

Regular Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 3-11-19

The Town of Ethan board met in regular session on March 11, 2019, at 6:00 pm in the Ethan City Hall. Trustees present were Jason Koch, Nancy Schoenfelder, Gregg Thibodeau and Megan Perry; absent was Lisa Hjellum. City personnel present: Betty Raymond and Dave Duba.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the February 11th meeting were approved on motion by Schoenfelder, second by Thibodeau. Minutes from the Community Center were reviewed.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Motion Thibodeau, second Perry to approve the claims.

General, sewer, water, preservation and community center funds * employee and board wages – board wages \$300.15, Finance wages \$1176.62; Public Works wages, \$2664.39; Card Services, \$408.03; Menards, supplies \$70.91; SD DENR, recertification fee \$6.00; SD Retirement, \$585.08; Badger Meter, monthly charge \$70.95; Betty Raymond, mileage \$45.36; Daily Republic, publishing \$154.18; Industrial Chem Lab, sewer \$357.73; Menards, supplies \$48.66; Mike's Corner, fuel \$312.44; NorthWestern Energy, utilities \$2235.17; Santel, telephone \$162.15; SDWWA, conference \$90.00; Weber Sanitation, garbage service \$1270.00; QuickBooks Payroll Services \$3841.01; SD Dept of Revenue, sales tax \$101.07; US Treasury, employment taxes \$1247.66; USDA, loan payment \$1023.00; Hanson Rural Water, tower/water \$3788.90.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Finance Officer discussed the current financials noting that revenues are down compared to last year at the same time. FO also asked about working on weekends when a water payment deadline falls on a Friday. The council said that payments could wait until Monday.

WATER/SEWER REPORT: The Board reviewed the water loss report. Dave stated that some people are concerned about the amount of snow in their yards and flooding concerns. He stated that he has begun to remove some of the snow piles.

CITIZEN INPUT: Calls have been received regarding dogs roaming loose and also barking in the night. Our only animal control is the County Sheriff and people are encouraged to call if there is a problem. Will see about putting a notice of the next water bill about dogs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Center: The ECC will be hosting an indoor rummage sale on April 27th. Council asked if Center board was doing anything regarding missing Community Center items and was told that an inventory is being taken after each event now.

Ordinances: Changes from a previous meeting to Ordinance 7 had no further discussion. Finance Officer discussed Chapter 9 which pertains to fire safety. There were several changes suggested and will be presented at the next meeting. Finance Officer also stated that District III will review the ordinances when complete to ensure they meet all legal requirements.

Fire District Water Billing: Discussed assisting the Fire Department by making a donation rather than assisting the Fire District with the water billing. In order to make a donation the Town will need a copy of the department's financials on file. Also discussed doing their snow removal instead of a donation. Tabled until next month on motion by Perry, second by Schoenfelder, with Thibodeau abstaining.

Depot Street Extension: No additional information is available at this time.

Verdesian Donation: Additional discussion for use of the donation funds was held. Finance Office has contacted the Forestry Service regarding grants for new trees in the park and the water tower area. Forestry will also help decide types of trees to plant by taking soil samples. Forestry Grants may be available later this year. Also discussed other items that may be purchased for the park and Community Center grounds. No action will be taken at this time.

Code Enforcement: Discussed the expense involved. No action taken at this time and will wait to see if SDML hires a code enforcer to share among the small towns in SD as they have proposed. Will also gather information from other small towns regarding what they do regarding nuisance properties.

Security Cameras: Finance Officer reported that grant discussions are underway and no grants will be available until at least July.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Report: Council reviewed the annual report and approved it on motion by Thibodeau, second by Schoenfelder.

Rate Increase: Discuss rate increase by Hanson Rural Water. Since the rate won't increase until July, no action will be taken until the next meeting and more information can be gathered.

ELO Services: Discussed a contract with ELO for ongoing support services. Approved on motion by Thibodeau, second by Koch, with Perry abstaining.

Loan Payoff: Discussed paying off a water loan. In order to do so, will need to transfer funds from the general account to the water account. The Finance Officer will prepare said transfer and payoff information for the April meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: none

The next regular board meeting is April 8th at 6:00 pm.

Motion by Thibodeau, second by Perry to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

Betty Raymond
Finance Officer

Jason Koch
Vice-Chairman

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