

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL**  
**P. O. BOX 529**  
**WHITEHALL, MT 59759**

**March 14th, 2022**

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Street, Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Katy James, Bill Lanes, Pat Peterson, Linda Jung, Roy McBride, Treasurer Allissa Christensen, and Mayor Mary Janacaro Hensleigh.

**VISITORS:** Dale Morse, Bridget Morse, Kory Klapan, Liz Pullman, Joe Granvold, Leonard Wortman, Scott Wade, Jenna McNew, Anthony Gill, Cliff Edsall, and Nancy Edsall.

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

Roll Call was taken. All council members were present except Shawn.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Mayor Mary: Okay agenda approval with the small correction on item B under unfinished business. It should say revised resolution 2022-3.

Linda: I would like to request that under the consent agenda that we pull out water, sewer, garbage, streets, alleys, and vote on that separately.

Mayor Mary: Are you talking about item D under new business?

Linda: No under the consent agenda for the water board for the two that are being appointed.

Roy made motion to approve the Agenda with Linda seconding.

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Katy motioned to approve the February 2022 minutes with Roy seconding.

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **VI. REPORTS:**

**Mayor Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh's Report:** I would like to welcome everybody. Thank you so much for coming. Public works is going to be putting up our new spring flags. We had a horrible time with our banners thanks to Whitehall's lovely wind. We tried several times, and they just kept coming down. So, we are going to try flags. Next week the first week of spring we will have spring flags up. Then we will put up tree USA flags around Arbor Day. Then the Veterans put up the USA flags from Memorial Day through 9/11. After they take those down, we will put up fall flags and then holiday flags. It should make the town look fairly festive. The next council meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. We will have the public hearing on the rate proposal at 6:30. We apologize that we didn't get it right this time. We found out after everything had gone out that we were supposed to advertise three times instead of two just one of those little technicalities. Spring cleaning is scheduled for April 26-29 so everybody can start getting ready for that. I just want to give everybody a heads up that we are going to be putting up a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> and A. That is right over here where the two fourplexes are going up. We will have a higher density population of people coming in and out. We have had problems with people using first street as the Indy 500 as they rush down to the Country Store, or wherever they are going. That's in process. Real quick I just want to go over Robert's Rules of Order. We haven't been doing things quite correctly. We have been motioning to discuss and then going to the motion. That is a little backwards. You make a motion it is seconded then goes to discussion. Just because you make the motion doesn't mean you are in favor of it. But in order to move it on to discussion you have to make the motion, get the second. Then we go on to discussion. Now if there is something on the agenda that you do not want to discuss at all then no motion is made. I will say item fails due to lack of motion. If someone makes a motion and no one else seconds it then I say agenda item fails due to lack of a second. If we could follow that procedure, we can get back on track of doing it correctly with Robert's Rules of Order I would appreciate it.

### ***OFFICER'S REPORTS***

#### **Attorney Report:**

No report.

#### **Clerk / Treasurer Allissa Christensen's Report**

I'll start with court. Citation amounts have picked up compared to last year. I have been keeping up with those. When a new citation comes in, I have to schedule, submit paperwork to attorneys and public defenders, and I have to keep track of payments, reports, and appearances. It's good it has picked up. I have schedule two trainings that I will be going to. One for court in April and one for clerk school in May. I have submitted a few grant applications for potential new playground equipment, and that process is slow so I will keep updating on that. After sending more reports last week our audit is finally done. We should be having an exit interview soon. I am hoping this week some time. The girls in the office have been busy with utilities, phone calls, board agendas, packets, minutes, claims, and revenue. I am very grateful for them. They have made this office run much more efficient. Todd is coming tomorrow to help me with the budget and bank recs. Our budget is getting tighter as to be expected because we only have a little over three months left in the fiscal year. We probably need to schedule some upcoming budget workshops. So, expect some emails so we can schedule those. The request for proposal is ready that I

was working on for the park land. It's on the agenda tonight so hopefully we continue to move forward with that. I had the park land survey by Triple R Surveying, and they were fast and priced remarkably. Other than that, I've been doing MCA and ARPA research. If you have any questions or concerns, just come talk to me.

