

Regular Town Council Meeting March 9, 2020

A regular session of the Sheridan Town Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Stump at 6:00 p.m. Council members Mike Walter, Emilie Sayler, Rahn Abbott and Dan Durham were present. Clerk Ginger Galiger and Curtis Green were also present.

Guests: Phillip Fortner, Stephanie Kruer, Cindy Gockel, Sherry Huff, Brenda Green, Hannah Kearse and Mary Pat Graham

Pledge of Allegiance

Cindy Gockel is the secretary for the Madison County Housing Advisory Board. Cindy came to discuss the Housing Survey Results that were done in August 2019. There is a shortage of affordable housing in Madison County as well as across the State of Montana. This shortage causes a problem for employers to hire and keep employees. The average pay from respondents is \$16.56, and employers estimate \$19.50 per hour is needed to afford housing. The Housing Advisory Board will continue to raise awareness. Education in provision of a source to find assistance for potential buyers, renters, builders, real estate agents, and homeowners looking to rehab or remodel. Research solutions that have been effective with similar communities and hope to gain adoption of certain solutions by the county.

Public Comment Not on the Agenda

Madison County Health Department held a press release today for prevention and control efforts for the Coronavirus. Brenda Green from the Ruby Valley Hospital reported that the hospital is taking this seriously. They are good on supplies but do not have the facility to hold patients that may come in and test positive with the COVID-19. There are only 200 test kits in the entire State at this time. Madison County is being proactive and keeping everyone informed.

Department Reports

Sheriff

Sheriff Phil Fortner reviewed the report for February 2020. During the month they received 11 calls for service and made 8 traffic stops in the Town of Sheridan. The calls consisted of 1 Alarm, 2 Disturbances, 3 Fraud/Scams, 2 Suspicious Persons/Circumstances, 1 Unfounded 911 Call and 2 Welfare Checks.

Library – Mayor Stump read the January report aloud.

Attorney - None

Fire Department

Assistant Chief Rahn Abbott reported for the Fire Department. The Department received 7 calls in the month of February. The calls consisted of grass fires, mutual aid calls and a structure fire. The Elks Foundation is awarding the department with a \$1000 grant, a second thermal camera will be purchased. Mike Dietrich is considering becoming interim chief until the end of the year.

Public Works

Curtis Green reported for Public Works. They have started building the well site building today. The cement slab was subbed out. They received the lead and copper samples back today and they were all good. Curtis will be going to Montana Rural Water Convention the week of March 25th. There is one fire hydrant that needs to be replaced. We had 4 applicants apply for the public works position with 2 likely candidates with the intent of whoever is chosen will have a couple of weeks to job shadow before Ben leaves the middle of April.

Clerk – None

Boards and Committees

MSIT – Sherry Huff came to talk about the Main Street park. The Main Street Improvement Team is hopeful in having the pavers placed in the corner section of the park soon, no completion date at this time. Last fall we had a discussion on the town helping with the beautification of the park with the means of planting sod in the lower section. Discussion.

Mayor Stump requested the MSIT to remove the flower planters next year before winter in order to make snow removal easier.

Park Board – Mary Pat Graham reported for the Park District. Giving money for the pickleball courts upgrade has been put on hold. Tom and Marilyn Walter have been out of state.

The pool is looking to hire lifeguards for the new season. The BBQ will be held June 12th and will open on June 13th through August 22nd, as long as they have staff. Mary Pat will bring in the contract with the Town at the next council meeting. On April 4th at 10:00 the Pool Club will hold a fundraising Spring Bizarre.

Public comment on the agenda - None

New Business

1. CDBG Grant for CIP/Growth Policy - Discussion

Department of Commerce awarded the Town of Sheridan \$30,000 to develop our CIP and Growth Policy. We have to go through a procurement process with the focus of choosing a local firm, small minority owned business and disadvantaged age group. We need to advertise in a larger range area. We need to hire a Planning Group vs. an Engineering Firm. Mayor Stump will continue working on the Request for Proposals document and run an ad in the Montana Standard and the Independent Record.

2. SRF/TSEP/RD Draw requests

TSEP \$1397 GWE Grant Administration

SRF \$4458 Amended – Revised Electrical

RD \$9,075.90 GWE, NRE and Meridian

Total draw request \$14,930.90

Dan Durham moves to approve the draw request. Mike Walter seconded the motion.

Mayor Stump called the question for the council members. Mike Walter voting yes, Emilie Saylor voting yes, Rahn Abbott voting yes and Dan Durham voting yes. The motion passes.

3. Northern Rockies Engineering Task Order for \$13,797 Evaluation of sewer system capabilities

Northern Rockies Engineering recently completed a brief review of the system. The town has received requests from land- owners who are interested in subdividing and developing. We need to be able to demonstrate that the sewer system has the capacity for growth. NRE presented the council with a proposal to answer some of the unknowns. Why was the system approved for a population of 701? What is the current actual flow rate? How is the system and the land application system being managed? Are we going to need to add another cell and if so, is there room? The correct amount of the proposal is \$14,257.

Dan Durham feels that this is a lot of money to spend to satisfy the new land- owner. Do we need to commit to the full proposal at this time? Soon, the census will be taking place so we will have a real picture of the current population and are there other items that we can take care of? The town will be unable to move forward and grow. Discussion.

Dan Durham moves to TABLE the issue, pending further discussion with Scott Payne. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Mike Walter voting yes, Rahn Abbott voting yes, Dan Durham voting yeas and Emilie Saylor voting yes. This item will be TABLED.

4. MMIA Health Insurance increase beginning 7-1-2020

Based on the current claim data through February 29th, 2020, the rate adjustment for 2020-2021 appears to be between 5%-7% for the medical plans. Currently the Town pays the employee's premiums of \$665 per month. We are looking at an increase between \$32.75 and \$45.85 per month.

