

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
September 10, 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**

Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 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, Matt Stewart 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**

- No comments

V. **Department Reports**

Maintenance Dept.—Superintendent Devin Cole was not in attendance.

- Clerk resubmitted for signatures INDOT contract Des. No. 1902847 which was originally signed on August 27th. INDOT returned the contract for completion of some missing items.
- Mitch Hansel of Fleis & Vandenbrink reported that he and Devin met with INDOT to discuss the proposed drainage changes to the 2021 sidewalk project and the additional engineering design fees related to the proposed changes. INDOT indicated that the changes were approved but none of the additional engineering design fees could be added to the state funded portion of the contract (thus the town would be responsible for 100% of the additional engineering design fees of approximately \$9,785).

Chuck Briede made a motion to accept the contract with Fleis & Vandenbrink for additional engineering fees of approximately \$9,785 for the proposed changes to the 2021 sidewalk project to incorporate improved drainage and ease of maintenance features. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

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

- Mitch initiated a discussion about the possibility of the town engaging Tina Henderson of Mendenhall and Associates to conduct an income survey, with the goal of qualifying for an OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs) grant to reline the sewer in the original town plat (south of State Road 18 to the railroad tracks and east and west within those north-south boundaries) . Results of the surveys

are good for four years. The town last had one taken in November of 2015. The town did not qualify for a grant from the results of prior survey. Mitch distributed a proposed methodology from Mendenhall and Associates for a new survey. After discussion, it was decided that Mitch will coordinate a meeting between Tina Henderson and a member of the council to further discuss the proposed survey. Said member will report back to the entire council.

- Dave Fox informed the council that Patrick Alvord has resigned his position with the town. A discussion ensued of a possible candidate for the position.
- Chuck reported there is a sinkhole on Greenberry Street that needs attention.

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

- Dave reported that Ryan said the new Tahoe is working well and that the department has been a little slower compared to this time last year.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve initiated a discussion of the 2021 Parks budget and the needs for next year prior to the Sesquicentennial. Steve said that his original goal was to get the train cars painted, but he has discovered that within the first mile of the trail (starting downtown and heading east) there are 15 dead trees and 24 stumps that should be removed this year, if possible. Steve said he had two quotes for the work: one for \$4,000 and one for \$4,500. Matter was tabled.
- Steve reported that another window had been knocked out of the caboose. Steve intended to fix it with plexiglass, but there is a shortage. He also said there are several other repairs that need to be done on the caboose.

VI. Continuing Business

- Matt said that Giselbach Electric will be starting construction tomorrow on the temporary pole and electric box at the dog park. Indiana Michigan will install the new permanent pole afterwards.
- Matt presented the rental agreement between the town and the church for the rental of the dog park for the Harmony Music Festival.
- Matt reported that the town and the church had been added as additional insureds on their respective insurance policies for the music festival.
- Matt asked town counsel Michael Hotz to provide an update on the quiet title process for the Church Street property. Michael said it is with the judge and we should have it by the end of the week. Once it is signed by the judge Michael that he will have the title company issue the title insurance policy.
- Michael reported that he had read through the proposed lease contract with the railroad for an installation of a sidewalk on railroad owned property. Michael had some questions about the insurance requirements, safety requirements, and drainage & lighting requirements. The lease is for \$300 per year with an automatic 3% increase per year. Council will take the matter under advisement.
- Matt inquired of the status of filling the council vacancy. Michael said he will get back with the clerk of the court to make certain the process is moving forward.

VII. New Business

- Dave reported that DeWayne & Nancy Baldwin of 604 Maple St. has requested a waiver of the late fee charged on their most recent utility bill. Her payment history was reviewed and judged to be in good standing.

Dave Fox made a motion to waive the late fee on DeWayne & Nancy Baldwin's recent utility bill. Chuck Briede seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Dave Fox-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

- Travis initiated a discussion of honoring hometown hero's and beautifying the streets by obtaining banners to be placed on utility poles in the town. Travis discussed the experience of other communities

and how the banners are financed. Travis will put together a detailed proposal for the council's consideration.

- Steve said he had obtained the cost to add another banner to the new sign and that the additional banner would fit without removing another banner. The cost to the town is \$200 and the price for the privilege of being on the sign is \$250.
- Clerk initiated a discussion of the timeline for the 2021 budget process. It was decided the public notice would go out by September 28th, the public hearing will be October 8, and the adoption meeting will be October 22.
- Chuck said that the council needs to schedule an executive session to discuss employees and then schedule employee reviews. Session was scheduled for September 24 at 6 pm.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