### **Public Work Kory Klapan's Report**

Kory: I will start with water. We took water samples the third of March. We did install the pump on Division Street February 17<sup>th</sup>. We did have the coax cable for our antenna at our water tank break so we had to replace that. We temporarily fixed it. I will fix it a little better when a longer cable comes in. They are going to mill Legion Street and redo Legion Street from the Two Bit from Whitehall Street down. They have two projects here on Legion that we were able to talk to the state, and we can open cut them to put them in if we do it by June 1<sup>st</sup>. I worked on a Tee for our water line that is going to come out under the mini storage and over to the water treatment plant. We are going to try and get it stubbed out under Legion before June 1<sup>st</sup>. I got all the water parts ordered for the two fourplexes on Rice. Sewer. We don't have a whole lot of water for the hayfield this year. It doesn't look like it is getting any better unless we get a bunch of rain. I know these numbers don't mean a whole bunch to you but 4.5 ft in cell 1, 5.5 in cell 2, and 3.5 in cell 3. It equalates out to about 4 ft of useful water we can use which is 8 turns on the pivot less than a month of irrigating. The other Legion Street project that we can open cut if we put it in is the sewer extension down on A street past the public works shop across Legion. We can open cut that and save us a pile of money if we do it by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Roads. We fixed the shoulders on third street by the high school fence. It was absolutely horrible. We put a bunch of ripraps and conda in there and built them back up. We hauled millings to an alley on the south side it was the only one that we didn't line with millings. We swept some intersections. The overlays on Yellowstone, Paul Gulch, and part of Viella are scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> and it's kind of looking like that is going to be the time that happens. That project is kind of nice because we are going to pay for that out of BARSA funds that we have so that won't have to come out of our budgets. The pothole at the Post Office we did just fill with millings. I do plan on cutting that out and fixing it with hot mix when the time comes. Cemetery. We filled up the sunken graves. We had one cremation burial and trimmed some trees. Park. We trimmed some lilac trees in Legion Park. We had 11 locate tickets and 2 callouts.

### **Fire Chief Joe Granvold's Report**

Joe: Since our last meeting we've had 22 calls. I don't have those broke down but year to date is 38. The city got their 4 SCBAs and mask, and the rural also got theirs. So, we got a total of 8 SCBAs, and we just got them last week. I'm still waiting to know if we can order turnouts and I see that is on the agenda. I'm pleased to announce that we got a donation from Town Pump for \$5300 for a total set of turnouts. So that will buy an extra one for somebody. I will be scheduling pump services as soon as they can get in this spring to do that on the fire pump for the city truck.

Roy: Could you in the future could you break those out city and rural calls?

Joe: I can.

Roy: Would you do that for us?

Joe: I have just been so busy at the mine that I just don't have a lot of time right now.

Roy: Well, we need to know what those are.

Joe: I can get them to Allissa, or Allissa can get that information also. I will try and get them broke down. I mean she has that I think; don't cha? The calls? You get the same.

Allissa: Yeah. Just as they come.

Joe: I will try and get them broke down for you.

### **County Commissioner Leonard Wortman's Report**

Leonard: I think filing closed today for the commission seat and all the other county offices. There were 6 other people filed for county commissioner.

Mayor Mary: Alright. The more the merrier.

Leonard: Yeah. Our COVID numbers in the county are way down. We haven't had any new cases since March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Mary: I saw there was only one active.

Leonard: Yeah, there is only one active; and that is me. So yeah no. Anyways we are prepping Daly Road south of town to get rebuilt so we can put millings on it when they do the millings project probably in May. I think the city is getting some of those millings also. I think last I heard they were going to do that in May timeframe. I belong to the Beaverhead Deer Lodge working group which is made up of a lot of different organizations and different viewpoints and whatnot. The Beaverhead Deer Lodge got a new forest supervisor, and she announced at our last meeting that she is making travel management for the entire forest the number one priority. We are going to start moving on doing that. When she originally thought about it, they were going to break it up and just do pieces of it. She had a visit with Vaia Errett from Whitehall, and she is on the county's park, trails, and recreation board. Vaia convinced her that they need to do the entire forest at the same time and she agreed to that finally. So that is what they are looking at doing. Vaia did a heck of a good job doing that. The county is going to be soliciting for a new engineering firm maybe not a new one. But we have to solicit for an on call engineer every few years. I think it's a 7-year contract or something and that is up right now. So, we are going to be soliciting for that here in the near future. The Meridian Bridge down by Willow Creek should be done this summer sometime. We are doing a partnership with Gallatin County and Broadwater County. There has been some delay because of some wetlands concerns and historical concerns or something. But I think it's probably about back on track. Some of our ARPA funds have been going out. We have been giving out some of the grants and whatnot. The other thing is that Borden's has been offered up for sale by JLDC. Actually, we have had some offers and stuff. Hopefully that will be sold in the near future.

### **COMMITTEE / BOARD REPORTS**

#### **Planning Board**

See minutes.

#### **Recreational Complex Board**

No meeting.

