

TOWN OF WHITEHALL

P.O. BOX 529

WHITEHALL, MT 59759

June 1st, 2023 (Posted)

*EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS WAS HELD AT 6:00 PM

There was a meeting of the Whitehall Town Council on **Monday, June 5th, 2023 at 6:30 PM**. The meeting was held in the Town Hall Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Ave. The minutes are as follows:

I. Call to Order

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: 6:30, we'll call this meeting to order.

II. Introductions

Roy McBride: Roy McBride, third ward.

Linda Jung: Linda Jung, ward two.

Shawn Hoagland: Shawn Hoagland, ward three.

Pat Peterson: Pat Peterson, ward one.

Bill Lanes: Bill Lanes, ward one.

Katy James: Katy James, ward two.

Kennedy Kleinsasser: Kennedy Kleinsasser, clerk treasurer.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh, mayor. If everyone would stand for the pledge.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge recited.

IV. Agenda Approval

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Motion for agenda approval.

Roy McBride: So moved.

Pat Peterson: Second.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: All in favor?

Town Council: Aye.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Council discussion and determination on employee Health Benefits Policy

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Thank you. We'll move on to new business.

Item A, counsel discussion and determination on employee health benefits policy. Is there a motion?

Pat Peterson: I move.

Roy McBride: Second.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Is there any discussion? All those in favor?
Town Council: Aye.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Opposed? Motion carries. Thank you very much.

B. Meeting with Saddle Club to come to a decision and or resolution about the Rec Complex

Mary Janacaro – Hensleigh: We'll move on to Item B, which is the meeting with the Saddle Club to come to a decision or a resolution about the rec complex. Nothing will be voted on. We are recording this, so when you want to speak, just raise your hand and I will call on you and then just go ahead and say your piece. I just want to start out by thanking both Bill and Linda for all their hard work meeting with the Saddle Club and I really appreciate it. I know everybody's put in a lot of time and it's appreciated. I want to assure the Saddle Club that the town has no intentions whatsoever on June 17th grabbing, seizing, or doing anything over there. So just know that that is not the intention of the town. It has never been the intention of the town. We just don't even want to go there. That being said, the memorandum of understanding to me is... I must admit that I'm a little weary after five and a half years of having to read legal briefs and everything else because of the lawsuit between the ambulance district and the town. I don't understand why lawyers can't speak in plain English, why they have to have all this mumbo jumbo. It's just exhausting to me. So I would propose something a little simpler, which is just a basic mutual agreement proposal. So number one, the town agrees the Saddle Club building can remain until December 31st, 2025. In exchange, the Saddle Club will leave all existing rodeo arena equipment in its current place. Saddle Club can host children's events free of charge. The town agrees to pay Saddle Club a hundred dollars per year for use of rodeo arena equipment. And we can add to this. That's just my 2 cents, and we'll turn it over to the next person that wants to speak. Just raise your hand. Bill.

Bill Lanes: Okay, I'll go first. I appreciate you guys starting to meet with us. This intent was to get us to the table to start talking and get to a good reasonable solution and that's really been the intent of Linda and I. We haven't been opposed by anybody through the town to do so and I hope that there can be some assurance from what our mayor's communicated, that this is a good faith effort to bring something positive for the Saddle Club, for the town as an entity, and most importantly our community. I've expressed that the last month or so, that I think we need to get our heads together so that we can come to a better plan and I hope that that provides, especially you as Saddle Club and hopefully you can convey that to your other members, that the intentions are to be fair and definitely not to seize things. I know

that there's been some concern for that in our discussion, and I understand that. It's better to talk about a concern or maybe a perception of something, but by talking about it being on the table, that is...Our intention's to do something that's good for everybody. Also, I just would pretty much say what we want to do is look at all options to keeping a functional rodeo arena there, especially in the short term and long term and whether that be whatever kind of language we come to, a lease, a MOU, or maybe even a possible buyout. I think we should look at all options on the table so that it is positive. And so again, thank you for sitting with me. It's been a pleasure getting to know you more and discuss that. That's my 2 cents at this time.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Roy.

