

Regular Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 1-13-2020

The Town of Ethan board met in regular session on January 13, 2020, at 6:00 pm in the Ethan City Hall. Trustees present were Lisa Hjellum, Jason Koch, Gregg Thibodeau and Nancy Schoenfelder. Megan Perry was absent. City personnel present: Betty Raymond and Dave Duba. Also present: Jamie McFarland, Dennis Puepke, Allen Haag and Troy Haag.

Chairman Hjellum called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. All motions were unanimously voted as aye unless stated otherwise.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Agenda was amended to add the discussion of water drainage issues. This was added under old business since it had been previously discussed and moved upon. Amended agenda approved on motion by Thibodeau, second by Koch.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the December 16th special meeting were approved on motion by Thibodeau, second by Schoenfelder. No Community Center minutes.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Motion by Koch, second by Schoenfelder, to approve claims.

General, sewer, water, preservation and community center funds * employee and board wages – board wages \$738.78, Finance wages \$1200.80; Public Works wages, \$2718.08; Hanson Rural Water System, \$4496.00; Prairie Readers, community grant \$500.00; SD Assoc of Rural Water Systems, conference \$250.00; SD Retirement, \$668.30; Badger Meter, monthly fee \$124.95; Betty Raymond, mileage \$49.56; C&B Mitchell, tractor mirror \$194.70; Card Services, \$177.90; Daily Republic, publishing \$272.79; Davison County Auditor, patrol \$1800.00; DENR, certification fee \$6.00; Menards, supplies \$93.17; Midwest Fire, recharge extinguishers \$104.00; Mike's Corner, fuel \$520.23; Morgan Theeler, attorney fee \$87.50; NorthWestern Energy, utilities \$2076.15; Petty Cash, \$29.55; Planning & Zoning District III, dues \$621.00; Santel, telephone \$157.60; SD DENR, discharge permit \$350.00; SD Department of Health, testing \$109.00; Weber Sanitation, garbage service \$1310.00; Diane Reinfeld, deposit refund \$25.00; Donnie McBrayer, wages \$187.47; John Deere Financial, tractor payment \$640.51; QuickBooks Payroll Services \$3918.88; SD Dept of Revenue, sales tax \$101.35; US Treasury, employment taxes \$1400.30; USDA, loan payment \$1023.00.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Finance Officer discussed 2019 financials.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Discussed water loss report which was down considerably from last month after the water leak repair. Dave asked if alleys needed to be cleared for emergency vehicles and was told no since no hydrants in the alleys. Dave will be contacting SD Rural Water at conference this week about viewing sewer lines with a camera to find leaks.

CITIZEN INPUT: Ethan Fire Department would like to do training at the Ethan landfill. Council agreed as long as they do the clean up afterward.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Center: Sound system has been installed. Bingo is scheduled for February 23rd.

Alert Messaging: Finance Officer said the text messaging system seems to be well received and people are signing up for it.

Water Drainage: Haag, Puepke and McFarland asked about getting better drainage in the 400 block of Drake St. Dave told them that he has started on it but the excavating crew was unable to make the scheduled time in the fall, but will start again on it in the spring. Discussed other areas of town that need drainage including the elevator. Betty and Dave will speak with District III at their next meeting to see if there are any grants or funding available.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Koch, second by Thibodeau, to approve the following designations for the year 2020: newspaper, Daily Republic; engineer, SPN & Associates; attorney, Morgan Theeler Law Firm; banks, Farmers State Bank and First National Bank.

Motion by Thibodeau, second by Schoenfelder, that wages remain the same: board pay, \$75.00 per meeting attended; chairman pay, \$75.00 per meeting attended; Finance Officer wages, \$15.85 per hour; Public Works wages, \$18.75 per hour; and also that mileage rate stays at the state rate of \$0.42 per mile and established holiday closings. Council asked the Finance Officer to change the holidays listed in the employee manual to match the state. This will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

State law allows the council to pre-approve expenditures to prevent late fees, and approve recurring payment items such as payroll and its corresponding liabilities. Motion by Thibodeau, second by Koch, to approve the Finance Officer to pay the recurring bills in a timely manner.

Discussed joint election with the school which will be April 14th. The school will have one 3-year term open and the city will have 2 open. Approved joint election on motion by Koch, second by Schoenfelder.

Audit or internal control review by the state: Discussed options. Motion by Thibodeau, second by Koch, to contact the SD Municipal League to schedule an internal control review which is less expensive.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (per SDCL 1-25-2, 1): None

The next board meeting is February 10th at 6:00 pm.

Motion by Koch, second by Thibodeau, to adjourn at 7:20 pm.

Betty Raymond
Finance Officer

Lisa Hjellum
Chairman

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