**Pool Board**

No meeting.

**Trees, Parks and Cemetery**

No meeting.

**Water/Sewer/Garbage**

See minutes.

**Streets/Alley/Sidewalks**

See minutes.

**T.I.F.F**

See minutes.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Planning Board**

Development permit application / Brenda Sue Hartford / addition to existing structure / 8 East Viella St. / approved.

Development permit application / Brad & Patricia Dana / new structure / 201 S Main St. / approved.

**Business License**

Business license / Domnitz Ornamental / customized plaster furnishings / approved.

Business license / Cafe 1889 LLC / cafe – dining / approved.

**TIFF Board**

Kurtis Koenig

Jenna McNew

**Park Usage**

Austin Finn – August 9<sup>th</sup>

*Roy made a motion to approve with Pat seconding.*

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## Water/Sewer/Garbage & Streets/Alley/Sidewalk Boards

Patti McLaughlin

Ron Jung

*Roy made a motion with Bill seconding. Linda abstained.*

**THE MOTION PASSED WITH LINDA ABSTAINING.**

### **IX. PRESENTATIONS**

Scott Wade: Thank you appreciate it. Thanks for the time and giving me some time on the agenda. I know you guys are pretty busy. My name is Scott Wade and I run an internet service provider company south of here down in Dillon in Beaverhead County also up into Silver Bow and work with some of your other companions up here TSS and MTWEB internet as well. We have been looking at migrating. We have fixed wireless for the last 8 years and providing a service for where there are a lot of gaps as far as high-speed internet goes. The next phase of the progression is to move to fiber so we are looking at opportunities and areas where high speed fiber could be a benefit to the community. We have identified some areas here in Whitehall. Seems like there are a lot of areas in Whitehall that could benefit from that as you don't seem to have a cable provider which typically in the cities offers high speed internet within the city proper. We don't see that here in the city nor on the outskirts of this city. There is a large opportunity and need for high-speed internet, and we see some opportunity that we could work together and put fiber in. Again, working together with TSS and MTWEB. The reason why high-speed internet is important many of you may know that is has become evident with the pandemic and how everybody was requiring to work from home and/or school from home along with the community growth. It seems all the communities across our counties are growing; and so, there is more and more usage and need to be able to work remote and from home. So, what I wanted to talk to you folks a little bit about is there a possibility that we can get a letter of support in order to look at growing out fiber in this area. A letter of support so that we can go out and ask for some grant money that is out there and available. Also, look for the method and process for permitting and the person to speak with on permits as we go out and look for where we need to dig and put in the fiber what that process is. As far as any areas where you might be having projects coming up where we could do a dig once type philosophy and kind of coordinate would be ideal for us as well. On the meeting goals and agenda, I mentioned ARPA funds. I'm translating that to if you are aware of any opportunities or any other financial sources that may be used for a match. We are applying for the connect Montana MT GOV grants which are coming out of Helena for 277 million dollars at up to 10-million-dollar increment buckets. But in order to get a match for up to 10 million it takes a little bit of upfront capital. So, we are aggressively looking at private investing and also other investing that might be available for that. We just ask that if you know of anything or if there are any other opportunities that we may be able to look at in order to try and get some funding in order to do the match that would be quite helpful. We have spoken with the Jefferson Development Land Company and it was presented at the commission meeting about this effort as well. It was well supported in concept but we haven't really found a good source for matching yet. So, if there is anything there, we would greatly appreciate it. I don't know if there is any question or anything that I

can answer or help understand. But those are the goals that we would like to take away from the meeting if we can.

Roy: Where are you going to tap in to get into the fiber?

Scott: There are three that we are looking at right now. One is we have capacity in Dillon, and we already transport some of that near Whitehall. The other source is TSS has access to fiber again working with the Jefferson Development Company. So, we are in discussion about what that might look like in order to deploy that here as well. Then we are talking with other vendors who work with the fiber hotels in Missoula, Helena, and Billings to see what other options might be available. The sad news is a lot of the times it comes down to 3 Rivers not that they are a bad company but they are very expensive to work with. We just haven't found that it's feasible to buy internet directly from them. So, it's usually some type of subsidy or subcontractor who has bought some dark fiber from them that we can usually get a better price on fiber.

Liz: What company are you with?

Scott: Air Grids. We are out of Beaverhead County from Dillon.

Kory: I have a question too. You mentioned you work with MTWEB and TSS. If this was to precede in Whitehall, what roles would you have and they have in this?