Roy McBride: I agree. I appreciate you guys sitting down with Bill. I think that's a good start.

Bill Lanes: And Linda.

Roy McBride: And I think Bill's done a very good job of working with you and hopefully it's been a lot of give and take from what he tells me. Our intent is make that thing a long term viable program, always has been. We think that everything that's there should stay there for regardless of how long. Because if a new entity takes over in two or three or four years, they don't want to buy new stuff if they don't have to. So I think something longer than two years is better for the facility and it shouldn't be better for the town and it shouldn't be better for you. It should be better for that piece of ground there. So I think a little extension, I'm not sure if you've seen this second MOU that come out. We sent you four pages. It expressed 10 years with the renewal and some type of lease.

Lonna Johnson: No.

Roy McBride: Did you get it out, Kennedy?

Lonna Johnson: I believe we've never seen anything.

Kennedy Kleinsasser: I thought I did. I was working off my phone all weekend, so...

Roy McBride: If not, you folks really need to look at that and if you haven't, I'm sorry that you didn't get it.

Rich Johnson: No I don't think we got that.

Kennedy Kleinsasser: Okay.

Bill Lanes: Again, it's more... This is Bill. Again this is part of negotiation steps, to do this, and that's why I threw out even the idea of other options here, too. For instance the buyout and so forth.

Roy McBride: The buyout's never been discussed as a possibility.

Bill Lanes: Yeah. We haven't even really even discussed that until today as an idea.

Roy McBride: So I would encourage you to look at it. It's got some good points in it. It does stretch it longer than the two years, which I think

is the favorable for both of us and we don't have to be going through this in two years again.

Lonna Johnson: Well we needed a starting point, and... This is Lonna Johnson. And originally Bill said we had a date and then you want it indefinitely. Well, my club didn't want that so we just placed that date on there for being able to open up and talk. Yeah, we started the ball rolling with that just because nothing had been presented to us. So there was a starting point. I know we went back and forth with several things. We included stuff, took out stuff. I agree, legal stuff is BS but that's why we're in the point we are right now is that the shake of the hands that we had in the past and the minutes and notes that we have unfortunately aren't legal binding. It was all, not all, but verbal commitments through past council. And so I do think that we need to have something legally documented to cover all bases.

Bill Lanes: This is Bill again. One thing I think to add to this that would be really important and helpful and I know that there is maybe some misunderstanding about the lease with the Saddle Club building. And not to make that too confusing, that that's different than all the items that are at the facility because reading the language and everything, and really this would be a first step to come to some kind of good legal agreement that we've never had over how many years and that's actually a good thing because then we can clear some of this up.

Lonna Johnson: And legally we had, Lonna Johnson again, we had had that in place and it was turned down in, I think the last time.

Bill Lanes: Sure.

Lonna Johnson: So yes it does definitely need to have stuff in place but to keep moving forward.

Bill Lanes: You bet.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Linda.

Linda Jung: This is Linda. I agree with you on... We should have had a contract many, many years ago. Now this is the fallout and we are all dealing with this.

Lonna Johnson: Correct.

Linda Jung: And I think if we can just keep negotiating and come to a middle ground that each side, and the town especially can live with, and I mean the town as the people of Whitehall, can live with. And I would really like to sincerely see us keep the negotiating going but that has to be decided on by all of us in this room. It's not easy. It's not easy on you, it's not easy on us, but I think it's worth it. I think this town is worth it that we do keep negotiating.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Pat.

Pat Peterson: I agree. We need to continue to negotiate but I don't want to negotiate until the cows come home.

Kennedy Kleinsasser: Correct.

Pat Peterson: I think we need to set a timeframe, and this two years bothers me. We'll be in the same position year and a half from now, come September of '25. I think we need to make determination sooner rather than later about who owns what and then we can negotiate, okay, this is what we'll do and maybe it is a buyout. We're all for a buyout.

