty much basically the water treatment.

And then there was a question about the status of the garbage receptacles near Strozzi's and we were advised that that problem has been taken care of, meeting adjourned. And in streets, alleys, and sidewalks, no unfinished business. Sidewalk projects TA grant is in the works. Jason to be invited to the next meeting. Two street corners. Kory reported some difficulties, but they're working through them and updated from Kory that they had been addressing the various icy spots around town.

There was a brief discussion as to various complaints about vehicles parked on Legion Street and we're reminded that Legion Street is part of the Department of Transportation, not the town of Whitehall. Kory mentioned there may be a way that vehicle owners may be able to park vehicles where he has some of our millings piled. Town is working towards an answer to this problem. Meeting adjourned.

T.I.F.F:

Bridget Morse: Hello. So for the TIF, we met on January 18th and that was our first meeting for the year. And in our financial report we have \$389,000. And in our public comments, Colton Anderson was to be notified if his name appeared on a TIF agenda or any agenda. I thought that was interesting. So I guess in the future we'll be notifying people if we put their names on there. Usually we just identify projects by people with their name because it's easier to remember, because not everyone knows Star Theater means Colton Anderson or the Methodist Church, it's John Kreis who is heading that up.

Anyway, we went over old business projects and where everything was at, everything's kind of at a standstill because of the winter. There were a few things to pay, the baseball, pay them and send a few letters, asking people and letting them know that we'd be extending it for them since it was really a poor fall for people who wanted to get concrete work done.

And then we approved just paying the chamber \$2,500 for the two murals that they are proposing in the future instead of making them wait and us having to receive all their receipts. And then in the old business that are board projects, we were looking at getting a TA grant for all those sidewalks. We figured that was the most bang for the money we have. I know, sounds like we have a lot of money, but not when you pour it into concrete. That gets eaten up very fast. Curtis Koenig is rewriting my letter because he didn't think my English was quite up to par.

Anyway, we have some ideas for projects. We'll be doing more ideas at our next meeting. January and February we work on getting projects for the board to consider as we work towards doing our budget in April.

Shawn Hoagland: Hey, Bridget. On that TA grant so is that some sort of match thing you're working on?

Bridget Morse: Yeah, so that's the thing to pay for sidewalks. We're paying the engineer guy, Jason, I think his name is at Triple Tree. And then Jason will write for the grant. We did it last year and we didn't get the grant, or the year before. I don't remember which one, but we applied. Oh, we missed out because we included one little sidewalk that was in the park and because of that one sidewalk, we didn't get it because that was on railing property, so we didn't get awarded that. So, knowing now what we know, we can exclude and really tailor it just to what those kind of grants are. And we can get engineered sidewalks with curbs and gutters and really nice sidewalks.

CTAC:

No meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bridget Morse: Yeah, so Bridget Morse again. I've been harping on the bus and so this is my repeat. The bus is still down there.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: She has contacted us. We have contacted her and she has till the end of this month to move it. So we're making progress.

Bridget Morse: Okay. Hopefully she doesn't just move it over by the milling pile.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay, we'll keep track.

Maxine Samuelson: I live in ward three. I'd like to make a couple suggestions about the arrangement of this room. Since all this money has been paid for this special wall, so far every time I've seen presentations, they're over on that wall. I would suggest that those cabinets can be moved over here. Start using this wall as the projection wall that it's intended and rearrange the seating in here. Just a thought.

I don't know ... Can you get by with one of the large desks? Do you really need two large desks? You watch other public meetings on the TV or see pictures of them. And for instance, the mayor would be in the center and then have the council on either side. And of course, the clerk recorder would be near the mayor as well. Just something to think about.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Business licenses:

K&Roofing,

Merrick Mechanical,

Precision Cleaning Services,

The Healing Spot,

Cat Graphics Inc.,

Precision Mason Reconstruction, LLC,

Red Dog Painting.

Rec Complex:

Saddle Club rep, Bridget Morse.

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Pool rep, Kelly Seccomb. In town rep, Gina Ossello.

Rodeo rep, Tim O'Donnell.

Out of town rep, Curtis LaFontaine.

School representative, Hannah Nieskins.

Fire department

William Pierce

Linda motioned approval, Pat seconding

Roy McBride: These complex board members that are here are in addition to the ones that we have also?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Yes. These are the new members.

