

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P. O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
June 14th, 2021

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Street, Monday, June 14th, 2021

PRESENT: Council Members: Katy James, Pat Peterson, Roy McBride, Shawn Hoagland, Bill Lanes, Linda Jung and Treasure Allissa Christensen.

VISITORS: Kory Klapan, Ed Guza, Liz Pullman, Dale and Bridget Morse, Colton Howser.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call was taken. All council members were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Roy made motion to approve the Agenda with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May minutes. Tabled

VI. REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Mary: Garbage pick up is now on the summer schedule, so we are asking every one to please have you cans out by 6am on Monday's and Wednesday's to be picked up. Just a reminder, watering is even and odd days depending on your address. Please help us conserve our water. Also, if you have boulevard trees make sure to water them. This high heat is hard on the trees. I know every one has been talking a lot about the ARPA funds. We have just submitted our application on Friday we did get conformation that they received that. We have not received the money or instructions yet so we will probably be able to have public meetings to discuss what to do with those funds in the fall.

Liz: Do you know how much we get?

Allissa: Yes. This is just for pot 1 and it is \$146,877.61.

Officer's Reports:

Attorney Report:

Ed: I talked to Ryan Lorenz who does the cases for the town and I asked him what was going on with the criminal cases. In summer, the criminal cases tend to go up and it is no exception this year. He told me that we have several DUI's and partner family member assaults. He said quote" the PFMA's are regular customers" and witness cooperation can be difficult in those situations but, we try to work with the victims as best as we can. There is a trial coming up and his words were kind of busy over all. From a civil side of things, we have come to an end on our negotiations with the sheriff's contract and we will talk a little more about where that leaves the town in a moment.

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Allissa: Regular day to day stuff. Claims and revenue. We had our auditors come in twice in the last two weeks and we are wrapping up the audit. I was surprised I thought it would take longer like it has in the past but it was pretty painless. I have been working on our ARPA application. Again its all new and not super clear but we got it figured out and we have been approved to receive pot 1. The pool opens tomorrow. I have been helping the new manager and the life guards are all trained and ready.

Shawn: Allissa on the audit does that take us up through the current fiscal year?

Mary: Yes, through 2020-2021 we are all caught up.

Public Work's Report:

Kory: I will start on the pool. We had a company out of butte come service the boiler because we did not have a company in town that was certified to do it. The guy that did it treated us extremely well. He donated about half of his time. Water, we took our bacteria samples June 3rd. I had four water rereads. We went to water school; Ron did take his water and distribution test but we have not gotten the results back yet. I got ¾ of the ICC's I need. Our sewer lagoon cell 1 is at 6 feet, cell 2 is at 4.5 and cell 3 is at 4.5. This year we had to do two samples on the pivot. If we can make it till July 1st before sprinkling, we only have to do one but with it as hot and dry as it is this year, we had to do two. We have sprayed the sewer lagoon two times. We have run the pivot 6 times. We had a little trouble with the cows that

are on the field but, we got it fixed. Tomorrow we are checking the sludge in cell 1 to see where we are sitting. Cemetery we have dug 5 graves and we are changing quite a few bad sprinkler heads. So far we have changed 12 heads and I think there is probably 20 left to be fixed. We have had a lot of people planting trees at headstones and digging up the grass and planting flower beds at the headstones and we can't do that. So, if you are doing that, we will remove them. That is in the cemetery rules. We have headstones that have multiple flower pots on them and when we are weed eating it is very time consuming to have to move six pots to do one headstone. So, I think we need to limit that to just one. In the park, we have changed out 30 sprinkler heads so far and we have probably about 20 more to go. On Whitehall boulevard we, have changed 20 and have about 30 more to go.

Shawn: Are they a few years old?

Kory: Yes, they are. In the past, we have not had the man power to change them all but now with Ron not doing garbage, it is giving us a chance to catch up. I do have a problem on Whitehall boulevard. I have a short in a wire and I am not sure how to locate that. I have had a couple of companies try to help me figure it out. It is not looking too good, we may have to run all new wire and that is a lot bigger job then it sounds. We did fix pot hole, we made it all the way down Yellowstone and touched up first street from last year. We finished D street and 2nd street. We graded ally's, the railroad parking lot, the rec parking lot and the country store parking lot. If you are going to dump you grass in the ally, please bag it. It is very time consuming to clean it all up and we are going to start charging for that. We have put out 17 loads of weed spray so far.