Scott: Its all-in discussion right now. There is anywhere from partnering and we have had discussion about what that might be. But we don't have an exact plan laid out in front of us yet. Obviously TSS has ties to the community and some fiber already. It hasn't been pushed out significantly but they have some. MTWEB, we have a working relationship already with band width, and we help each other out basically in the different areas.

Kory: So, you have reached out to both of them?

Scott: Yes. We are in discussion currently. There is no exact role yet.

Mayor Mary: Do you have one of your handouts that you could give to Liz?

Scott: I do. I got a couple extra here if anybody wants them.

Pat: Is this in any way connected to what was discussed during the water board meeting with the water treatment plant going in and laying the fiber optic along the water lines?

Kory: So, I can answer that. No.

Pat: No. Okay.

## **X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Council determination on employee pay scale. Tabled
- B. Council determination on revised Resolution 2022-3, accepting a public utility easement for Town Pump.

Roy made a motion with Linda seconding.

Roy: Where do they want to run the public easement from because that is not the easement where they are closing the road. Is it?

Mayor Mary: I need Kory. Kory, could you come to the podium Roy has a question?

Kory: Okay.

Roy: Are they looking for like a mechanical to put water and sewer in this public easement?

Kory: Where are you at?

Roy: B. Public utility easement.

Kory: So yeah, we have a water and sewer line that goes through Town Pump's property. It would go down Pyfer Street. So that if you vacate it, we need an easement. They are going to reroute our water line. I believe sewer is staying where it is at. But we are going to reroute the water main because it is awfully close to their proposed building site. It's just an easement. Ed has looked at this, and I did have Jason Crawford. They caught nothing in the agreement that was alarming.

Cliff Edsall: Last week me and Nancy went in and talked to Dan Sampson at Town Pump. They have sent us a deal on this right of way deal that we had got. We would have been crazy to sign it. They wanted us to take all the responsibility and liability of anybody that they felt was our customer or something happened on their property which there is no way that we could do that. We looked at that and that was kind of where we were on that. We went in, we sat down and we talked to Dan. We pretty much come to an agreement with them. We sat down and did the big map and everything. It doesn't sound to me like a whole lot is going to change as far as what the flow of traffic is going to be. We may have a little bit of a problem with a little more truck traffic down where we are at. They are going to be moving that pump closer to the street. But as far as the flow everything sounds like it is going to stay pretty much the same. One of our other big concerns that we have had before is the water problem. He assured me that they are going to put these tanks in, and they will contain all the water problems that we've had. I know they are going to do the deals around the pumps and stuff. Like I told them one of the biggest things is that we are on the bottom side of the flow of everything up there so we got to make sure that we catch that. Everything is to a grade to where it's going to go into the drain and then it would seep from that. Which sounds like a really good deal to us. I just wanted to let you know at this point Dan is going to keep us focused on all the meetings and everything that is going on. We will just kind of be on top of it. I just kind of want to push a little bit that I think the city and everybody has to be on top of everything that is going on. The biggest thing up there is that whole thing is going to be blacktop so there is going to be a lot of water. The only drain that is up there right now goes down the alley way and underneath the school. That drain will not contain that water. So, if these drains aren't put in right then it's going to be a problem. That is just one of the big things that we are hoping that everything will turn out. If there is anything we can do or any questions, you guys know where we are at.

Mayor Mary: Thank you Cliff. That is all good news.

Katy: I witnessed what Cliff is talking about with that water and the drain behind his building and going over to the high school. It is a problem back there. So, let's have a guarantee on that being taken care of. It's a little scary because we have residents back there as well as kids coming up the alley and stuff.



Cliff: I really think eventually that should be something the city should really look at and redo that whole line. That is just not a real good system to have.

Mayor Mary: Well, noted. Thank you.

Bill: So, there is nothing farther on the north that can be done to tap into?

Cliff: No. There isn't nothing.

Mayor Mary: It doesn't flow north.

Kory: I can help this a little bit to because I have asked them. I agree with you we all got to stay on top of this. This can turn south on us extremely quick. So, any help that anybody wants to give us I will give it my whole. Hopefully you guys help me with everything you see or do. The north end of that property is going to go into a separate drainage pond from the drawings he has shown me. Then the southern half will go into the drainage pond and then go through the drain you are talking. I think it might be going down around the football field for the north pond but I am not positive.

Cliff: He didn't show us any kind of drain.

Kory: It may be on that north end that they are putting these perforated tanks in there so 100-year rain it should cover. I mean if it was catastrophic flood, it probably won't cover. From what he has assured us that they are going to take care of the run off. There will be two separate a north and a south.

Bill: So, in the contract Town Pump is completely responsible for how it coming down right? Because we don't want to approve this. Was it a few years ago that something happened out there and the city had to pay?

