

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P. O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
JULY 13TH, 2020

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers garage at 207 East Legion Street, Monday, July 13th, 2020.

PRESENT: Council Members: Katy James, Pat Peterson, Roy McBride, Shawn Hoagland, Bill Lanes, and Town Clerk/Treasurer Summer Fellows.

VISITORS: Randi Lloyd, Bill Lloyd, Brad Jones, Nick Hensleigh.

Roy McBride called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call was taken. Mayor Mary Hensleigh was absent due to surgery. All Council Members were present except for Logan Reiff who was excused.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Katy made motion to approve the Agenda with Pat seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Katy motioned to approve the May 2020 minutes with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor was absent due to recent surgery.

Roy: I want to thank everyone on the Council for putting in the time on the Budget. Kory is doing a great job keeping the Town running. I know he has a lot on his plate so I think he deserves some recognition. Also, Summer and the office staff. I think the young lady at the Pool did a really good job of pulling that together. So, they also need to be recognized.

Shawn: It's good to see that it's being used, that's for sure.

Officer's Reports:

Attorney Report:

No report.

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Summer Fellows: I want to start with everyone's generous donations to the Pool. We are only \$5 short of \$11,000 and that's amazing so thank you. We are putting "Thank You's" on Facebook and recognizing each and every donation. We've had anywhere from \$10 donations to \$1,000 donations. These people are amazing.

I recently found out that I have been released from the lawsuit as is MMIA but not the Town and that is pending until August.

Public Work's Report:

Kory: We have chip sealing starting Wednesday night/Thursday morning. So, we definitely need to have cars moved off of 1st Street, Division Street and Main Street. They plan on being here 2 or 3 days to be done. The sidewalk project is going on as everyone knows. It's going well and they will be done the middle of next week. We've replaced probably 20 curb stops up Legion Street where they have been working. Whitehall Street is looking good, they aren't having to do as much there as they are on Legion. We removed the stumps over on Division and Ron and I poured 30 feet of new sidewalk and that is done. Besides that, more potholes are on the Agenda.

Summer: I just want to clarify something. There have been rumors going around that the Town and the County are lazy so the State had to come in and fix the sidewalks. Legion and Main are State Highways and the Town and the County cannot touch them.

Fire Chief's Report:

Summer: We are not going to do the Fireman's breakfast this year. I'm not sure what we are going to do as a fundraiser yet but I will find out at tomorrow's meeting.

Sherriff's report:

Summer: There's been 251 calls total. In April there was 70 calls, May 87 calls and June 94 calls in the Town.

Committee / Board Reports:

Planning Board:

Pat: We had our meeting on July 6th and we had several requests. Some were approved and some were tabled. Terry Reed is talking about the possibility of annexing some property into the Town on Paul Gulch. There's a possibility of him putting in 10 lots there. He's just in the beginning stages of getting State and County approval. Once he has his plans, we will go and get the infrastructure he needs and then he will decide if it is financially worthwhile to go through with it. It is a possibility of 10 lots, some multi-family on Paul Gulch. Pat continues. See recording.

Recreational Complex Board:

No report.

Pool Board:

Katy: As Summer already stated, we have received almost \$11,000 in donations. We had one non-formal meeting and a formal one on the 29th. We are scheduled to have another one on the 20th I believe. You should be seeing on Facebook "You've been Flocked" with the flamingos. Each flamingo will have a sign around its neck telling you how much you can donate to get the flamingos off your lawn. What they ended up with creating this is a committee not to be associated with Pool Pals but it is Friends of the Pool and they are organizing fundraisers. Their first one is the Flamingoes and just by word of mouth of people willing to donate and as we all know, the Pool is open with the exception of taking the day off tomorrow. All of the employees have been trained. Steve got the Pool up and running so that the training could be done here and that saved us some money. There were a few minor repairs at the Pool but those have been taken care of.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery:

No Report.

Water/Sewer/Garbage:

Katy: We met the first Monday of the month and we didn't have a whole lot to discuss. There wasn't a lot of complaints turned into us but we did have a chance to go over the garbage contract and it is in the process to be signed.

Streets/Alley/Sidewalks:

Katy: We met the same day as the Water/Sewer/Garbage. There wasn't a whole lot of discussion other than on the sidewalks and Kory has already given a report on the sidewalks. There has been some money set aside for grading of the alleys.

T.I.F.F.:

Katy: The Grant applications are out there; we've extended the deadline because we had to move our meeting to the 21st and that's when we will be reviewing them.

CTAC:

Leonard Wortman gave an update on Golden Sunlight Mine, the County and the Western Legacy Center. See recording.

VII. Public Comment:

Randi and Bill Lloyd spoke about how they are not receiving a utility bill and about how they felt like they were being singled out. See recording.

VIII. Consent Agenda:

Planning Board

David Schreiber / 107 W. Third St. / tabled need more info.

Brad Dana / 201 S. Main / old add on to a mobile home / already gone / tabled for more info

Brad Jones / 7 N A Street / motel and two cabins / approved

Brad Jones / 7 N A Street / fence / tabled

Jim Stearns / 6 Cindy Lane / Catio for his cat / approved

Sarah Unruh / 106 N. Main / back yard gazebo / approved.