Dan Durham moves to approve the anticipated increase for the health insurance premiums. Emilie Saylor seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Emilie Saylor voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes, Dan Durham voting yes and Rahn Abbott voting yes. The motion passes.

5. MOU- Carcass Composting

The final revised composting facility agreement was reviewed. Attorney Kruer had two comments. Make sure that the Solid Waste Permit is attached and item (6) at the time the contract is terminated, the lessee has **120 days** to tear down and reclaim the project site. Mike Walter still feels that the town should be getting a financial benefit from this agreement. Dan Durham explained that the Ruby Valley Conservation District is not making any money on this project. It helps to address some issues such as grizzly bears and other predators. It does benefit the community as a whole. Discussion.

Emilie Saylor moves to approve the MOU with the Composting Facility Agreement to include Stephanie's comments. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Rahn Abbott voting yes, Dan Durham voting yes, Mike Walter voting no, and Emilie Saylor voting yes. The motion passes.

6. MOU- Montana Cooperative Purchasing Program

The Cooperative Purchasing Memorandum of Understanding was discussed. I don't believe the town has previously used this. However, there is no cost to us, but it has to be approved every 7 years to remain on the list. Dan Durham moves to approve the Cooperative Purchasing MOU. Emilie Saylor seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Rahn Abbott voting yes, Dan Durham voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes, and Emilie Saylor voting yes. The motion passes.

7. Playground Equipment – Discussion

The playground equipment at the baseball park is falling a-part. The plastic coating is disintegrating, and the metal is rusting through. The manufacturer no longer makes the replacement parts. We have contacted a local contractor to see if he could fabricate 2 new platforms. MMIA said the work could be done by a certified shop. This would be a temporary fix as both parks need new playground equipment. This comes at a very high price.

Mary Pat Graham spoke up about her frustration with the shape of the equipment in our parks. There is a ton of money out there through grants. If we could get a group of parents together to brainstorm some ideas and work together as a community to improve the parks. Discussion.

Dan Durham moved to approve the minutes from January 13th. Emilie Saylor seconded. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Dan Durham voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes, and Emilie Saylor voting yes. Rahn Abbott was absent during the meeting. The motion passes.

Rahn Abbott moves to approve the meeting minutes from February 10th. Emilie Saylor seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Rahn Abbott voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes, and Emilie Saylor voting yes. Dan Durham was absent during that meeting. The motion passes.

The delinquent utility report and the financial reports for both the main checking and project account for the end of February were reviewed. No questions or comments. Mike Walter moves to accept the financials and utility delinquent reports as presented. Rahn Abbott seconded. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** Emilie Saylor voting yes, Mike Walter voting yes and Rahn Abbott voting yes. The motion passes.

Councils Report

Dan Durham asked when Mungas will be returning to work. The owners of MorseLand will be unable to lease the land if the property is not returned to its original state. Mayor Stump was told that Mungas was not expected back now until late May or early June.

Mayors Report – Steve Wood is waiting for the lease from Attorney Kruer. Stephanie stated, she has the lease ready. When we know more about the project moving forward the Mayor will prepare a posting to update the residence of where the work will be done. Possible temporary road closures and water shut offs during certain times of the project.

Lynn Baugh is interested in starting up a dance studio in the back half of the Shovel and Spoon. It will include the Silver Sneakers Medicare program which aids in balance and mobility.

Dan Durham moved to adjourn the meeting. Rahn Abbott seconded the motion. **Mayor Stump called the question for the council members.** The vote was unanimous.

Warrants March 2020

GINGER GALIGER	2648.26
CURTIS A. GREEN	3024.09
BENJAMIN HITCHCOCK	1296.20
ROBERT C. STUMP	161.29
WILLIAM TALBOTT	1513.45
EFTPS ENROLLMENT PROCESS	3948.66
DEPT OF REVENUE	650.00
D COMP ST OF MT OF DEFERRED COM	100.00
PERS	2381.77
UI STATE OF MONTANA DEPT OF	106.74
3 RIVERS COMMUNICATION	242.00

BEACON BUSINESS CENTER	45.00
LEE'S OFFICE CITY	331.00
MADISON COUNTY FINANCE DEPARTMENT	1536.00
MMIA	79.00
MONTANA DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUA	2250.00
MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES	433.47
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	2978.93
ROBERT STUMP	18.95
SHERIDAN FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION	1536.00
THE MADISONIAN LLC	86.60
WEX BANK	566.49
3 RIVERS COMMUNICATIONS (L)	99.14
BADGER METERS, INC	780.00
BEACON BUSINESS CENTER	10.00
BRODART CO.	114.99
CITI CARDS	535.85
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	324.50
MONTANA RAIL LINK INC.	325.00
NORTH WESTERN ENERGY	276.00
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY-DECORATIVE LI	93.61
NORTHWESTERN ENGERY-SEWER	87.84
TAMI'S CLEANING SERVICE	120.00
UTILITIES UNDERGROUND LOCATION CE	3.64
VERIZON WIRELESS	96.93
FASTENAL COMPANY	132.18
ENERGY LABORATORIES INC.	42.00
FRONTLINE AG SOLUTIONS, LLC	33.90
KRUER LAW FIRM, P.C.	369.05
NORTHWESTERN ENERGY	2880.73
POSTMASTER	140.00
POTTER CONSTRUCTION & CONCRETE	1300.00
LEE & ASSOCIATES LLC	680.07
HEALTH INS. MT MUNICIPAL INTERLOCAL	2859.15
MMIA WORKER'S COMP	1617.86
TOTAL	38856.34

Meeting adjourned 9:16 p.m.

Approved: Mayor Robert Stump

Attested: Clerk Ginger Galiger