Mayor Mary: I just want to add that we are aware that the flowers in the park are looking dreadful. We tried to save money and plant them ourselves and that did not work so, we will have to move to plan b. Our banners we now have about 10 down. We put them on differently and lower, hoping the wind would not get to them as bad but the Whitehall wind has been rough on them. So, we will have to discuss that at the TIFF board meeting and see what to do.

Fire Chief's Report:

Colton: Things have been good. With extending the fire burning thru may we have not had any problems with it.

County Commissioner

Lenard Wartman: He discussed that they will be hiring for a solid waste manager and a new clerk and recorder. They also need 2 new members for the Whitehall tv district. He gave an update on the legacy center. He gave an update on the meat processing plant. For more details, see recording.

Sherriff's report:

No report.

Committee / Board Reports:

Planning Board:

See minutes.

Recreational Complex Board:

No meeting.

Pool Board:

See minutes.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery:

See minutes.

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

See minutes.

T.I.F.F:

See minutes.

CTAC:

No meeting.

VII. Public Comment :

Nicole Murray: I lived in Deer Lodge for quite some time and the church bells rang every half hour and I was wondering if they could ring in Whitehall too? I know two years ago at Frontier Days, there was a band with dancing and I was just hoping that they would do that again this year because it was really fun. My third comment is on affordable housing. I did not know if there was any plan to get more housing. I don't know what to do, I have tried Baycroft and they have nothing.

Mayor Mary: I would just like to announce that I will be going to boulder this week to file to run for mayor again. This will be the last time I run but I would really like to see the water treatment project completed. We have worked really hard to get the funding in place and we will be going out to bid this fall and we will hopefully complete it thru next year.

VIII. Consent Agenda:

Planning Board:

Business license / Brandy Lou Creations / Approved.

Craig Hansen / fence permit / 110 N Whitehall / Approved.

Elizabeth Pullman / fence permit / 400 E 1st Street / Amended Approval.

Pool

Pool Fundraising Committee Triathlon action plan.

Lifeguard

Maddox Kidwell.

Road closures

Liberty Place – Lights on Soldier on June 17th

Beats and Eats – June 26th

Frontier Days- July 24th

KATY MOTIONED TO APPROVE WITH ROY SECONDING.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IX. PRESENTATIONS

None

X. Unfinished Business

A. Council discussion and determination on final draft of Sherriff's Contract, start / end dates and payment dates.

SHAWN MOTIONED TO DISCUSS WITH ROY SECONDING.

Ed: As you all may recall a few meetings ago we decided on going back to the original contract price of \$120,000.00 a year. So, then i had the task of negotiating the terms with the Sherriff trying to get as much as we can and as much as the Sherriff is willing to provide us with. Ed went over the contract for more detail see contract or recording.

Ed: Does anyone have any questions?

Pat: Yes so, the contract use to be \$111,000.00 a year and now it is up to \$120,000.00 a year with no guaranteed time?

Ed: Yes

Mayor Mary: And we pay that twice a year.

Pat: I kind of understand not putting the specific hours in there but what recourse do we have other than canceling it If they do not provide us support like we feel?

Roy: I have a question Ed. I keep looking and I can not find what we are required as a City. My feeling is if I live in this city and I pay every year for law enforcement I should be covered.

Ed: The way it reads is that all municipalities must have a police force. It does say all we are required to have is a chief of police but being in Jefferson county the sheriff is required to enforce all state laws and county ordinances.

Allissa: It also depends on what class we are. We are title 3 so we have to either have a police chief or a contract like we are doing now.

Bill: I do think we need to keep it as a year-to-year renewal.

Katy: If we did decide to not renew this again next year, we would need to start studying the contract in advance right?

Ed: Yes, I would say 3-6 months in advance

Pat: I move we accept this contract with a 1-year limitation and with then the potential to extend it.

Roy: We need accountability in there. I think it needs to be a monthly occurrence for them to just send that to us. I just want a monthly report sent to us of calls that they have gotten and hours worked in the city limits.

Linda: Does this include like patrol at the street dance and things like that. Do they do that?

Ed: No that would be a specific service to contract with them.

Pat Motion to accept the contract at \$120,000.00 for one year was voted on and passed unanimously.

XI. New Business:

- A. Council discussion and determination on Resolution 2021-7 TA Grant Application.