Kory: I believe but I don't know it so don't quote me on it I believe there is an MCA that if you build a building or blacktop you are responsible for that water runoff. So therefore, he is binded by law to take care of it. Am I fair saying that do you think?

Cliff: I don't know but I know the city paid for it the last time.

Bill: That was my concern. I don't think we should do that again.

Mayor Mary: The city had to redo that because it was done without being engineered, and it wasn't done correctly. So, we did have to come back and have it engineered.

Bill: So as long as this is getting engineered correctly.

Cliff: They did engineer that, but Town Pump didn't do it right.

Kory: I do agree with his concern about that drain under the school. It is anything but proper. I believe. I mean it retains water in that alley; sometimes its 2 feet deep. It's not a very good setup. It might be something we have to address sooner or later. It's what we have now.

Linda: And that would be off of Jackson down the alley, right?

Kory: Down the alley. The drain starts right at the school fence and goes under the school parking lot and then goes in between the middle school and the high school and actually discharges by our swimming pool into that ditch is where that runoff goes.

Roy: I think that is something that should be handled at the planning board.

Kory: Yeah. I mean it is a two-foot pipe and it drains. It could be something that could be addressed later.

#### **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A. Council determination on Resolution 2022-1, vacating a portion of Pyfer Street.

Roy made a motion with Linda seconding.

#### **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Council determination on final draft of RFP (Request for Proposal) on developing housing on park land and starting the advertising process.

Pat made a motion with Roy seconding.

Allissa: I've had Ed check out the RFP. It looks good that way. We have two options basically. One the park land that is up there if we sell the land, we have no say what happens up there. If we sold it someone buys it, they could sit on it for twenty years and nothing would happen to it. My goal was to have it for the purpose of housing. So, putting this RFP out we get proposals from people for the purpose of developing multi-unit. By not selling it we have a say of what goes up there.

Pat: I read through the RFP and nowhere does it mention low income.

Allissa: So, this is just recent the last legislative session no more affordable housing.

Pat: So, we can not specify it has to be affordable housing?

Allissa: Correct. Because originally yes, I had put those in there.

Pat: Yes, that is the point. You want to have the land be useful. The big point was getting affordable in Whitehall.

Allissa: Housing period.

Mayor Mary: If we sold it, someone could buy it and put just one house. But if we didn't, we could specify multi-family; couldn't we?

Allissa: In the RFP that was my ultimate goal was to get multiple units because that is revenue for the town. More lines mean more revenue.

Pat: If we don't sell it, we basically donate it to them to a developer with the agreement that they put in multi-unit housing.

Allissa: Correct and then we get that revenue. They have to hook up to the town. We get that tax base and revenue.

Pat: On going tax base.

Allissa: Correct.

Pat: Rather than a one-time sale.

Allissa: Correct.

Mayor Mary: Just like the new development over here on First and A that would be 8 more units which is 8 more utility payments more revenue for the town. It would be beneficial.

Nancy: Can I ask where the park land is that you are talking about?

Mayor Mary: What is the street name?

Kory: Its directly behind the dome house on Skyline.

Nancy: Oh okay.

Allissa: It's not very big.

Mayor Mary: Just across the street from affordable housing.

Allissa: It's about the size of over here where they are building.

Liz: Could you not put a caveat in the RFP saying that homes can be no more than X amount? Is that legal to do? You can't say affordable housing but you can say homes must be under \$200,000.

Allissa: No, I can't do that. I specified in there multi-unit fourplex and duplex. The goal was to get more revenue for the town more tax base.

Linda: I have a question I see under your key parameters the proposal shall build housing but may chose the type of housing from the following options twin home, duplex, fourplex, or town homes. What is a twin home? Is that like a duplex?

Allissa: I think it is like a duplex.

Pat: Duplex is more top bottom a twin is side by side.

Linda: I like the fact that you put in there that they have to finish the landscaping. Complete housing should include landscaping and housing should be compatible in value, design infrastructure, and amenities with the surrounding neighborhood. I think that is important. Housing should include onsite parking which they would. Easily.

Bridget: I have a question I haven't seen the RFP. Does that include sidewalks, curbs, gutters, paved streets like they would have to submit a plan with their proposal?

Allissa: Yes. I believe I did put that.

Bridget: Because so many of these developments like Rocky Mountain Drive that are supposed to have sidewalks and curbs and gutters, but doesn't. It's more than fully built out. Things get left behind if it isn't done first.

Linda: I don't see them in there, but maybe you can point us in the right direction on that.

