

SWEETSER TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2018

I. Call to Order/Roll Call of Council Members Present/Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer

The regular meeting of the Sweetser Town Council was called to order at 7:00pm on March 8, 2018 at the Sweetser Town Hall by Council President Rich Gamble.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble – Aye
Chuck Briede - Aye
Steve Kelley-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Rich Gamble. Prayer was given by Matt Stewart.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes / Review and Approval of Bill

Steve Kelley made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2018 meeting and Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Dave Fox-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Rich Gamble-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye
Steve Kelley-Aye

Chuck Briede made a motion to accept the bills as written and Steve Kelley seconded the motion.

Dave Fox-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Rich Gamble-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye
Steve Kelley-Aye

III. Public Forum –

- Ted reminded the Council that because of the upcoming work on the bridge on State Road 18 that INDOT recommends restricting or prohibiting truck traffic in Sweetser. If prohibited, what about farm trucks? If restricted, what weight limits? It was noted that the majority of trucks would most likely be going to the ethanol plant. Devin is going to review issue with Mitch of Fleis and Vanderbrink.
- Public asked when street repairs would begin and Devin responded April or May.
- Public asked if and when the culvert issue would be addressed and Devin responded that there is no plan to address it as it would require a restructuring of the stormwater system.
- Public asked when sidewalk would begin and Devin responded that project had been approved and work would commence in 2021.

IV. Police Department – no report.

Wastewater & Town Maintenance report

- Regarding the wastewater plant issues (ventilation, mold, freezing pipes) Devin distributed recommendations and cost estimates from various parties.
- Devin reported that Triad will be at the plant to hear our concerns on March 15, 2018, at 3 p.m.

- At the February 22, 2018 meeting the Council authorized engaging Design Aire to perform an air study at a cost not to exceed \$2,450. Devin distributed the summary report from that study. The Council expressed concern that the study did not address the ventilation issue which was the primary reason the study was commissioned. Devin & Ted are seeking clarification from Design Aire.
- A consensus was reached that the issues needing addressed (in order of priority) are:
 1. Ventilation – fans should be on continually and should change air 10-12 times an hour.
 2. Mold remediation – roof support needs replaced with non-cellulose material and remaining support need cleaned.
 3. Bury pipes – the plant design was based on outdoor use with pipes buried. If ventilation is proper (10-12 air changes per hour), inside temps will equal outside temps which means pipes will freeze in cold weather.
 4. Some issues with “trash/scum” not being removed from the wastewater and flowing back to digester. This will need corrected at some point. The Council reviewed the plans at hand to see if we could determine if it is a design flaw or something that was missed during inspections.
- Devin reminded the Council that a Community Crossings call is coming up and that will require a decision and time table. He asked the Council to provide him with suggestions and he will then get with Mitch of Fleis & Vanderbrink.

V. Ignite Fuel issue

- Devin reported that there is heavy infiltration at the lift station from the Ignite Fuel location. Town Ordinance 2015-6 addresses this issue. Town attorney Kim Rogers asked particulars be forwarded to him so he can draft a letter to Ignite Fuel.
- Devin reported that a new pump had been purchased (for the lift station?) from Xylem. The cost to repair the existing pump was within a few hundred dollars of the cost of a new one.

VI. Old Business

- Mega Systems may remain a viable option for the town accounting system. Former owner Randy Baker may have a buyer. In the meantime, Chuck Briede and John Potter will continue to evaluate other potential options.
- The town received an engagement letter from Therber and Brock to conduct a rate study for the wastewater plant. Goal is to provide requested data within two weeks so study can commence
- Lighting at the wastewater plant is an issue. The viability of a Solar or LED solution was discussed. Not enough information at this time to properly evaluate, but probably would not fit in budget in any case at this time.

VII. New Business

- Regarding the sidewalk project, Steve suggested it would behoove the council to consider upgrading street lights before the sidewalk project is completed. There may be an 80/20 grant through ECI that we could access. Steve commented that some towns are converting solar. In the near term we probably don't have room in the budget for this project but it would be good to have information concerning recommended solutions and estimated costs.
- There was discussion of setting date for town clean-up day perhaps in June after the town rummage sale.
- Town attorney Kim Rogers reported that Marshall Bill will be filing an animal control ordinance violation on Friday, March 9, 2018.
- There was some discussion about a possible ordinance to require property owners to maintain sidewalks in front of their property. Kim commented that he has some information in this area that he would provide to the council at a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:01pm.

Meeting Minutes taken by:
John Potter / Clerk Treasurer

Stew Miller

Matthew C. Stewart

Charles V. Brown

RDOF