Lonna Johnson: And we have discussed that at one point when Rich and I came in and sat with Mary that day.

Pat Peterson: And maybe it's, okay, we'll lease the building from you and your other property that's over there for x amount per year and we'll do that for two or three or four years if this might be taken over by the county or whatever is coming down the pike. But I don't want to go with the 10-year lease. I don't want to go with... Let's go two years before we make a determination. I think we need to get things pretty straightened out sooner rather than later so we can all go forward because we all want this for the town. You put too much time, effort, money, blood, sweat and tears in that to see it fall apart because we can't come to a decision. It's too important. I'd rather do it sooner rather than later.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay. Roy.

Roy McBride: Timeframe is neither here nor there. That can be negotiated. But you have to understand if we get this program, whatever that we're trying to put together, I don't think we want to have to dump this issue onto that new district if we can help it. That isn't fair to them, isn't fair to you folks, and it isn't fair to the town. So I think this issue needs to be settled once and for all with everybody in agreement and keep your legacy going because as soon as you take it out of here, your legacy's gone pretty much. You don't want that. I don't want that. A tom, you got to have a legacy for something. This county has very few legacies to be very honest with you. So I think if we got one, let's keep it, let's improve it, let's make it better. If it's five years or 10 years, I just don't want it to get into two years, we get the thing set up with the new district and now we got to go through this whole turmoil again. It's not good for anybody. So I would say that term can be negotiated or I don't mind the ten year with it. Get it out there where gives them a chance to, if they decide to buy new, they can raise the funds. If not, leave it there. There's just a lot of things I think we can do. And I think two years, something falls apart. We don't get the grants and proposals put into place then we're sitting here half in, half out and nowhere to go. And I'd like to see it done for everybody's benefit. Yours, ours, the community. I don't think we're that far apart right now. I just don't. I think right now it's semantics. It's not the issues there. You want it to stay, we want it to stay. It's how we get to stay is the story.

Pat Peterson: I think Saddle Club is a cornerstone of that rec complex. You really are, and it needs to be recognized and applauded and not ignored by any means. And like Roy said, it's your legacy for this town but we really have to tighten it up, clean it up so we're not going through this again in so many months and so many more months. And this whole project with the county and all, from what I understand, that's not a done deal.

Bill Lanes: No.

Pat Peterson: So having that be oh we want to do but... I don't think it's a done deal.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Roy?

Roy McBride: This has nothing to do with the county. You need to understand that. There just going to elect to put a district in. It has nothing to do with Jefferson County. We have to go to Jefferson County to get it on the ballot and then it's voted on and it either passes or not. If it passes, they set a district up. That district will have elected officials that will run that just like Twin does theirs. There should be a subgroup that raises money for this group over here. So it's not going back to the county or so when it says back to the county, that's that's totally wrong. It's going to go to a district, it'll be a rec district for whatever we call it and basically the outline right now is the high school district.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay, Linda?

Linda Jung: So for example, the ambulance district. That's how it's going to be around. They have an elected board the Ambulance district encompasses a certain area. Same thing would be with the rec board, and it would be the rec district.

Roy McBride: Right. They need to run for that. Anybody could run for that position.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Bill.

Bill Lanes: So regarding this district concept, I think it actually benefits our community as a whole because right now the town entity is tied to the residents within the town, which how many Saddle Club members are within the town? Very few. What this then does is expands this to our area out here and you actually get a say by your vote, everything.

Lonna Johnson: Lonna Johnson. I'm not opposed to the district just because then the Saddle Club doesn't have to put all of the money that we've ever raised to continue with that. So we've never been opposed to a district. I started a district, back in the nineties we tried it and it failed. We tried it again in 2000 and something and it failed. So I've been through all of this over the last 30 years and seen. So, the town has had no money to put into the facility, therefore we've taken it upon us. So I guess to me, yes, I'd like to negotiate and go forward, but with the timeframe in order for this district, our group, I would almost

think that at this time, so that it's not who owns what I think maybe a buyout would possibly be... I'm not sure. That's something that I'd have to run by our club, too, because if talking about all these memorandums and stuff, if you don't want to prolong it, then I think you've got to come to a final decision with one way or the other. And if you don't want to enter into long term leases or agreements with these and not reading what the new one states, that way there's clarification of then the town completely owns it and we rent it just like any other organization. But I would have to run all that by the rest of our board members also.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Roy?