Business License

Beehive Fireworks

Bob Hanson Construction

Alena's Lemonade

W.C.T. Wolf Constructors Inc.

Elevated Cleaning

PTC (Parks, Trees and Cemetery)

Reinstate Ron Roginski on PTC Board

Pool Board

Amendment to by-laws so there will be a six-member board / three in Town and three out of Town for Community support.

Pool Board Members

Michelle Hoover

Kelly Seccomb

Pat made a motion to approve the consent agenda with Bill seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

No presentations.

X. Unfinished Business:

A. Discuss rough draft of Nuisance Ordinance and Business License. Tabled.

B. Update on Budget / Hopefully approve on August 10, 2020 meeting.

Roy: We are still hoping for a date of August 10th.

C. Discuss and approve Resolution of Intent 2020-6 Mill Levy Increase of Public Safety of 30, 40 or 50 mills?

Shawn made a motion to discuss with Pat seconding.

Shawn: We went through the numbers you gave us the numbers on 30 and 40. Where did we end up on what we want to try? The Pool Cemetery side, is there any leeway to switch gears on that from Public Safety?

Summer: You can't lump Cemetery and Pool together. It doesn't work like that. I've talked to other towns and Leonard, isn't Boulder's Cemetery a District?

Leonard: I believe so.

Summer: A lot of places have gone to a Cemetery District.

Pat: We thought the 30 mills would have a better chance of passing.

Summer: Whatever you guys want, it's up to you.

Pat: And that would get us about \$48,000? And what is left over can be used to offset the cuts in those two areas.

Shawn: So, just to be clear if it we get the people to approve it and we get it passed, we can use it to offset that number of \$112,000 toward Law Enforcement or the Fire Department?

Summer: Yes, either way it frees up money.

Pat: And it wouldn't take effect until 2021?

Summer: Yes, I think so.

Pat: I vote we go in for 30 on public safety and fire.

Pat made a motion for a 30-mill levy increase with Bill seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Update on Garbage Service Contract.

XI. New Business:

A. Discuss and approve having a Caretaker at the Rec. Complex

Shawn made a motion to discuss with Pat seconding.

Pat: My question is why?

Katy: Can we afford that?

Shawn: All I know is that Lona brought over a document from Boulder and gave it to Curtis to have it put on the Agenda to discuss.

Inaudible talking from Kory.

Bill: What are they looking for approval for?

Summer: Well, to see if someone would be interested and live on the property and be the caretaker. That's my understanding. What if something happens, who's the deep pocket? It's on Town property.

Shawn: It's like a ranch hand situation. A place to live in exchange for work. It seems muddy to me.

Katy: Is there a trailer already in existence there?

Summer: No.

Katy: So, we would have to add water, sewer, electrical and we are trying to balance over here and then we are going to add to it?

Summer: Right.

Pat: My stigma is it doesn't add anything to the Town. It creates a liability we don't necessarily need.

Bill: Can a residence even be put in there?

Summer: Yes, it could.

Pat: But you'd have to go through the Planning Board...

Summer: And correct me if I'm wrong Kory, but the water they use is Town water, right?

Kory: So, they pay the service fee of water, sewer and garbage to their building.

Katy: There's no compensation for the Town.

Shawn: That's the issue it's fairly diluted as to what's going on at some of those parts over there. That seems to be a Town prerogative to me, not Saddle Club. Maybe it would help with the budget but it just seems like a lot. We have other things we need to focus on.

Pat: Right and it would save them to have volunteers do it. The Town shouldn't have to deal with that.

Katy: I think we need justification. How do they plan on doing it and what kind of expense do they plan on being and how much they expect us to pay?

Shawn: For me it's what do we get out of it? Are the baseball fields getting taken care of, are the weeds taken care of?

Summer: And who can live over there? If we allow one person, it opens a whole new can of worms.

Shawn: We don't want anyone over there that's not going to take care of the entire Rec Complex. We would have to win on it financially.

Pat: I don't see any win for the Town.

Shawn: Not unless we mandate it. If you think outside the box and put a house there but if they don't hold up their end of the bargain, similar to the baseball fields not getting mowed and taken care of, what is our recourse?

Pat made a motion to deny the Saddle Club's request with Katy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Discuss and approve the electric in the park being shut off until needed.

Katy made a motion to discuss with Shawn seconding.

Inaudible talking from Kory.

Summer: Basically, the Park is not for long term stay. It was originally for the Railroad when they needed to stay for a few nights.

Shawn: The point is they should be off until someone pays for them to be turned on.

Kory: That's what I think.

Summer: Otherwise we spend our time chasing these people.

Conversation continues. See recording.

Bill motioned to approve keeping the electricity in the park off until it's paid for with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Discuss and approve Newland and Company Contract. Price went from \$12,500 to \$16,500.

Katy made a motion to discuss with Shawn seconding.

Pat: I just want to clarify; this was for one year of audit?

Summer: Yes. I was really mad that it went up but the Town has to do it every year.

Bill: Where does this number fall in our budget?

Summer: It's divided between four accounts.

Shawn made a motion to approve with Katy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Katy made a motion to approve the bill claim approval list with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XIII. Adjourn:

Katy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm with Pat seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date