

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P. O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
DECEMBER 14th, 2020

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Street, Tuesday, December 14th, 2020

PRESENT: Council Members: Roy McBride, Bill Lanes, Logan Reiff, Katy James, Pat Peterson, Shawn Hoagland, Town Clerk Angela Japhet, and Mayor Mary Hensleigh.

VISITORS: Joe Granvold.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call was taken. All Council Members were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Shawn made motion to approve the Agenda with Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Logan motioned to approve the October 9th 2020 minutes with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor: I would like to thank every one for coming and wish you all a Merry Christmas. Since our last meeting the weather has been wonderful and it has allowed our Public Works to get a lot done. I would like to thank every body who has decorated for Christmas, the Chamber, businesses, all the different residences and the town of Whitehall it just looks very festive and gives us all something to be happy about. Town Hall will remain being locked until January 4th. We have 118 active COVID-19 numbers and so until that goes down for the safety of our clerks. You can call anytime we are here regular hours and you can drop your payments in the drop box, but I need to keep the clerks healthy because I don't have any back ups so I just hope every body understands what we are dealing with. They started giving the first shots today so that is encouraging and I can hardly wait to get mine.

Officer's Reports:Attorney Report:

No report.

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Angela: It has been a very busy month but Allissa and I are learning our jobs and the computers so that is what we have been focusing on. We have Tod coming in and that is immensely helpful. It's so nice for him to come in and show us the right way to get something done. That is all we have been doing.

Public Work's Report:

Kory: I will start with water last month we did have two water leaks. One down on west 2nd someone clipped a curb stop. Town Pumps service line was leaking and there is no shut off for that so we put a curb stop in for that. We did water samples our monthly bacteria samples and our yearly nitrate nitrite. I did 16 different water samples for the water treatment they had all kinds of stuff that they needed. The sewer lagoons are still pretty darn empty we didn't have to sample we didn't have a discharge. We have been jetting sewers. We did get from A&W to 2nd street and the school area, Pyfer, Town Pump all that's done Patty Cake, Whitetail, Rocky Mountain Drive. We ran out of money that we had budgeted for that so you guys have a P O for that if we want to keep going on doing that. If we do continue, we will do Valley view area and pull that line down. I still don't think with that amount we can get the whole north side of Town done but we are going to come close. Parks for Christmas, I want to thank the Cats and Spurs and spoons. I believe we had quite a few I had to break it up I had to do it different this year I kind of set it up in time slots but it worked really well. Tons of people helped and that was Friday and Saturday this year. Garbage cans, we have been working on our big black garbage cans. We are putting blocks on the side. We are having troubles with the garbage truck losing cans in the truck so we put some stop blocks on the outside so we are trying to see how that works. Streets not much happening sanded three times and got called out twice so it snowed twice last month. Cemetery we did have 3 full graves. We did get the one light on the back of the shop when you guys leave here take a look at it its awesome it lights every thing up. Besides that, there was 17 work orders and 8 locates.

Fire Chief's Report:

Joe: We have had a busy month since November 16th last month's meeting, we have had a total of 20 calls that's rural and city calls. On the rural side we had 1 CO2 gas call. We have had 9 wrecks on the interstate: We had another fatality here I believe was last week or with in a week and a half. We had two fires with semis. We had 1 fuel spill and 1 structure fire. On the city side we had 3 CO2 gas leaks. We had 2 their classified as structure fires but they weren't actual structure fires. This time of year, we are having a lot of CO2 gas calls and a lot of them people aren't replacing their fire alarm batteries or there CO2 gas meters they are only good for like 5 to 10 years. We are running in to some that are 16 years old and just go off so make sure you're checking your meters and your smoke alarms. Some of them were live gas leaks. I got confirmation today that you can call Northwestern Energy but don't hesitate to call us either but go ahead and call them if you have a problem or we can if we don't feel comfortable enough to rectify the situation and we can get Northwestern Energy out there and they can help with the situation and then maybe fix your problem. The other thing I got is we are still working on our grant the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant the last thing we have is to log in with FEMA go. I have been working with Angela on that and for some reason it has not been going great. We have thought we had it so I have got to get that done this week because those grants are going to be going in but I still think we got a pretty good shot but in case we don't get it I need you guys to be thinking about what we are going to do if we don't get a grant. Its getting down to the wire if we don't get this grant, we need some way to get this equipment. Other than that, I want to wish you all a merry Christmas and be safe and don't hesitate to call us.

Sherriff's report:

No report.

Committee / Board Reports:Planning Board:

No meeting.

Recreational Complex Board:

No report.

Pool Board:

No meeting.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery:

No meeting.

Water/Sewer/Garbage:

No meeting.

Streets/Alley/Sidewalks:

No meeting.

T.I.F.F.:

No meeting.

CTAC:

No meeting.

VII. Public Comment:

Angela: read a letter from Nancy Wheeler regarding articles in the newspaper about the ambulance district please see attached letter.

VIII. Consent Agenda:

None.

Planning Board

None.

Business License

None.

Resignations

No meeting

Health Board Appointments

No meeting.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Mary: Sherriff Doolittle was supposed to be here and canceled because of COVID-19 concerns. He will be here in January. I have talked to him in person that the Council might be cutting his budget because we have had to cut every one's budget. Our time line is we have to have written notice to the other party 90 days prior to the annual renew date of July 1st. Any proposed changes in the contract price will be suspended to the other party at least 30 days prior to the annual renewal date of July 1st. So that's kind of our time line so hopefully he will be here in January to submit a proposal.