Roy McBride: I'd really like you to take the document that you've got and look at it really hard. It addresses everything that I think we all have in the back of our mind. It's just a document that's written. There's some things I don't care for that are in it, but I could live with if I had to.

Rich Johnson: The one we just got you mean?

Roy McBride: Yeah, the one you just got. So sit down and I'd like you to really look at that hard because it stretches some things, it does some things. It offers to pay some type of a lease for that stuff. So it does some things that... It talks about your legacy a little bit in the back of there. So I think you really need to look at that. I think it would... So we're all looking at the same, you're not looking at the same thing that we are, that I've seen. So if we get a chance to give you a chance to look at it, review it, I think it has some good points to it. Both of them do. I think if we can do it without a crap load of paperwork, I'd be tempted to do that.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: So Lonna, in your opinion, why do you think the districts failed in the past?

Lonna Johnson: Not sure. We went around, we had to get x amount of signatures to begin to get it rolling. I think that time there was a mill levy going on through the school and people don't want taxes anymore taxes. And at that time we had done the low power district, which was a little bit smaller, people. But it still took in certain out of town residents and stuff at the time. And a lot of people just said that you want your kids or whatever to have a playpen then you should provide it yourself. So yeah, we tried them twice and they both, both times doing it. First time we never got enough signatures. The second time we got signatures and it failed.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Do you remember by how much?

Lonna Johnson: I don't.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay.

Lonna Johnson: I do not.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay. Rich, you had something you want to say?

Rich Johnson: Yeah. Rich Johnson. I just wanted to know if speaking to what Roy was talking about, does this jive with what you presented a minute ago?

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Yeah, this is just a simpler form.

Rich Johnson: Okay. All right.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Yeah.

Roy McBride: There's a lot more detail. This is a little more detailed.

Linda Jung: Much more detailed.

Bill Lanes: Much more.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Yeah. Go ahead, Shawn.

Shawn Hoagland: Shawn Hoagland. Yeah, to that end, what you wrote is great. That is the deal. It's community. On the first draft or the first one I've seen, I know you guys have been working on it, but that timeframe from town council's perspective, September 30, 2025. That's an obstacle. That's painting us into a corner with some financial litigation. Whether we get grants or not, it's pretty well documented. We're bootstrapping all the time. Unfortunately, I don't think we can go as simple as Mary put it on paper because there's just too much involved with this. The one that you're going to read has all the detail. I think we have to go longer, like a long term with as little money changing hands, as little commitment. We're trying our hardest to get all these grants lined up and things. But two years is definitely a tough deal.

Lonna Johnson: Lonna Johnson here. And I think in that one that we did propose, it did state that as long, on item six or something down below, stated that as long as you guys were pursuing those grants and stuff and working towards it that is why. But yeah, maybe there's like I said a compromise that we can go between both things and...

Shawn Hoagland: I think more detail is better so that we don't have to rely on point 6 and hope we can both sign some agreement down the road. Just like the position you got put in when we didn't renew the lease. Now they put a timeline on thing and that's stressful on both sides. So if we can avoid that again, I think a longer agreement that is well written and we talk about a lot so that everybody agrees, that's a thing. And it comes down to the assets over there, the infrastructure, those are the points of contention. I don't think anybody here... The building has never been a point of contention I don't believe for anybody here but the infrastructure that lets anybody put on a rodeo, that's pretty critical. And that's where I hope we can focus and just say, hey, what is the term? I've been a proponent from the very beginning, hey, let's pay over a long period what the town can afford and call it, I don't care what you call it. I just want to try and avoid the dispute of who owns what. I never want to get to the point where we're trying to figure that out. I would rather in recognition of Saddle Club, the town has agreed to do this over x term and at that point we

move forward. It stays, it conveys, whatever you want to say. That number needs to make sense to you guys and to us. And the other one is we are working hard on that. And one of the points in here that I liked on this new memorandum was that at which time we do find the funds and we do decide to replace infrastructure over there, then we transition it. You have 90 days to move it out once we get the funding, but that funding might happen in two years. It might happen in five years or more. It may not ever happen, unfortunately, and I think we just have to throw that on the table and say what if that's the case?

