

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council

June 11, 2020

I. The meeting was called to order by Dave Fox at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:

Rich Gamble—Absent
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 May 28, 2020 meeting. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Rich Gamble-Absent
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

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

Rich Gamble-Absent
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- Richard Street asked if the mold situation at the plant had been rectified. Council replied it has been rectified.
- Mr. Street also suggested that council consider constructing a trash processing plant for Sweetser. Matt said there was a plant in his hometown in New York and he could look into how it operates and its profitability.
- Mr. Street also asked if utility bills could be stopped while people are away for the winter. Chuck and Travis explained why this is not feasible.
- Mr. Street asked about a sidewalk being installed between Allen Drive and the elementary school. Chuck responded that would be done next year as well as summarizing the other project work to be completed this year and next.
- Mr. Street also relayed how valuable Marshal Ryan is. He said that Ryan discovered a gas leak while the resident was away last winter. He also complimented Devin and Patrick for the amount of work they have been doing.

V. **Department Reports**

Police Department Dept.—Marshal Ryan Hornback was present at the meeting.

- Rayn said that things have been slow around town. He said last year a lot of activity occurred starting in July. He is hoping it won't happen this year but, if it does, he is fully staffed and confident they can handle it.

- Ryan said he ordered some red & blue lights for the Tahoe. Also ordered a pair of jumper cables for the second police vehicle.
- Ryan says he generates about one bag of trash per week at his residence. He asked if he could use the town dumpster for his trash. Council was okay with it.
- Ryan asked where we were with purchasing the new Tahoe police vehicle. Chuck responded that the check and paperwork are ready and it's just a matter of someone having the time to complete the transaction.
- Ryan discussed the estimates for outfitting the new police car. Waymire's estimate is \$900 more than the quote we have in hand from Indiana Emergency Lighting. Ryan checked with Bowman's and they are booked a month out. The current estimate he can get down to \$6,300 plus decals. So he thinks we should come in around \$7,000.

Dave Fox made a motion to accept the bid from Indiana Emergency Lighting for outfitting the new Tahoe police vehicle for an amount up to \$7,000. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Rich Gamble-Absent

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Matt asked if we had located any stop sticks. Ryan said he is still working on it.
- Ryan mentioned that the current laptop mount from the charger is too far away and needs to be closer. So there may be an additional expense to get that corrected in the new vehicle.
- Dave said he had a meeting with the Harter's of Laura Lane about the 11 vehicles on a property on Laura Lane. The Harter's were asking what could be done about the situation. Dave said we need to do something about that property and the one across from the post office. Ryan said the property owner across from the post office is waiting for the BMV to open to get plates for all of his vehicles. Ryan said the property owner on Laura Lane is substantially in compliance. Chuck suggested perhaps we could go through Area Plan Commission if our relevant ordinance does not contain sufficient sanctions to help us in addressing the situations. Ryan said he would contact Area Plan.

Parks Dept.—Parks President Steve Kelley was present at the meeting.

- Steve reported that trail restroom is open and operational. He also reported that the new water fountain has been installed.
- Steve said he would begin working to sell the sign spots.
- Steve said there were lot of limbs down along the trail. He said Mike Mark took his tractor and pushed everything to the edge of the trail. Travis posted a Facebook request for people to come on Friday, June 12, at 9 am help clean-up the trail. Steve said the Rescue Mission said they were going to bring about 15 people to help.
- Chuck said they installed the new fencing at the Pawadise Park on Sunday.
- A discussion ensued about how the town clean-up went. Consensus was it was tidier than in years past. Capacity was again an issue. There is some concern that non-residents are using the dumpsters. Possible solutions discussed were moving the dumpsters to the treatment plant area and locking, having the town personnel collect the items and dump, or having people present some identification proving they are residents of Sweetser.
- Dave still working on the power pole at Pawadise Park.

Maintenance Dept.—Superintendent Devin Cole was at the meeting by video.

- Mitch Hansel said CCG grant application window opens July 7 and closes August 3. We are looking at improving the drainage on South Main Street and Davis Street and blacktopping North Main Street. The total estimate is approximately \$220,000, with \$130,000 for resurfacing and \$90,000 for storm sewer improvements. Mitch said he would come-up with engineering estimates in the next two weeks.
- Mitch said Fleis & Vandenbrink would like to rent the town's reflectometer for \$5,000 for a sign inventory project in Rushville. The project will last two to three months.

Chuck Briede made a motion to lease the town reflectometer to Fleis & Vandenbrink for up to 3 months for \$5,000. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Rich Gamble-Absent
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye

- Mitch said they were applying for railroad permits for the Main Street project. It has to be reviewed by Genoese Wyoming's engineers. Work should begin next April or May and completed before the 150th celebration.
- Bridge closure will happen next summer. They are going to resurface 18 during that time. Fleis & Vandenbrink will coordinate the sidewalk and ADA ramp installations with INDOT. The INDOT contractor will replace the cross walk markings.
- Mitch says we don't have a crossing signal for the east side of the school intersection and will likely need to install one. Question is do we need one for the south side as well.
- Travis said we received a notice of an EPA QMAR study that is due by August. Devin said that is due every three to four years and he could work with Ed Asher of the Converse treatment plant if he needed any assistance in completing the survey.
- Devin said resident John Moore helped them for about five hours in cleaning up after the storm. Devin said they would probably be working on the clean-up through Tuesday.
- Devin said the storm water improvements on Broadway are finished. They hope to get to Meridian next week or so with paving to follow sometime in July.
- Devin said he is working on a 90/10 railroad grant that, after Main Street is paved, would provide for new markings at the crossing.
- Devin said the locates have been called in for the Gray property project and hopes to have it done next week.
- Devin said our tornado sirens are fine but did not work during the last bout of storms because the county has gone to central dispatch and there are some communication issues that have yet to be worked out.
- Devin said Eagle lift station work is complete.
- Short street check valves are in and will be replaced next week. That should rectify the higher electric bills at that location.

VI. Continuing Business – town counsel Michael Hotz was present at the meeting

- Regarding the Church Street property, Michael says quiet title has been advertised.

VII. New Business

- Steve related that he was on 2 1/2-hour video conference call with Rails to Trails regarding the Great American Rail Trail that will go across the entire United States. He said Indiana is close to having their section completed and would one of the first states to do so.
- Chuck said that there are a couple of letters that need to go from the Sweetser Redevelopment Commission to the Town Council, the County Auditor, DGLF, Pleasant and Franklin Townships, and the Oak Hill School Corporation. One is the affirmation that there is no excess assessed valuation for the Sweetser TIF and the other is the notice of the Sweetser Redevelopment Commission meeting on June 25. Clerk will forward to the required parties.
- Chuck reported that we received our spring draw from the county. He reported that the TIF fund continues to grow and could be useful to help with future paving projects in light of the likely reductions in the MVH budgets.
- Matt suggested we may need to have a representative begin attending the county EMS meetings.
- Town counsel Michael Hotz suggested that first violations of the nuisance ordinance be addressed to individual violations rather than publishing the entire ordinance in the newspaper.
- Next meeting is 7pm, June 25, 2020.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Chuck Briede to adjourn the meeting and passed by voice acclimation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
