

Regular Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 8-12-2019

The Town of Ethan board met in regular session on August 12, 2019, at 6:00 pm in the Ethan City Hall. Trustees present were Lisa Hjellum, Jason Koch, Gregg Thibodeau, Megan Perry and Nancy Schoenfelder. City personnel present: Betty Raymond and Dave Duba.

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: Approved on motion by Schoenfelder, second by Thibodeau.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the July 8th meeting were approved on motion by Thibodeau, second by Perry, with the following which was omitted from the published minutes: Tractor lease program is no longer available. Discussed regular lease versus purchase. Motion to approve purchase at zero percent interest made by Thibodeau, second by Hjellum. Reviewed minutes from the Park Board. No minutes from the Community Center.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

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

General, sewer, water, preservation and community center funds * employee and board wages – board wages \$369.40, Finance wages \$1156.21; Public Works wages, \$2651.18; Farmers Alliance, spray \$194.40; SD Retirement, \$577.20; Adapco, mosquito spray \$1611.00; Badger Meter, monthly fee \$70.95; Betty Raymond, mileage \$95.76; Card Services, July \$575.71; Commercial Asphalt, street repair \$27,214.29; Daily Republic, \$134.91; Farmers Alliance, chemicals \$88.80; Maxwell & Bowar, insurance \$525.00; Menards, supplies \$38.89; Mike's Corner, fuel \$222.20; NorthWestern Energy, utilities \$1360.90; Petty Cash, \$49.24; Santel, telephone \$160.51; SD Assoc of Rural Water Systems, annual dues \$370.00; SD Department of Health, testing \$15.00; SD One Call, fees \$21.00; SD Retirement System, fee \$29.24; The Road Guy, chip seal \$25,954.50; Weber Sanitation, garbage service \$1310.00; QuickBooks Payroll Services \$3807.39; SD Dept of Revenue, sales tax \$101.07; US Treasury, employment taxes \$1217.22; US Bank, loan payment \$6399.24; USDA, loan payment \$1023.00; WorldPay, credit card fee \$45.76; Hanson Rural Water, tower/water \$4147.50.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Finance Officer discussed the current financials.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Dave reported water loss is down. Discussed possible location for a water leak. SD Rural Water will be coming to camera more sewer lines. Chip sealing is done and Dave reported that he purchased cold patch to repair small areas. Dave also discussed the park usage by the Sons of the American Legion. He expressed his gratitude for the excellent clean up of the park area.

CITIZEN INPUT: none

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Center: Discussed changing the contract to include charges for the basement as it is being used during rentals and not being cleaned. The plumbing in the basement will be reconnected so at least one bathroom will be usable.

Code Enforcement: Finance Officer contacted the new code enforcer for the state and reported that he suggested that we contact Mike Olson who has more experience in the types of issues we have with abandoned and neglected houses. Council asked that Mr. Olson be contacted for an interview.

Tractor Purchase: Discussed the need for a down payment for the tractor purchase approved last month. Thibodeau moved to approve making a down payment, seconded by Schoenfelder.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building Permit: Council reviewed a building permit for work already completed.

Branch Removal Over Streets: Dave has been in discussion with a company to remove branches that are hanging too low over the streets. A letter will be sent to let people know to check their trees for street clearance and to give them the option to do the work themselves. If the city hires the work done, the expense will then be passed on to the property owner.

Animal Control: Discussed the continuing problems with animals roaming loose in violation of the leash law ordinance. The Davison County Sheriff was contacted but they do not have animal control. The sheriff indicated that our options are to try to trap the animal or to put the animal down if the owner continues to ignore the ordinance. This information will also be included in the letter going out to the residents.

2020 Budget: Reviewed the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020. Second reading will be at the September meeting.

2019 Budget Supplement: Finance Officer discussed the possible need to do a supplement to the budget from existing funds. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (per SDCL 1-25-2, 1): Entered executive session for personnel reasons on motion by Schoenfelder, second by Hjellum, at 8:00 pm. Session was exited at 8:20 pm by order of President Hjellum.

Motion by Koch, second by Thibodeau, to increase the Public Works wages by \$0.75 to \$18.75 per hour. Motion by Perry, second by Koch, to increase Finance Officer wages by \$0.35 to \$15.85 per hour. The increase will take effect with the first payroll in September.

Due to conflicts in schedules, the next board meeting will be Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00 pm.

Motion by Perry, second by Hjellum to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Betty Raymond
Finance Officer

Lisa Hjellum
Chairman

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