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Roy?

Roy McBride: One of the things to get it settled, we're not going to get, and this is my opinion, I don't think we will. If we go to a funding agency to get funds and they find out we're fighting within the community, we aren't getting crap. So I think we all have to be on the same page if we want this thing to grow and be a facility. I know if we go to FWP and we have dissension within a group, I think they will kick us right out the door. So I think we just have to get it settled for the best of everybody. And I think we've got a great start at it.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Whatever we come up with has to go to the lawyer, it has to go to the rec complex, and then it goes to council. We can't skip over rec complex. That would be disastrous. I wouldn't skip over planning board, I wouldn't skip over parks, trees and cemetery. Our boards are too important to the town of Whitehall. So whatever we come up with goes through at complex and then it goes to the council. We have to keep things consistent with all our boards because our boards are priceless. They do a lot of work and we couldn't do what we do without them. We depend on them a lot.

Rich Johnson: Rich Johnson here. I totally agree with you as far as... I'm not trying to slip anything by anybody's goalie. I think everybody needs to look at it. And to Roy's point and yours, I think the simpler it's written up, the better. Then the water's not so easily muddied with all the extra verbiage.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Yeah, there's some stuff in here that is repetitious that the council's already voted on. The council's already voted on the rec complex board and the representation from the school, Saddle Club, pool. So that's already in place. That doesn't need to be in this. That's already in place. So we can trim this up. You guys need time to look it over and meet with your Saddle Club board and add, subtract, and then we need to come back.

Bill Lanes: And with the possible other option of a buyout.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Right.

Bill Lanes: I see either one or the other unless somebody has another creative idea. But yeah, this is Bill. Sorry, I didn't...

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: They're two separate things, but that goes for the Saddle Club building. You have the option of us buying it. You

can donate it. You can move it. You can tear it down. You have all sorts of options for that building and you can just let us know what you want to do. But where do we sit for Frontier Days? I think the community, that's our number one question is...

Roy McBride: Nothing's going to happen over Frontier Days. I talked to Bobby today, she don't think she can get the guy lined up to do it.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay. So we don't even have to worry about that.

Roy McBride: That's pretty much a done deal as far as she's concerned. Unless we find somebody else that wants to do it. But we're talking... We got to do some scrambling if we do that.

Rich Johnson: Rich Johnson here. By all means I would fight tooth and nail to... If somebody did want to have something over there, by all means do it. I'm sorry it got to this point as far as the ambiguity of the situation and confusion but yeah.

Pat Peterson: And I'll go back and talk to Bobby, but she was very reluctant to go to the-

Rich Johnson: I know those guys are so far out on their dates that...

Roy McBride: Well she was thinking that he's been here for two years.

Rich Johnson: Oh, the wild man. I'm sorry, Rich Johnson.

Roy McBride: Yeah, the wild [inaudible 00:29:31] I haven't been to it so I couldn't tell you what it does, but I think they've had it and I think it's been somewhat successful.

Rich Johnson: Oh yeah, it has a good turnout.

Roy McBride: Yeah, so if she could get him back. But one of the issues would be we'd have to rent your groomer, I would assume to do that because we don't have one.

Rich Johnson: Yeah, we could make it happen.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Didn't you want to ask if they would bring back the barrels and poles?

Roy McBride: Yeah, if we could do that.

Kennedy Kleinsasser: What about a ranch rodeo? Sorry, this is Kennedy. Ranch rodeo? Do you guys...

