

## **Regular Town Council Meeting December 14, 2020**

A regular session of the Sheridan Town Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Stump attended via phone, Council members Mike Walter, Emilie Sayler, and Rahn Abbott and Corey Theis were present along with Clerk, Ginger Galiger

Guests: Mike Dietrich, Scott Payne, Brad Schwend, Lewis Burton and Janet Marsh were also present.

### **Pledge**

**Public Comment Not on the Agenda – None**

### **Lewis Burton with Northern Rockies Engineering reported on the wastewater system study.**

Northern Rockies Engineering has completed the study of the Town's wastewater system to determine the present capacity and the possibility of adding additional households to the present system. Monitoring the flow rate has been challenging because the lift stations do not have a measuring devise. Lewis Burton is recommending the purchase a flow meter for each lift station with automated monitoring to the phone. The importance of continuation of monitoring of the system was expressed. In order to be aware of changes in the flow rates and upon DEQ's request we would readily have the monitoring history.

An analysis of the towns population was also conducted with the conclusion being that the compacity of the current system is more than enough at this time and could add an additional 63 people. The way Bradley's have been irrigating has been working fine at this point there has been plenty of storage at the lagoons. With additional people added to the system he may have to begin irrigating earlier in the summer. We will have to look into the agreement.

There is significant infiltration into the wastewater system piping that does occur during the summer months and it is recommended that portions of the piping system be lined or replaced to reduce this infiltration issue. Bob stated that we have put money in the budget for the past 3 years to do this. The conclusion to this study, is that at this time, there is the capacity to add additional homes to the system.

### **Brad Schwend to present draft subdivision plans.**

Brad has been working with Lewis Burton from Northern Rockies Engineering to start the process of putting together a preliminary plan for a subdivision. Tonight, they wanted to present the preliminary idea to the council. He is not looking for their approval but welcomes any input on this. Brad is looking at 45 lots for affordable housing, starter homes possibly duplexes or multiunit homes. The need for housing in the Ruby Valley is great. Brad presented the drawings to the council, they tried to include everything that the county will want to see. They do not know if they will be required to have paved streets, sidewalks, and lighting. This will increase the cost of the project greatly. The sewer would be gravity fed to the north west corner to a lift station which would become part of the towns system. The County also requires open space which would allow for a park area. Brad asked if the town would be willing to take it over and maintain a park? Brad still has to contact the power company to get the costs pinned down. The preapplication will go to the County Planning Board first and they will continue to come to the council for comment throughout the process. One of the requirements is to keep all of the adjacent landowners in the loop throughout the entire process. There will be written covenants to control the growth.

Mike Walter's concern is the additional cost to the town to maintain the lift station. Corey does not want to see a subdivision stop once it gets going if there is going to be a big drop in the market. Emilie Sayler is well aware of the housing issues and think this is a good opportunity and looks forward to seeing it work out.

### **Scott Payne with NRE to give an update on the growth policy and survey results.**

Scott has gathered a lot of information through conducting a survey, holding a public meeting and one on one interviews. He is now reviewing the data and entering it into a spreadsheet to work up a rough draft for the growth policy. The public meeting results were much different than the survey and depending on the differences in age category the results have varied greatly. Some of the common themes resulting from the public meeting and interviews were Parks and Recreation – pool, pavilion, and park improvements. Roads and Streets, specifically Madison Street. The show case project through the 3 blocks on Madison Street with repaving the road and putting a boulevard down the middle with angled parking at the school ranked high on the list. Scott suggested asking the County for the portion of Maddison Street. With the nursing home on that street, it is likely that we could apply for a CDBG grant but the funds could only be used for that portion of the road. The lack of housing is also a big concern. Under Community planning, there was some interest in zoning, safe playground equipment. Emergency services was ranked higher in the public meeting. The town does not have the money to do everything so Scott will continue to compile the results and will prioritize a list that will be presented in his rough draft for the town council's review,

probably by the middle of January. Scott also suggested that our current town council create an annexation plan for the future council to use.

