

**Minutes of Sweetser Town Council**  
**January 28, 2021**

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dave Fox at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:  
Kyle Taylor-Present  
Matt Stewart—Present  
Travis LeMaster—Present  
Dave Fox—Present  
Chuck Briede-Present

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Matt Stewart.

II. **Minutes**

Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting as written. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye  
Matt Stewart-Aye  
Travis LeMaster-Aye  
Dave Fox-Aye  
Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as written. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye  
Matt Stewart-Aye  
Travis LeMaster-Aye  
Dave Fox-Aye  
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- No comments

V. **Department Reports**

**Maintenance Dept.**—Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Devin said he is waiting on a quote from Pinnacle for the needed repairs to the town hall roof.
- Devin reported that he rented a backhoe to load dirt and that he and Jeff started hauling the dirt to the dog park area. The dirt is to be used to level low spots prior to the Sesquicentennial. The town will engage Mitch Cook to level the dirt. In the spring the town will need to rent a rake, or engage Sweetser Maintenance, to break up the clods of dirt prior to seeding the area.
- Devin said the newly authorized stop signs are in. He is anticipating installing those signs and the trail signs at the same time in late February.
- Devin said the town needs a trailer for the camera equipment and requested permission to start shopping for a new trailer.
- Devin said he thinks the town needs a replacement vac truck. The current unit needs at least \$30,000 in repairs. Devin suggested trading in the current truck and the jetter trailer on a newer unit. The replacement unit would come with a hydro-excavator and other features that would replace three separate pieces of equipment that it currently takes to perform a task. Devin said the estimated cost of one possible replacement would be around \$85,000. That unit is through Brown Equipment. Devin is talking with other sources as well. Chuck asked if it would be practical for us to rent a unit from Swayzee or Converse when needed. Devin thinks we would use it often enough that the rental option would not be realistic. Devin will continue to investigate and come back to the council with some additional quotes.
- Devin reported the salt spreader is back in service.

- Devin said American Pump had investigated the Eagle Drive lift station issue and found that the line was clogged at the valve. He said they snaked it out and we should see a reduction in the electric bill going forward.
- Kyle said a resident had inquired about a drainage tile project from a couple of years ago at the north end of Laura Lane and wondered if it had been completed. Devin reviewed the history of the work that had been done. He said the reason water still stands in between the driveways and on the sides of the street at the end of Laura Lane is that the driveway culverts have been removed and there is nowhere for the water to go. Devin said the plan is, in a future project, to reshape the ditches and/or reinstall driveway culverts. The work could possibly be included in a 2022 project.
- Travis said some residents had commented on Facebook that the alleys need new gravel, the “craters” on East Davis Street need to be fixed, and that Peterson Drive is “too high” (because water backs-up into a driveway). Chuck said there is a pothole issue on Hubert just before you get to Main Street. Devin said he would investigate the issues.
- Chuck said he had talked with Ryan about the number of barricades and cones needed for the Sesquicentennial. Chuck thought we may need to purchase a few more as well as ask David White at the Highway Department if we could borrow enough for the event. Devin said he would follow-up on the matter.
- Mitch Hansel of Fleis & Vandenbrink was in attendance and said he had studied the bids received for the 2021 Resurface and Storm Drain project along Davis and Main Streets. Mitch recommended that the town accept the bid from Bragg Excavating of \$200,690.95. The schedule would be for the storm water work to begin the middle of March, sidewalks would start in May, and paving in early July (paving would be subcontracted to E & B Paving).

Travis LeMaster made a motion that the town accept the Bragg Excavating bid of \$200,690.95 for the 2021 Resurface and Storm Drain project along Davis and Main Streets. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Mitch will submit a signed contract to Bragg tomorrow with a notice to proceed and then Bragg will submit a performance bond and evidence of compliance with project insurance requirements.

- Mitch reported that INDOT is bidding out the State Road 18 sidewalk project on March 10. The town will need to submit its 20% match of \$80,000 within 30 days of March 10.
- Mitch said the PAZER ratings need to be renewed this year (they are renewed every other year). He said he will bring a proposed contract to the next meeting.
- Mitch said the council may want to begin thinking about what streets, if any, to do next year for the upcoming letting in July.
- A discussion ensued reviewing the timing and scope of the planned sidewalk projects, placement of cross walks, and location of ADA ramps.