Rich Johnson: As far as what, Kennedy? Sorry.

Kennedy Kleinsasser: Well I'm just saying, do you guys know any... I guess I could contact Dana in Twin Bridges.

Lonna Johnson: Lonna Johnson. The hard part of that is is the cattle. Bringing in the cattle at that point. I think that Dana gets people that just local ranchers that donate it. It's probably feasible, but financially the Saddle Club cannot put... And in order to put on an NRA rodeo, you had to have your dates in clear last October. So that is not an option obviously for the town or whoever wants to put something on.

Kennedy Kleinsasser: Kennedy, again, I was just thinking something that we could maybe quick throw together and I think in good faith on both parties, maybe we could work together and show people that

we're trying to work together at this point to put we've turned over a new leaf, we're trying to move forward. You guys are letting us rent this and rent that and then try and put something together. I don't know, I'm just throwing an idea out there. If we could try and maybe put something together to try and mend our Frontier Days, which is kind of a big event and gets a lot of people here. And if we can get some teams lined out, it might be something and we can do it as a fundraiser deal. I don't know.

Rich Johnson: Rich Johnson here. I'm trying to rack my brain. If the wild man, did he within the next week or two, did he go to Twin Bridges last year? So you could probably still get on his calendar, I'm guessing, just because a lot of times those guys like to, it's feasible. More economical for him to put one on here and then go to Twin Bridges the following weekend and a lot of times they'll just dump their cattle out there in their outfield and they get pre-feed and then they don't have the extra trucking back and forth. I wouldn't write them off totally yet.

Roy McBride: I'll get back to Bobby and see if she can get... But like she said, if we can't guarantee you an arena, we can't. So you're telling me we can?

Rich Johnson: I don't see a problem with that. Do you?

Lonna Johnson: I'll have to ask the rest, but I think that it would probably work. It'll still, as long as... Yeah.

Rich Johnson: Just make it happen.

Roy McBride: We can see if we can make it happen.

Shawn Hoagland: That is the purpose of that joint.

Roy McBride: So I will talk to Bobby.

Shawn Hoagland: That's good, though. That's good.

Roy McBride: Have her get ahold of that guy and see if we can get him maybe lined in here. I know we're trying to get ahold of him. He won't return your phone calls, but Bobby said if she called him he'd probably answer her call.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: So when does Saddle Club meet again?

Lonna Johnson: Yeah, we can call special.

Rich Johnson: It wouldn't be this weekend.

Lonna Johnson: No, but we can call a meeting or whatever for our directors.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay.

Lonna Johnson: So yeah, we can get the directors called in and get something soon and look over this.

Bill Lanes: I got a question.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Go ahead, Bill.

Bill Lanes: So Rich and Lon and Bridget, does this discussion provide you guys some assurance of our intentions? I hope it does because that's what we've really tried to in good faith because there's been

some apprehension that trailers are going to go in and start loading some things up. And all we're doing is saying, we're trying to show that we're not going after property items over there. And I hope this brings some assurance to you.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: So could we meet again in a week from today?

Lonna Johnson: We might be gone.

Rich Johnson: We might not be here.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay.

Lonna Johnson: But we'll look at this some more in the next day or so.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay. Just let me know.

Linda Jung: And a week from the day is Planning Board.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: At what time?

Linda Jung: 7:00.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay. So we could meet at six.

Linda Jung: Is that the first week? Yeah, that would be the second week.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: The 12th. Yeah. Roy?

Roy McBride: I think.

Bill Lanes: Do we need the entire week?

Roy McBride: I think if you three and the then Bill can hammer out something... We kind of know what you want, you kind of know what we want. If you can put a document together and we can look at it, are you willing to do that?

Rich Johnson: Of course. I would like to pull in a little bit better. I'm a little more like Mary, I'm a simple person. Shawn understands this a little bit of that, I don't know if you'd have time, but it could be some...