Roy McBride: Yeah, these are the new members. So the old members are still there?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Yes. And this is a two-year appointment until we go to the mill levy and elected board members.

Maxine Samuelson: Can I ask a question?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Certainly.

Maxine Samuelson: Okay, so in town rep is now Gina. Is Logan not on it anymore?

Roy McBride: No.

Maxine Samuelson: Okay. She's moved off ...

Roy McBride: These are just new.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: It's now a 10 board ...

Maxine Samuelson: 10 person board. So there are two in town reps.

Roy McBride: Right. Two out of town reps, two in town reps, one rodeo [inaudible 00:24:35].

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Roy is the chairman. He only votes in a tie. And Kennedy is the secretary treasurer.

Liz Pullman: I have just a side note. When you guys do your business licenses, is there any way that you could mark if it's a temporary license, like an out-of-town person? Because I have a lot of people that contact the paper and go, Who's ... they'll pick one of these and I'm like, I don't know if it's actually somebody that he doesn't want help [inaudible 00:25:08]

Shawn Hoagland: Yeah. I was going to ask the same question. How do we know who's opening a business in town or doing business?

Pat Peterson: Well you look at the addresses, the one way I look at it.

Maxine Samuelson: But what is the address? There's no address on it. [inaudible 00:25:29] You have it, but-

Liz Pullman: It's just a suggestion maybe.

Pat Peterson: Yeah, it's a good suggestion. That's doable. New business as opposed to ... yeah. New business opening up or someone just doing a job in town.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay. Any more discussion? All those in favor?

Motioned carried unanimously

IX. Presentations

none

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Council determination on digital imaging agreement with family search to digitize the town's cemetery archives and old minutes. Tabled

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council determination on hiring Scott Petterson as a full-time public works laborer.

Roy motioned approval, Bill seconding

Motion carried unanimously

B. Council determination on purchasing the Hydrovac for public works using excess sewer cash reserves.

Pod Moriarty: Yeah, my name is Pod Moriarty, I live in Rocky Mountain Drive, Whitehall. That unit right there is more than just an example. It's actually a machine that we have offered for you. And one of the biggest things today in equipment is having a machine available to us. We're looking at a new machine, we're probably looking at probably June before you'd see one, if it's available. This is one that's been in our rental fleet. It's got 312 hours on it. I've got a very competitive price to Kory to get it under the 80,000. So we're talking \$79,999.

It's a valuable tool when you're potholing, when you're cleaning areas up. You can use it for so many different things. And we were talking about curb stops and all that sort of

thing, or cleaning up gutters. You can add a hot seat to the unit if you want to do that. It's a plug and play situation. It is a high CFM, 1,025 CFM. A lot of them that you see that are in a rental fleet are 560, little three inch hose. This is a contractor's commercial unit. You'll probably see a lot of these throughout the state of Montana.

And they're used again for potholing, but Kory and I were talking a little bit when you're down and you're in the hole and you've got a leak in your water line or something, it's very clean. It's very safe. You're not using any shovels or anything. It's just compressed water and vacuum it, cleans it up, clean around the pipe, cut it, whatever you have to do, put it back together. It makes it much safer and cleaner in your working zone.

You're going to find so many users for this around 10. One of the things I wanted to do is I introduced you to the school over here and show them how to clean up rocks all-around of their place. And there's just all kinds of things. So I'm just here to help with any questions you folks might have on the unit. I brought this one here. I'm going to probably go over it with Kory in the morning, we're going to have Life and go through the machine to show its operation, and with it comes training and all that sort of thing as well.

It is a 2022 model. I haven't been able to dig in depth to what warranties left on the machine. I'm sure the engine's probably got an extra year left on it. Most of them, they come with two years. This is only year old so we've still got a little warranty to play with on this unit as well. So I'll do more investigating on this unit and get back with Kory in the morning and talk to him about it. Do you have any questions on how it operates or what it can do to benefit the city?

Linda motioned approval, Pat seconding.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Discussion. Any questions for **Pod** or for Kory?

Linda Jung: So, digging graves?

Pod Moriarty: Well, you wouldn't want to go into digging a deep hole with that little vacuum or with a truck vac.

Kory Klapan: I fully intend on using it like the last one we had that I couldn't get through the frost.