Allissa: I'm looking right now.

Linda: Good. Thank you.

Roy: Have you sent the RFP out yet?

Allissa: No, I haven't done anything yet. That is why it is on the agenda.

Mayor Mary: We can't do anything without your approval.

Allissa: I can add that.

Linda: Curb and gutter and sidewalk.

Allissa: Yep. I'll add it right now.

Bridget: Isn't that part of the city planning anyway? The new development would have to have that or is that not part of the ordinances and structure?

Linda: It is in our subdivisions.

Allissa: It is in the subdivision. I can reiterate that. I just want to make the council aware of what the options are. We can sell it but the overall goal was to create more housing and more revenue for the town.

Pat: Do we have an idea of how much it might sell for?

Mayor Mary: If we just sold it outright?

Pat: Yeah.

Mayor Mary: We haven't gotten an appraisal.

Allissa: According to cadastral and I don't know how accurate that is. I think it said some like \$8000. But I don't know if that is accurate or not. That is according to cadastral.

Kory: So, I think if you look at the cost comparison like Paul Gulch the vacant lot and the top of Whitetail, I believe that lot sold for \$35,000 when it sold. So, I bet guesstimating your \$40,000 for the raw land pretty close.

Pat: Which if we could get 3 or 4 units in there, we would have ongoing income.

Kory: It would be huge for the town if we could put even 2 fourplexes. That is four water, sewer, and garbage payments a month plus the tax revenue off of it. You would be a lot further ahead to do multi dwelling than sell outright I believe for long term revenue.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Council determination on utilizing CIP funds to purchase gear for new volunteer firefighter(s).

Bill made a motion with Pat seconding

Katy: Are we looking to use that money to buy 2-3 sets of turnout gear? Is that the deal to spend all of it?

Joe: That money is going to be used to buy one full set of turnout gear. That is it.

Pat: And how much is that?

Joe: I don't have the information. I gave it to you guys already. I think it's like \$5300 for a whole set.

Katy: Yes, there is a purchase order in.

Allissa: Yes, it is right here. The girls gave me this. There are three POs. One is for a pager with battery charger for \$466. The turnout jacket, pants, and boots come to a total of \$3349. Then, there is another one for headlamp, helmet, gloves, interceptor hood, wildland pants, wildland coat, wildfire helmet, and side mounted helmet light for a total of \$1250.90.

Linda: The total of those three are?

Allissa: Hold on I'm not that good at math.

Roy: What are we doing buying wildland for the city?

Joe: You can have wildland fires in the city. We have had wildland fires in the city.

Roy: How many did the fire district buy?

Joe: They normal buy us all for the rural side. Everybody has a set.

Roy: So, we only need one set for the town is what you are telling me.

Joe: Yeah. From what I'm guessing the agreement was that you guys would buy a full set of turnouts and the rural board would.

Roy: That is why I'm asking you for the number of calls in town.

Joe: That shouldn't have nothing to do with this.

Roy: Yes, it does.

Joe: Because you still got to have a city fire department and they still got to be able respond to structure fires and fires.

Roy: Why should we pay 50% of everything when we only do 5% of the calls.

Joe: I have asked you guys to go down and talk to the rural board.

Roy: Well, we are going to do that. We will.

Joe: You can ask them that question.

Roy: Because it's never been 50% before.

Joe: It's always been 50/50.

Roy: Not when I talked to Reid the last time.

Joe: It's always been 50/50 for the 20 some years I have been on it.

Mayor Mary: What is available in the CIP fund?

Allissa: After the SCBAs were purchased, that leaves a balance of \$13,407 in the CIP fund.

Mayor Mary: The totals for the three POs is \$5065.90?

Allissa: Mm hmm.

Mayor Mary: Okay. That is what we have to work with.

Joe: It was my understanding that when you guys transferred that \$6000 in there, that was suppose be part of this year's budget.

Roy: But you spent the \$40,000 of the \$50,000 we gave you for a truck.

Joe: The SCBAs have been an ongoing thing for over 2 years.

Roy: But we put that \$50,000 aside for a truck. Where are we going to get the money for a truck?

Joe: I don't know.

Roy: If you spend it, we can't do it.

Joe: It's the same thing with the SCBAs. It's a requirement to have new SCBAs. I have been telling you guys at least the town council now for 3 or 4 years that we need SCBAs.

Roy: And I'm going tell you as a town councilman you should have helped us get the public safety bill passed. I didn't hear you say one word in the community. If you want that kind of equipment you got to get the taxes raised along with us. When we go out you got to help us. You just can't come in here and beat us up every time you need five cents.