Shawn Hoagland: That's what I was going to say, I'm in town all week. I think I might have to go to Billings. I can work around whatever. Thursday night might be tough.

Lonna Johnson: Of this week. It's Monday.

Shawn Hoagland: Yeah.

Bill Lanes: And the best thing is for you to take that and we have to take those two and kind of collate them together a little bit if we can make them more simple. But I do still think we need to hammer out some option on a buyout. So that's going to take some time in all of our busy lives. We just can't expect by the regular 19th town council meeting to.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: 20th.

Bill Lanes: Sorry. 20th. Yes. The regular meeting to say, okay, we're going to sign and ink. This is steps of negotiation. That's how I look at it.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Right. Positive steps.

Bill Lanes: Yes. I need... Linda's great, too, but Shawn has a little better mind than I do.

Shawn Hoagland: No, I think you're playing possum there, but-

Bill Lanes: Other people here, too, but I'm just saying.

Shawn Hoagland: I'm being bamboozled I think. But I agree, I think if you guys could read that and this second memo of understanding and then we hit it hard if we're really that close. If we're not that far apart, then the idea is to keep stuff there for the betterment of that place and the community. That's always been my thought is recognize that, that there is some contention there and how do we move forward and compensate Saddle Club for everything.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: And if you don't want to hammer it out and just want to go to a straight easy buyout, make it easy on everyone, that's on the table too.

Shawn Hoagland: That's the thing. The buyout... From the town side, my perspective on that stuff leaving and the town really without grants trying to replace everything that's there is big. Obviously we don't want that. That's a lot of money that we'd put the town on the hook for or they wouldn't have it at all, which is horrible.

Bill Lanes: And this is Bill. Plus what that does is if the major essentials to that arena and different things are gone, it will be years before an event can happen there again. Unless some wealthy person comes in and said, okay. And again, to the point of some of the years of putting into this, think about the last few years. We have things that come up in our country that change things dramatically that we have no control over. The uncertainty in the financial market. Do I dare say the word covid and what those things do? So that's why the short term two year is very difficult for us to say, eh, this, this... Yeah. That's all I'm getting at.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Okay, Linda?

Linda Jung: So I'm not sure where we stand here. Do you guys want to meet sometime this week with a couple council members and go through this? Or are you still thinking maybe a buyout or discuss both or...

Lonna Johnson: We'll have to take that to our club and see which one. I'd like to take a picture of that so that... The one that Mary had wrote.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Oh yeah.

Lonna Johnson: For the board so we can show that option. Have them sit and discuss this one too, and then [inaudible 00:39:08]

Bill Lanes: So there's no rush to do this within the next week.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: No.

Linda Jung: Right. No.

Bill Lanes: Okay.

Shawn Hoagland: There is to me. Let's get something done. I would love to come and sit with you guys wherever you want to sit after you look at this real hard, the original real hard, and we come and talk

through point by point, even though there's a lot more points in the second one. It eliminates a lot of issues obviously on our side.

Bill Lanes: And you'll find in the second one-

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Just say why. Why not?

Bill Lanes: Sorry. You'll find in the second one, I think you're hearing from the town council and the mayor, even though the second one says something about a fee to the Saddle Club, we're obviously willing to say we can waive a fee for certain specific events that the Saddle Club puts on. We've been discussing that. That's not an issue. It's not

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: No. Anything that has to do with kids, it's free.

Bill Lanes: And not just kids. I know that as I talked with them like omoxy... That involves older people too. Yeah.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Yeah, anything that's not a money making event for profit.

Lonna Johnson: Yeah. We'll try to call a meeting with our group as soon as we can and then...

Shawn Hoagland: Okay. I'm with you. I mean, the sooner, the better. Work on a different time schedule than monthly meetings. Try and get a hand out.

VI. Unscheduled Matters

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: So are there any unscheduled matters that you want to bring up before we adjourn? Okay. Motion to adjourn. All in favor?

Town Council: Aye.

Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh: Thank you very much. This meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much Saddle Club for coming.