Linda Jung: In the wintertime.

Kory Klapan: Especially with the hot seat connection. I don't know how much that is, but they do penetrate the ice and frost. So it would be an asset for that. Bigger graves, no, we would still use the excavator and do it that way.

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Linda Jung: So sprinkling systems, when we have to fix them?

Kory Klapan: Huge. We ain't cutting wire, we ain't cutting hoses. Super nice. Water leaks to get down around the main line of service lines. Super handy. Pothole and anything, you don't have to call in to locate when you use one. Right now behind the school gymnasium we have a met curb stop. Montana Power couldn't find their gas line. They painted the whole box yellow. That means I have to hand dig that. This thing will be written about five minutes.

Roy McBride: Qualifies as hand digging then?

Kory Klapan: Correct. Right. You guys want me to go over this sewer reserve budget so you understand it? [inaudible 00:31:39]

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: We got it.

Kory Klapan: You good?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Yep. I'm not a expert on machines, but is 300 hours just barely broken in?

Pod Moriarty: Oh yeah. There's equipment you'll see that there's thousands of hours [inaudible 00:31:57]. You'll find that these are very common out there. If you drive down, you look at this machine, drive the boat and you drive to [inaudible 00:32:04]. And when he mentioned locating wire, and I don't know if you have it where I'm located, but if you locate it, that gets you within closer. You call in locates, they got three feet on either side. So, you got a lot of room to play with where you don't want to dig with a shovel.

So, this opens that up. Now it's got 3000 PSI with 5.6 gallons of water that's shooting out at high pressure. It will cut porous materials such as wood. Okay. But when you're around non-force things like duct, wire, fiber optic shielding and such like that, it won't cut that at all. It's got to be porous. So, it opens up, it's quick, it's fast. You go down, you got a nice little hole where you're at, boom. And a lot of times you just throw the gravel and you're done with it.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Can it wash windows?

Pod Moriarty: It comes with two wands. One of them will cut the paint right off the side of the building, the other one will spray fan or jet for such and such as I would've ... Let's say your car's parked next to it and I spray a little mud on there. I would not want to use the cutting wand, just use the regular spray wand. So yeah, you could wash windows with it. You could probably introduce soap to it through the antigen system if you needed to.

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Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay. Okay.

Maxine Samuelson: I could use that.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay. Any more serious questions? All right.

Allissa Christensen: I want to try it after.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: What's that?

Allissa Christensen: I want to try it.

Pod Moriarty: Oh, they're fun. I want to add, again, with the equipment the way it is, we're very fortunate to be able to have this out here.

Pat Peterson: And is this the exact unit we would be purchasing?

Pod Moriarty: This is the one we're looking at and I say this not as being a salesman. Okay. I'm not a pressure salesman at all, but I wouldn't break my feet because this goes back. It can be picked up pretty quickly.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: We're voting on it tonight, Pod.

Pod Moriarty: Any questions I can answer? There'll be plenty of training on it. I'm here. I want to go out with Kory tomorrow if he wants to work with it.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: And the council's welcome to come?

Pod Moriarty: More than welcome.

Bill Lanes: Kory, you already have all the ideas on how you're going to use this thing.

Kory Klapan: Totally. And I can explain that a little bit too. I'd really like to go over this reserve budget a little bit with you guys.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Thanks, Pod.

Kory Klapan: Thanks, Pod.

Pod Moriarty: Am I done up here?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Yeah.

Kory Klapan: So, part of this reserve budget, so our first line on my item on the budget is this year's budget that we used to run on. The second budget is the rollover operating

cash from the years past. The future payment is the 85,000. That's our backup in case something goes south, we can make payments on our loan that we have. The last one is our short-lived assets, but then there's another one yet. So, there's money left in a checking account that isn't on this budget sheet that Allissa Christensen found the other day, or I should say Laura Sadler found. Right, Allissa Christensen? Doing our applications. It's \$117,000 and it's left over money from the sewer lagoon that has to be spent. So that's where this would be coming out of. Just so you know that.

Allissa Christensen: Yeah, that's what she said in the email, that this was the excess.

Kory Klapan: Okay.

Bill Lanes: Just a question, but you look at that piece of equipment versus other wants, this is the way to go as far as dollars?

