

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
August 27, 2020

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

Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020 meeting. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

III. **Bills**

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

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

IV. **Public Forum**

- Resident Ms. Alex Schuler appeared again to follow-up on her concerns about and opposition to the proposed sidewalk along Main Street that would run through her yard. Council member Matt Stewart's property would also be affected by the project and Matt expressed some concerns. Mitch Hansel of Fleis & Vandenbrink proposed some alterations to the project that would be within in the project budget but would require some increased design fees. Mitch distributed to the council details of the increased design fees. Mitch will inquire of INDOT if those design fees could be incorporated into the project. The proposal would still have a sidewalk installed as contemplated in the original project design but would add features that would improve drainage and allow for easier yard maintenance around the sidewalk. A discussion ensued of the perceived safety issues involved, the original reasons for the proposed sidewalk, and the current and future pedestrian and traffic patterns in the area. Mitch reminded everyone any changes to the project will have to be submitted to INDOT by the end of September.

Chuck Briede made a motion to authorize Fleis & Vandenbrink to investigate with INDOT proposed changes to the 2021 sidewalk project to incorporate improved drainage and ease of maintenance features. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Matt Stewart-abstain
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-No
Chuck Briede-Aye

Motion failed. After further discussion,

Dave Fox made a motion to reconsider the motion to authorize Fleis & Vandenbrink to investigate with INDOT proposed changes to the 2021 sidewalk project to incorporate improved drainage and ease of maintenance features. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Motion to reconsider passes.

Chuck Briede reintroduced the motion to authorize Fleis & Vandenbrink to investigate with INDOT proposed changes to the 2021 sidewalk project to incorporate improved drainage and ease of maintenance features. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

V. Department Reports

Maintenance Dept.—Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Mitch Hansel of Fleis & Vandenbrink distributed for signing the INDOT contract for Des. No.: 1902847 for the 2024 and 2025 Sidewalks and ADA Ramps.
- Mitch also presented for signing the \$70,000 engineering design contract for the 2021 SR 18 and Main Street project.
- There was a discussion of Patrick Alvord's employment status and whether we need to begin a search for his replacement. Patrick may have been offered and accepted another position.
- Devin reported that Mitch Cook had finished the town's portion of the work on the Gray property and just had a couple of items to complete for the Gray's portion of the project.
- Chuck suggested that Devin's staff need to have a regular schedule to empty the trash cans and clean the restroom long the trail.

Police Department Dept.—Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance.

- Ryan summarized two recent felony arrests made in the Sweetser area. Neither of the cases were Sweetser Police department cases.
- Ryan said his department had been busy with many non-crime related issues. He discussed activities related to gun permits, ticketing, ordinance enforcement, and accident reports. Chuck thanked Ryan for attending to these details of the position.
- Ryan reported that all scheduled work on both Tahoes has been completed.
- Ryan said he got new tires today for the old Tahoe. He will use the old Tahoe for EVO (Emergency Vehicle Operations) training.
- Ryan said the driver door panel on the old Tahoe needs fixed or replaced.
- Ryan said the duty ammunition for their 45's is old. Rather than replace the 45 ammunition, Ryan suggest trading some unused 45 service guns (we have three) for 9-millimeter service guns.
- Ryan said he only needs about a month to schedule security and coordinate with FEMA to cover the Sesquicentennial event. Chuck initiated a discussion about which roads would be closed for the event and how and where security would patrol the event. Cost of security was discussed, and it was suggested that it will probably cost a minimum of \$25 an hour per person.

- Chuck requested that if Ryan could not attend the council meeting that he submit a report prior to the meeting.
- Ryan said the decals on the Tahoe turned out very nice. He would like to have the old Tahoe decals done the same way at some point.
- Steve Kelley asked if there were any updates on the Laura Lane property that has several vehicles stored on the grounds. A discussion ensued about the relative merits of using local ordinances or Area Plan Commission ordinances to address property maintenance and nuisance violations.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve said there had been some windows broken out of the train caboose. Steve said the current camera security system is inadequate and he implored the council to consider purchasing a professional system to help address the increasing vandalism. Ryan discussed the costs and cabling requirements for a professional system.
- Steve said that vandals had pulled-up a couple of posts at the trail and CR 700 west. Ryan said that there have been reports of people gathering to swim at the IMI plant just off CR 700 west and that there had been a report of a break-in at the plant office.

VI. Continuing Business

- Matt distributed an estimate of \$3,500 from Giselbach Electric to build a box for the dog park for this year with 15 standard 110-volt outlets and two 220-volt outlets. AEP will connect electricity to the box for no charge.

Travis LeMaster made a motion to accept the estimate from Giselbach Electric of \$3,500 and authorize them to build a box for the dog park for this year with 15 standard 110-volt outlets and two 220-volt outlets. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Absent

Chuck Briede-Aye

- A discussion ensued with regards to the location of the box within the dog park and securing the box. Also discussed was the potential for adding RV pedestals sometime in the future.
- Matt asked town counsel Michael Hotz to provide an update on the quiet title process for the Church Street property. Michael said there has been no response to the notice of quiet title and thus the town could request a default judgement to obtain title to the property. Michael will try to have the written request ready for signature at the next council meeting.

VII. New Business

- Clerk provided a 2021 budget update and a discussion ensued about possible dates for the Public Hearing.
- Michael initiated a discussion of the contract proposed by the railroad to allow the town to build a pedestrian crossing (asphalt sidewalk) in the railroad right-of-way. The proposal contemplates a \$300 annual lease payment from the town to the railroad. INDOT must approve first before the town takes any action.
- Travis inquired of Michael of the status of the notification of a council member vacancy. Michael said he will follow-up with the court.
- Matt inquired if the town would be adding the church as an additional insured on the town policy for the Harmony Music Festival.
- Travis summarized the positive fund-raising results for the Sesquicentennial.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