### **Department Reports**

**Sheriff** – Sheriff Fortner was not present. During the month of October, Madison County Sheriff's Officers received 8 calls for service & made 3 traffic stops. In the month of November, the Officers received 18 calls for service & made 1 traffic stop in the Town of Sheridan.

**Library** – In October, the library hosted the Knitting and Newspaper groups, as well as the mediation class (virtually) and the support group. Ron took the uninstalled lights to Habitat for Humanity. Bill was out the first 2 weeks of November after testing positive for COVID-19, and the library closed for that period. None of the regular groups met this month as a precaution.

**Attorney** – None

**Fire Department** – Mike Dietrich reported for the Fire Department. The Department received 6 calls – possible gas leaks, carbon monoxide and mutual aid – that was cancelled. The average response time from the department was 3.67.

**Public Works** – Mayor Stump reported in Duke's absence. They finished putting the sheet metal on the new well building, some additional pieces need to be ordered. Duke has maintenance all of the equipment and everything is up and running. We are still collecting the last of the lead and copper samples for this period. Bob and Duke are both in quarantine, so they have to wait until next week. Bob stated that Duke is a real asset to the town and really enjoys working with him. We had a positive coliform bacterium hit so we are continuing to resample one individual home.

### **Boards and Committees**

MSIT – None

Parks District Board – None

Fire Station Committee - None

### **Public comment on the agenda - None**

### **New Business**

#### *1. RD/TSEP/SRF draw requests.*

The breakdown of the next draw is as follows; SRF A \$1233.75, SRF B \$1,214.00 and the final draw from TSEP is for \$12,500.00 for a total of \$14,947.75. This will be used to pay Great West invoices, some of the older invoices were only paid in part by RD, the Town will also be reimbursed for the portion we paid to North Western Energy. No further discussion. Emilie Sayler made a motion to approve the SRF and TSEP draw request and Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

#### *2. Robert Stump to continue working in public works.*

Mayor Stump would like to continue to work with Duke in Public Works and maybe that will change in January with anticipation of going to a part time position. They are still in the transitional phase. Bob is still planning on taking the water and sewer tests to become certified. The town has a need for a backup person. Shoveling snow, plowing, and sanding does take 2 people at times. Mike Walter moves to revisit this in January possibly part time through the winter months if there is still a need. Emilie Sayler seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Emilie Sayler voting yes, Rahn Abbott voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes and Corey Theis voting no. The motion passes.

#### *3. New water meters*

The town currently uses Badger Meters for our reading software and equipment. We have to upgrade the software from ReadCenter to BEACON if we stay with Badger Meters. Our actual meters have a warranty of 10 years in which we are coming upon and we have recently had to replace 5 meter and we already have 2 more that need to be replaced as well. We received a 3-page quote from them but really need a representative to come and explain exactly what we need. We received a second quote from Ferguson Waterworks. Miquelle Bernard demonstrated their meters to us. When reading meters, there would be 2 different tablets, software programs and files to read the 2 different meters. We need to figure out the best and most affordable way to move forward. Mike Walter moves to TABLE the discussion pending more information. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Mayor Stump call the question for the council members.** Emilie Sayler voting yes, Rahn Abbott voting yes, Corey Theis voting yes, and Mike Walter voting yes.

#### *4. John Walter sewer hook-up*

John Walter is looking to build a home on the empty lot off of Washington St. Glen Lindsey has agreed to allow him to hook onto his sewer service connection. Mayor Stump was asked if John would still have to pay the full sewer hookup rate of \$3688? John will still be using the sewer system and he has to “buy into the system”. It needs to be the same for everyone. Corey Theis made a motion to deny the request to John Walter for paying a partial hook-on fee. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. No further discussion. **Mayor Stump call the question for the council members.** Emilie Sayler voting yes, Rahn Abbott voting yes, Corey Theis voting yes, and Mike Walter abstained. The motion passes.