Joe: I'm not beating you up.

Roy: I'm gonna tell you right now if you want all that equipment, you better get it on the tax rolls. Because this town can only afford so much. You have spent \$50,000 already.

Joe: My budgets have gone down from \$36,000 or \$38,000 ten years ago to \$12,000.

Roy: I wasn't here 10 years ago.

Joe: I don't know why that is.

Roy: I don't know why ten years ago you got \$38,000. It ain't gonna happen.

Joe: Okay.

Roy: You need to figure out how to work within your budget and still save some money. We have to do it on everything else we do.

Joe: I agree.

Roy: So, you got to help us here. Did you help us pass the bond or get it passed?

Joe: I put several hour and days into the FEMA grant to try and get something going.

Roy: I understand that but we needed help when we had the safety for the police and the fire department to get that extra money into the taxes.

Joe: To be honest with you I didn't believe in the police and fire one together. If you want to do one for the fire department, then I will sponsor it.

Nancy Edsall: I would just like to say that I had several people comment when that came out as far as to vote on. It was the sheriff department and the fire department together. There were people that commented to me through our business that said I wished they would have separated those. Because if it had been just the fire department, I would have voted for it.

Mayor Mary: That is good to know.

Linda: That is good to know.

Joe: I was never guaranteed a certain amount of money out of that whatever it was going to raise. I asked you guys what am I going to get out of that, and you guys said basically you would have to see what you could give me. I'm not going to support something that I don't know what the fire department is getting. That is where I am at with it.

Mayor Mary: That is a separate discussion. Let's stick to the agenda item. Any more discussion?

Bill: Do you anticipate some other things coming up as we are looking at before this expenditure 77% do you see other things? This is just a budget that we are locked into.

Joe: I mean I can't predict what is going to happen. The pump in the truck could go bad. We could blow a tire who knows I can't predict that.

Bill: Yep.

Mayor Mary: So then after these three POs there is approximately what \$6000 left in the budget until the end of the fiscal year.

Joe: At some point we got to be able to have gear for these guys to wear. If you guys have to get with the rural council or whatever that is not my thing to do. I can try to help. I've tried to help get you guys together. I've talked to both sides. Probably go back on the last three or four meetings I've probably said it at every meeting. I don't know what else to do. The town is responsible to have a fire department, and it should have safety gear that protects the guys.

Bill: Joe I think we understand that. We are talking about a budget that is very limited and the money just doesn't come out of the sky. I would advocate as we budget again at budget workshops that I can see why we need to increase into the fire department. But we have to have revenue coming in. It's not

like we are increasing in revenue so much that we are just doing the best we can with what money is there. I hope you can understand that. This is a bigger problem that has been created over years. All we are trying to do is stay in budget.

Mayor Mary: It's a 70's budget at that which makes it even more difficult.

Bill: Yes.

Joe: I can just tell you the requirements is for the city to have a fire department. They have to be suited up. You got to have the equipment for them.

Katy: Joe question for you. With the purchases that have been going this year so far. It's getting us some new equipment in there, replacement equipment etc. Will we be doing the same type of expenditures next fiscal year that we are doing this year?

Joe: Not for SCBA's but that is something that I have talked about trying to get this money going into an account for that kind of stuff.

Katy: I understand the need for the SCBAs. I fully understand that. But all these turnouts that we are getting. If we have members leaving the fire department or something, that means that their gear is there for the next person that comes along.

Joe: Well, it might be. It might fit them, or it might not fit them.

Katy: I understand that too. I have been down that road. Are we going to see the same type of expenditures next fiscal year that we are seeing this year?

Joe: Yes, and more. That gear that you are talking about right now if you look on the receipt that he sent me is going up 12% in April.

Mayor Mary: Yes, everything is going up.

Joe: 12% that is six hundred and some dollars.

Mayor Mary: Okay. Is there any more discussion?

Allissa: Can I just add that this year's budget was set off of what was spent last year. So it wasn't that they were shorting your budget or shorting Kory's budget. This is what was spent last year so that is how we set it this year.

Mayor Mary: Thanks for the clarification.

**BILL WAS IN FAVOR. PAT, LINDA, AND KATY OPPOSED. ROY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING. MOTION FAILED.**

Joe: Here is what it is going to come down to. If you guys aren't gonna support the fire department then you can find a new fire chief.



C. Council determination on extending sewer line from A street across Legion Ave.

Katy made a motion with Roy seconding.

Pat: Does this tie into the water treatment or is this going over on the south side of Legion?

Kory: So, this is sewer for the south side of Legion.