Pat Motioned to approve with Roy seconding
Motion passes unanimously.

- B. Council discussion and determination on accepting D&C Home Repair and Boiler Services to inspect the Town's Boilers.

Pat motioned to approve with Shawn seconding.
Motion passes unanimously.

- C. Council discussion and determination on whether to create Resolution to join the ambulance District, put it on the next ballot to let the public decide or have the public gather signatures.
Shawn motioned to discuss with Pat seconding.

Shawn: I do not feel right about forcing this on the Town through resolution.

Mayor Mary: I do not either. I think the best way to handle it is to put it on the ballot and let the town vote on it.

Katy: If we are going to put it on the ballot, let's make sure to explain to them exactly what it means so they understand what they are voting on.

Ed: Its almost the same as with the mill levy increase people did not understand what it was going to do or what it meant.

Linda: We have 1,160 people in this town and they should be voting on this instead of 6 of us deciding for everyone.

Pat moved to put it on the ballot with Linda seconding.
The motion passes unanimously.

- D. Council discussion and determination to put the public safety mill levy on the ballot again.

Roy motioned to discuss with Shawn seconding.

Mayor Mary: We just want to know how the council feels about putting it back on the ballot since we are having an election. Like Bil,I said I think there was a lot of miss information about it and they really did not understand what it meant.

Shawn: It goes back to education. We need to get the word out so people understand.

Pat: I have a question; do we really need it?

Roy: Yes.

Pat: Last year, I would have said yes and I did but this year after listening to Todd, I wonder do we really need it?

Roy: As a council member, I think we do. I think we have to have it to have money to plan for any big problems that we may need to handle. We have not planned well for financial possible issues. God knows how long we need to have this.

Pat: We need that kind of passion out to the public so they understand.

Roy: We need to be putting money back in to our fire department. Right now, they are basically running off of the rural fire departments help but if they ever decide to quit, we are in some big trouble. We are having volunteers quit as it is because we don't have the right equipment, we need to be preparing so if the rural fire department quits helping or a truck breaks down or we end up having to hire fire men because we have no volunteers, we are prepared to handle that.

Bill: I agree. This town is going to grow, we all know that and we need it but we need to be prepared to handle that also.

Katy motioned to put it on the ballot with Roy seconding.
Motion passes unanimously.

- E. Council discussion and determination on sharing the cost with Jefferson County on hiring a grant writer.

Lenard: I don't know too much about it. We have agreed to hire a grant writer and the city of boulder wants to be involved as well.

Katy motioned to table with Shawn seconding.
Tabled

- F. Council discussion and determination on paying BBG Contracting for the siding of Town Hall that took place over 3 years ago.

Pat moved to discuss.

Mayor Mary: They redid the siding and the bill was \$18,615.00. We got \$9,886.00 that we paid him so the net balance that was due as of 6/25/2018 was \$ 8,827.00. This has been on the books for quite some time. There is no guarantees that we will get anymore money from the insurance company. I just feel it is important that the Town pays this bill.

Shawn: The work was performed.

Ed: I think at one point we were waiting to see if we would receive money from the manufacturer of the company.

Roy: There is a class action suit. That could be ten years or more out before you even see anything from that. I think it needs to be paid. It does not look good having that unpaid.

Ed: Penalties, I do not believe was in our original contract so I do believe they would take our apologies and check for the amount due and be good.

Shawn made a motion to pay the face value of \$ 8827.00 with Roy seconding.

Motion passed unanimously.

Council and Bridget discuss some more about the subject.

Bridget: I believe the Council had decided at that time to not pay but what the insurance company gave. Because it was partly their fault it was done wrong.

Mayor Mary: It was only the engineer's fault not the company.

Bridget: I don't believe that is right. Maybe get a hold of Gary Housman, he was on the Council at the time and knows a lot about this.

Mayor Mary: Ok maybe we should table this until we can get all the facts.

Pat motioned to table it with Shawn seconding.

Tabled.

- G. Council discussion and determination on employees' current wages for audit purposes.

Katy motioned to approve with Roy seconding.

Motion passed unanimously.

- H. Council discussion and determination on updating / recodifying the Towns ordinances.

Katy made a motion to approve with Bill seconding.

Motion passes unanimously.

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

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

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XIII. Adjourn:

Shawn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 with Katy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date