The minutes from the October 19<sup>th</sup> and December 9<sup>th</sup> meetings were reviewed. Mike Walter talked about the Fire Department meeting that was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was very positive, and he felt like progress was made among the group. Emilie Sayler moves to approve the meeting minutes for both meeting and Mike Walter seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously. Corey Theis was not at the December 9<sup>th</sup> Fire Department meeting, so he did not vote.

Mayor Stump reviewed the financials and delinquent utility reports with the council. We have not heard from the Attorney regarding the certified letter sent to Mike Laurin regarding 208 1/2 Ruby St. There are currently no shut offs. Corey Theis moves to approve the financials and delinquent utility reports. Mike Walter seconded the motion. No further questions. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

#### **Councils Report**

Corey Theis has done some research and found that bow hunting is legal in town but not ethical if it cannot be done safely. Tomorrow they are opening an extended hunting season in the Ruby Valley for white-tailed deer. The Ruby Valley has over 2000 plus in over carry capacity. Fish and Wildlife are putting an emphasis on having game tested for chronic wasting disease. CWD has become a huge problem.

#### **Mayor’s Report**

Nothing further to report on.

Mike Walter moves to adjourn tonight’s meeting. Corey Theis seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The motion passes unanimously.

#### **Warrants December 2020**

GINGER GALIGER	2675.90
DUKE GILMAN	2468.62
ROBERT C. STUMP	2854.30
WILLIAM TALBOTT	1447.82
DEFERRED COMP	100.00
EFTPS ENROLLMENT PROCESS	3235.77
PERS	1513.37
DEPT OF REVENUE	528.00
GINGER GALIGER	3075.95
DUKE GILMAN	3122.88
ROBERT C. STUMP	2769.89
WILLIAM TALBOTT	1719.81
EFTPS ENROLLMENT PROCESS	3592.59
DEPT OF REVENUE	622.00
DEFERRED COMP	100.00
PERS	1816.51
STATE OF MONTANA DEPT OF UI	74.35
INS. MT MUNICIPAL INTERLOCAL	1477.15
3 RIVERS COMMUNICATION	228.19
A&M FIRE & SAFETY SUPPLY, INC.	204.00

ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	137.00
FRONTLINE AG SOLUTIONS, LLC	1391.03
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	32.11
SHERIDAN AUTO PARTS INC	486.65
US BANK-Spa Lockbox	8237.50
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION CE	20.02
WALTER'S ACE HARDWARE	102.14
WEX BANK	251.85
3 RIVERS COMMUNICATIONS (L)	93.54
ADVANCED PUMP & EQUIPMENT, INC	650.00
CITI CARDS	372.51
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	264.00
GREATER RV CHAMBER OF COMMERCE &	55.00
KENWORTHY ELECTRIC, INC.	150.00
KLASEN SEPTIC TANK PUMPING	305.00
LEE'S OFFICE CITY	62.13
MONTANA RAIL LINK INC.	100.00
NORTH WESTERN ENERGY	276.00
NORTHERN ROCKIES ENGINEERING, INC	1110.96
NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS,INC	209.46
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	566.65
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY-DECORATIVE LI	97.32
NORTHWESTERN ENGERY-SEWER	1930.32
POSTMASTER	195.00
TAMI BURNEY	180.00
VERIZON WIRELESS	207.52
MMIA	79.00
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	132.00
FIRE STATION SOFTWARE, LLC	135.00
GINGER GALIGER	102.77
KENWORTHY ELECTRIC, INC.	1539.76
KRUER LAW FIRM, P.C.	585.00
NORTHWEST PIPE FITTINGS,INC	1255.31
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	1572.16
CRAIG A. SHEPHERD	3000.00
MT DEPT OF ADMINISTRATION-LGS	950.00
MMIA HEALTH INS	1477.15
MMIA WORKERS COMP	1365.88
TOTAL	63304.84

Meeting adjourned 8:38 p.m.

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Approved: Mayor Robert Stump

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Attested: Clerk Ginger Galiger