Roy: So, he is going to make a different proposal to us is what you are telling us?

Mayor Mary: I think he is going to have a couple different options for us.

Roy: And that is based on discussions about where we are at?

Mayor Mary: Right, I told him the levy didn't pass, that the levy budget had to be cut and that it was only fare that his budget probably be cut also, so that I could give him a head's up so that he could think about different options so that you as a Council have a couple of months and a couple of meetings to decide what you want to do.

Roy: Ok.

X. New Business

A. Discuss and Council determination regarding contract with Ellen Wagner (14 East Legion) and tony Scarborough (2 Division street south) granting easement permission through the leased properties for water lines crossing leading to the new water treatment plant located at 207 East Legion.

Roy: Made the motion to discuss and Logan sconed it.

B. Discuss and Council determination for additional funds of \$ 10,000.00 to jet the sewer lines using funds from the sewer account.

Pat motioned to discuss with Roy seconding.

Mayor Mary: Ok discuss.

Roy: How much money do we have in that budget to do it?

Kory: You know I don't know these dollars we do figure what we spend a month, we should be safe with 10,000.00 dollars.

Shawn: This is the second round?

Kory: Yes, we gander back at the purchase order from last year and it was \$ 7500.00 dollars so we budgeted for \$7500.00 this year so I over spent on the first round. Right now, I feel like we have about \$5,500.00 dollars left from that \$7500.00 deal if we could do this perchance order for \$10,000.00 That would let the \$7500.00 dollars cover it and I think we can do that.

Roy: We are not going to run that account into the red?

Kory: I don't believe so. And we can double check that with Allissa on Monday before you sign the purchase order.

Roy: It would be nice to have Allissa at these meetings so when we have these questions, we can get answers is that a possibility?

Mayor Mary: Well, what we worked out is that the Clerk and the Treasurer would come every other meeting, but we can get the information before the meeting.

Roy: I think it is very important we have those dollar amounts especially when we are doing purchase orders for additional funds so we are not guessing. So, I think if we are going to do this, we either need to have Allissa here or have that number to give.

Mayor Mary: Ok you can make the motion for just preliminary approval and then we will send the information out to you on Monday.

Roy: Monday or tomorrow?

Mayor Mary: Tomorrow excuse me so Tuesday.

Roy: Ok yea.

Shawn: The discussion is basically to see if we have it in that bucket.

Roy: Yea we don't want to totally work it down so tight that we can't pay if there is a disaster, we need to take care of. I am not trying to be a pain I just think that number is very important.

Kory: I totally agree. We can definitely do that.

Roy: So, if you can get those I don't care if you text them to me.

Angela: I can send out an e mail out for everybody.

Shawn: So basically, a motion to approve based on verifying availability of funds within the budget?

Angela: Exactly.

Shawn: Ok that's my motion.

The vote is unanimous.

C: Discuss and determine Newland and company to begin 2019-2020 Town and Court audit.

Pat moved to discuss and Logan scoded it.

Mayor Mary: Ok discuss.

Pat: What was sent to us just seems like word play because it talks about State has to approve it, Does the state have to approve the contract?

Angela: You know what I don't know if they have to or not.

Shawn: No, but I think they have to approve whatever is on that budget.

Pat: Yea that I understand. This looks like more because it keeps saying state has to do this state has to do that it has a here about school board if your school board so is this contract going to be more tailored to what we need or is this the contract?

Angela: This is the contract.

Pat: Because it talks about school board.

Mayor Mary: Yea I think they just have a standard contract for all of us.

Pat: Ok, where did this come from?

Mayor Mary: It came from Newland and Company. They are the ones who have been doing our audits for what the last 6 years.

Roy: I thought we were going to look at a new company?

Mayor Mary: Yes, after we get caught up on these.

Roy: When are we going to be caught up?

Mayor Mary: This is the last one.

Shawn: And this was budgeted for as well?

Mayor Mary: Yes.

Roy: So, when is this last little bit going to be done do, we know?

Mayor Mary: Todd seems to think we can probably wrap it up by the end of this month.

Roy: Because I think don't, we have some issues with our grants and stuff if we don't get these funds?

Mayor Mary: No that was for the last audit.

Roy: So, we are good to go there?

Mayor Mary: Yes, we are good to go there for the grants they will be signing off on those by the end of this month in to January right Kory?

Kory: Inaudible speech.

Roy: And Allissa is working on those?

Mayor Mary: Yes, and Todd is coming back on Friday.

Pat: So, this is just a standard contract non specifically tailored to.

Mayor Mary: Is there any more discussion?

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Joe: I have one more thing I forgot on the title four money, I have actually ordered all the stuff so the title four again the Jefferson county rural that is assigned to Whitehall it's a federal grant thru the state or a state grant and we were aloud up to 19 hundred and something and we will be reimbursed 17

something of it and we finally got the last piece of equipment I ordered so I got to have these receipt in by next week to get reimbursed.

Mayor Mary: Motion to pay bills?

Shawn motioned to approve with Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XI. BILL/ CLAIM APPROVAL LIST TO BE SIGNED BY ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

XIII. Adjourn:

Shawn motioned to adjourn with Roy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date