Kory Klapan: This is an all-around piece of equipment. It would be super beneficial to have. Our other problem is our sewer is in exceptional good shape. I don't see anything in as high as need ... There's nothing that I see as a high need in the sewer. So, we just don't want to go spend money on something we don't really need just to spend it. So that's why you chose this.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: All right. Any more discussion? All those in favor?

Motion Carries Unanimously

XII. UNSCHEDULED MATTERS

Katy James: Going back a few minutes to things that were suggested. I asked about an iPad or something for each council member. Have we done anything further with that?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: That will be included in our budget workshop talks because it has to be budgeted for.

Katy James: Okay. And then the other thing is copier, is that there as well?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: And that will be budget workshop also. So we've already-

Katy James: So we've not forgotten about it?

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: No, no.

Allissa Christensen: Wonderful. I'll use that thing until it dies.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: I'm sure you will. Okay. Anything else from the council or the public? All right.

Pod Moriarty: I had a question.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Oh, certainly.

Pod Moriarty: Linda was talking about those tiny houses. Is that considered low-income housing?

Linda Jung: No.

Liz Pullman: Not really.

Linda Jung: It's just the size.

Pod Moriarty: Is that [inaudible 00:37:34]. Is that something they want to put in here?

Linda Jung: There are some people that want smaller, tiny homes and our youth have really gotten away from elaborate homes. They're minimalists basically. And you'll see a want or a need for them even more, especially with the economy the way it is. You could pick up a tiny house for 36,000 or 40,000 compared to a regular house, which they could never afford with the economy the way it is. And then some people just want to live with very little.

Roy McBride: They're only like 300 square feet.

Linda Jung: Yeah. Well, no, they're a little more. [inaudible 00:38:15]

Pat Peterson: Well see, that's the thing that we're looking for what the county is doing. If they put minimum lot sizes. So you don't put a whole development in a normal lot. You don't put four or five of these in one lot.

Liz Pullman: Like they did the McDonald's.

Pat Peterson: Yeah. Yeah. So that's what we're looking into and that's what we want to see what the county does with what their suggestions are and their limits are. And then apply it to Whitehall because we don't want to have clusters here and there and everywhere, but we want to be able to let people go to ... We have a tiny home here in town already, but it's on a regular lot. It's just a little home. That's all they wanted. So it's not a way to sneak in development like that. It's we're looking to see, because some people just want a tiny home, five, 600 square feet.

Pod Moriarty: A small house. There's reason for that. It does collect.

Linda Jung: And the problem is the subcommittee has been working on researching and talking to other communities throughout the state. We split up the whole state of Montana and each of us took a section and we called different towns. Nobody had a specific plan. And because there's been no direction from MCA. So now that MCA is finally building some laws around it because it's going to get away from us otherwise. And so that's why we started doing our research, but yet until MCA had some kind of a laws out there, we really couldn't do too much more. And so, this is exciting because maybe we can tackle it and get it done so that it works for all neighbors that are around them and for them also.

Pat Peterson: It's not a way to sneak in low-income housing, which some people object to, but it's a way to capitalize on what we have, the area we have and what people want. Because we are in a shortage of housing here in Whitehall. If you have everybody staying over at the Jefferson Inn because they can't find an apartment, getting something like this could help.

Liz Pullman: Which I'm going to add something to that just because I just spoke with the owner of the Jefferson Inn. He would like to dispel the rumor. They hardly have anyone staying at the inn.

Pat Peterson: Oh, okay.

Liz Pullman: He's freaking out because everybody's saying that they've got long-term stays and he doesn't. So he wants people to know that he's open for business.

Pat Peterson: Oh good. That wasn't the way it was in the past.

Liz Pullman: It wasn't the case for a long time.

Pat Peterson: Yeah, because I had family coming and they couldn't get a place to stay because they were all-

Liz Pullman: Yeah, he actually approached the chamber last Thursday about how to dispel that rumor.

Pat Peterson: Okay, we will help dispel that rumor.

Liz Pullman: Yeah.

Mary Janacaro - Hensleigh: Okay. Anything else on anyone's mind? Okay. We'll close this meeting for our executive session. Thank you all for coming.

February 13th, 2023

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XIII. BILL/CLAIM APPROVAL LIST TO BE SIGNED BY ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

XIV. ADJOURN

Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date