Pat: Okay. The one that we talked about.

Kory: Yep. Right now, the Rice Ford building. It will give us access to any other business over there to use it further down the road. The way our ordinances read you have to be within 200 feet for the town to make you hook up to a sewer service. That building hasn't been. That's why it's still on a well and septic. I think it's time we clear that up. Everybody else pays a sewer bill and water bill.

Bill: Remind me of the cost again.

Kory: Our cost bear with me is fluctuating. So, we started at 110. Since then, I have bartered with the state. The state has bartered with me to open cut that. That is going to save about 40 thousand off the top of that which drops us below having to bid it publicly. So, I can get a local contractor to do the job or bid it locally even which should drop the price quite a bit more. I don't want to guess what the price is going to be but I would say we are more like 60 thousand instead of 110. I would like to say.

Mayor Mary: So, it is saving us money to get this done before they starting working on the road.

Kory: If we have to boar it, that is a huge cost difference.

Pat: It will also bring in revenue.

Kory: Definitely. Anything else that goes on that railroad property over there that is accessible to it and any businesses there.

Bill: We are talking just north of the railroad.

Kory: Correct. We are talking about between Legion and the railroad.

Bill: We are talking if anything would come in from the Rice down to here.

Kory: Or back the other way. Because you can run a service line without going through the street and tearing everything up down the highway easement. It could benefit even Full Circle Tire, the restaurant if something was to happen to their service line.

Bill: I see. They have an existing line.

Kory: Right now, they are clear across. I did kind of dig through some stuff to see what the agreement was on that service line. I can't imagine either one of those two businesses putting in that sewer line without some help from the town. But maybe I don't know how that was set up back in the day.

Mayor Mary: Any more discussion?

Bill: It just seems to be a pretty high cost for a small area. That is just my observation.

Kory: I agree. The way I look at it, it should have been done 30 years ago. That building has been there a long time on a well and a septic. I never understood why it was. Then I found the 200ft deal, and that kind of gives it an explanation. We could dig down A street and put it on this side of Legion. Then force that business owner to boar Legion or cut across Legion which is the expense that isn't right to do. I'm just trying to be fair all the way around to the whole community. There shouldn't be a building in town that doesn't have to partake in water and sewer. I feel that is my whole reasoning of trying to do this.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. Council determination on extending water main, under Legion to water treatment plant.

Pat made a motion with Linda seconding

Kory: The state contacted me two weeks ago and said we are going to redo Legion. I don't want you digging up our street. We are going to make you boar everything that you touch from this point forward. Bill we can talk about funding for that sewer line in our water, sewer, garbage meeting. The biggest drawback to this one is the funding. We can't use water treatment funds because it hasn't gone out to bid. So, we have to fund it somewhere else. I would ask that we use pot A funds ARPA funds to pay this. We have 280 thousand dollars in pot A. I'm guesstimating this to be a 30-thousand-dollar project. Its gonna hurt that pot A a little bit but in the long run its gonna save us a pile of trouble.

Bill: I agree.

Kory: This line will just tee off to the highway right away underneath the pavement. We don't have to tear up the pavement until next year when we hook on to it for the water treatment plant.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E. Council determination on approving new Business License, Development Permit Application, Contractor/ Sub-Contractor, and Acknowledgement forms (approved by Planning Board).

Pat made a motion with Katy seconding

Mayor Mary: Linda is there anything you want to add?

Linda: Just that if you are looking at what we added to your packets. We mainly just cleaned up a lot and made it bolder. We added two new forms which would be the contractor/sub-contractor information sheet. This will help us when somebody comes in like at the Rice Motel. If they have sub-contractors and they don't come in and do business licenses, we need to know who is working on these areas. This will clean these up. The contractor is the one responsible for making sure his subs are registered here to fill out the form. The other one was is the acknowledgement form which we needed a long time. Jenna I will use as an example. Jenna put up a fence. She had to get permission slips from her neighbors. Now we have what we call an acknowledgement form. So, we give that to you when you come in for your

fence application; and you take it around to your neighbors. You put a brief description on what you are doing so they know that. They read it and then they sign it. Then that goes into our permanent file.

Pat: Instead of having each neighbor have to write a letter acknowledging and agreeing to it. It's on one page.

Mayor Mary: Right. It just cleans up the process.

Linda: It does.

Pat: It makes it simpler. Neighbors are more likely to sign their name and say yes then to write a letter.

Jenna: It's faster.

Pat: That was the purpose of that new form.

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Roy made a motion to approve the bill claim approval list with Pat seconding.

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**XIII. ADJOURN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Mary Hensleigh

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