**Police Department Dept.**—Marshal Ryan Hornback was not in attendance.

- Dave Fox distributed the following written report from Marshal Ryan:
  - o I made contact with Capt. Beaty for information on hiring 4 off duty County deputies for the sesquicentennial celebration. The following is a copy of his email reply. There has been a change in their pay at some point. It is now \$30 an hour and not \$25 anymore:

"First I will have to get the detail approved from the Sheriff, second are pay for off duty jobs, other than schools is \$30.00 an hour with a minimum of 3 hours of work unless approved by the Sheriff (but he has been sticking to that number), and third the town would pay the officers directly, but the checks would come to me for distribution to make sure they are correct unless they are going to pay them on the spot. Any other questions ask, and I will talk to the Sheriff about this shortly, keep in mind all this would depend on COVID in the County also. I know that we did not support the popcorn festival last year for that very reason."

I will make contact with the director of EMA and get information on using at least three but maybe four EMA units. If the car show and other events on the west end of town are over at four then I'll probably ask for three. Two will lead the parade from Eagle Estates up to State Road 18 and temporarily close 18 while the parade traffic disperses. One unit will then close Main St. at 18 (or possibly Washington) and the other one will monitor the crosswalk at Pennsylvania and Greenberry. Both of these will work from 10am to 4pm. A second EMA unit will relieve the one at Main and 18 and work from 4pm to 10pm.

My current plan for the celebration is to work from 9am to 5pm and depending on who my second shift officer is, they would likely be on duty at 4. It's hard to say who I will have at this point. The first two county units will work from 10am to 4pm and the second two will work from 4pm to 10pm.

I needed new Taser cartridges and was able get 7 of them for free from Swayzee PD. They upgraded to the new style of Taser and had extra cartridges. They are all expired but they are not as old as old as the one that I have been carrying. In the next year or two we should look at buying a new Taser because they are not supporting the X-26 anymore. I was made aware of a rent to own program where we buy a new Taser for \$1,500-2,000 and pay \$25 dollars for three years and pay it off. Just a thought for the future.

The next thing I'm working on is acquiring stop sticks for the new Tahoe.

I also want to bring up something that I keep forgetting about. The Portable Breath Tester that Bill had isn't working right and I need to ask around to find someone that works on them. If I don't have options on a repair due in part to its age, we might be forced to get a new one so the part time guys have one.

There have been some cases happen such as thefts, domestic issues, backing up county units, extra patrols, vacation checks, and other things that have kept us busy at times. The admin side of things has also kept me busy at times. I have kept the vehicle maintenance current on both Tahoe's and the new one had its first oil change not too long ago.

Kyle also gave me a link to a government program that will loan military surplus equipment to law enforcement agencies. I will look at this program and ask around to see what kind of positive or negative experiences other agencies have had with it.

**Parks Department**—President Steve Kelley was in attendance via Zoom.

- Steve said that he had nothing to report for the Parks Department. However, he said he did notice that some of the information on town website is outdated. Council and clerk will work with site host John Dockery to get the information on the site up to date.

## **VI. Continuing Business**

- Town counsel Michael Hotz distributed an example of a trail use ordinance for the council to consider. A discussion ensued regarding the scope, terminology, definitions, and sanctions contained in the example. Michael will use the results of the discussion to compose a draft trail ordinance for consideration at the next council meeting.
- Kyle said he had received one quote so far for the town ordinance codification project. Kyle will arrange for a presentation at the next council meeting.
- Dave said that at the previous council meeting a discussion had begun about the future of the train cars. Kyle said he had spoken with a representative of the Community Foundation and that she would try connecting us with someone at the Indiana Conventions and Visitor's Bureau to discuss the possibility of obtaining grant funds to rehabilitate and promote the train cars.
- Dave reported that he had received from Shawn Robinson a quote of \$1,000 to repair and repaint the Garfield statue.

Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the quote of \$1,000 from Shawn Robinson to repair and repaint the Garfield statue. Dave Fox Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye  
Matt Stewart-Aye  
Travis LeMaster-Aye  
Dave Fox-Aye  
Chuck Briede-Aye

- Kyle asked if Michael had an update on the possible acquisition by the town of the 118 E. Bragg St. property. Michael said he is working with a couple of colleagues to facilitate the transaction and would have more information later.

**VII. New Business**

- Dave reminded the council that the residential trash removal contract is up for renewal in May of 2021. Chuck said since the contract is greater than \$50,000 it will have to be advertised. There ensued a discussion of the proposed length of the contract (3 or 5 years) and the scope of services (trash removal and curb side recycling, or just trash removal). Michael said he will research the requirements and report back to the council.
- Dave reported that a representative of Colonial Life has asked to make a presentation at the next council meeting.
- Chuck has been researching if the town has collected tap fees from Habitat Houses in the past. A discussion took place regarding the relevant language in the sewer ordinance and the history of the transactions with the Habitat houses. The matter was tabled pending additional investigation.
- Kyle reminded the council that the council still needs to select the liaisons from the council to the departments.
- Steve reported that the town had received a donation from Meijer for the Sesquicentennial in the form of a \$500 gift card.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

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