

Regular Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 12-8-14

The Town of Ethan board met in regular session on December 8, 2014 at the Ethan City Hall at 5:00 pm. Members present were Lisa Hjellum, Robert Fitzgerald, Howard Caylor and Dale Meinke. No members were absent. City personnel present were Sonya Hespe & Brett Scott (left at 8:00 pm). Others present were Tim Bottum (left 5:39m), Aaron Gerlach (left 6:22 pm), Bob Brenner (arrived 5:05 pm, left 6:41 pm), Nancy Schoenfelder (arrived 5:24 pm, left 6:41 pm).

Chairman Hjellum called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
All motions were unanimously voted as aye unless stated otherwise.

Motion Fitzgerald, second Caylor to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Caylor, second Meinke to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2014 regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Motion Caylor, second Fitzgerald to approve the claims as presented. The claim to Muth Electric in the November 10, 2014 minutes was voided and a new claim was issued.

General, capital outlay, sewer, water and preservation funds - employee and board wages \$5,649.04; Muth Electric, construction \$2,500.00; Hanson Rural Water, bulk water \$3,564.40 and loan payment \$423.00; Agland Coop, fuel \$91.00; Campbell's Supply, supplies & tools \$95.46; Card Services, postage & supplies \$419.11; Daily Republic, publishing \$120.56; Davison County Auditor, sheriff protection \$1,800.00; Maxwell & Bowar Agency, insurance \$14,771.00; Menards, supplies & tools \$490.03; Morgan Theeler LLP, legal \$365.00; Northern Truck Equipment, supplies \$687.17; NorthWestern Energy, utilities \$861.34; Petty Cash, postage & supplies \$24.25; Santel, telephone \$131.08; SD DENR, certification renewal \$18.00; SD Dept of Revenue, testing \$133.00; SD One Call, locates \$1.05; SD Retirement, retirement \$710.40; SPN, services \$3,489.25; Weber Sanitation, garbage service \$1,269.99; Intuit, fees \$3.39; Aflac, insurance \$100.68; Farmers State Bank, payroll tax \$1,410.22; SD Dept of Revenue, sales tax \$104.06; USDA – RD, loan \$368.27 and \$1,023.00; WorldPay, credit card machine charges \$27.92.

OLD BUSINESS

Attorney Tim Bottum informed the board that a default judgment has been issued against Bill Kretschmer for the nuisance violations. A court hearing has been set for Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

An update was given on the water meter project. All meters are installed but we're still waiting for Badger to get the radio system going. Motion by Hjellum, second Fitzgerald to approve an agreement with Hanson Rural Water System that the city will pay them \$200 annually to connect a meter to the water tower for the city to record the usage of how much water we're buying from HRWS.

Lagoon project update was given. There are only a few small items left on the punch list.

Motion Fitzgerald, second Meinke to accept the agreement for a one-year extension on the Safe Routes to School grant.

No update on the street project that was listed on the agenda.

There was some confusion on the sale of the old city shop after the November 10, 2014 meeting. A motion had been made declaring the property as surplus. An appraisal was done and talked about at the November meeting but not approved. Motion Hjellum, second Meinke to approve the appraisal that was presented at the November 10, 2014 meeting. The purchase order for the sale will include the stipulation that the building must either be torn down and the hole filled or if left standing it must comply with IPMC guidelines. There were two parties that gave checks to the city for purchasing the property. If both parties agree to the purchase order it was suggested by the attorney that a coin toss or some other type of drawing be done to see which interested party will get the building.

Nancy Schoenfelder asked the board to gather more information and have a town hall type meeting regarding the purchase of the Catholic Church by the city to be used as a community center. She suggested having a committee formed to come up with suggestions & facts to be discussed at the meeting before a definite yes or no decision is made.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion Hjellum, second Caylor to accept the resignation of Trustee Joe Long effective November 18, 2014. If anyone is interested in filling the vacant position until the next election they should attend the special meeting on December 19th and talk to the board. Motion Hjellum, second Caylor to accept the resignation of animal control officer Will Andersen.

Aaron Gerlach approached the board and asked if they would consider negotiating on the amount due for a special assessment on a property that will be sold at a sheriff auction this week. The amount assessed is currently \$3,652.47 for mowing & weed eating. Motion Fitzgerald, second Hjellum to approve a reduction on the amount special assessment against if the property is bought by Aaron.

Motion Hjellum, second Fitzgerald to approve the 2015 liquor license for Chubby's Bar and the Ethan American Legion contingent upon property taxes being paid.

Ethan Pride & Betterment submitted an application for the Community Matching Grant. The board will ask to hold off on this until more funding is received for the project.

The board approved supporting House Bill 1198 that will be presented to the legislature during the next session. The bill would allow cities to vote on adopting a penny sales for infrastructure projects.

BankWest in Mitchell requested the city use them as a depository. All accounts will stay with the banks the city is currently using.

The board approved holding a joint election with the school on April 14, 2015.

A first reading was given of the 2014 supplemental budget.

CITIZEN INPUT

No citizen input.

REPORTS

Monthly reports from sheriff's office.

There will be a special meeting on Friday, December 19th at 9:00 am. The next regular board meeting is Monday, January 12th at 5:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion Hjellum, second Fitzgerald to enter into executive session at 8:00 pm pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2.1.
Hjellum declared executive session over at 8:36 pm.

Motion Fitzgerald, second Hjellum to increase Sonya Hesper's wages to \$19.00 per hour.

Motion Hjellum, second Caylor to adjourn at 8:36 pm.

Sonya Hesper
Finance Officer

Lisa Hjellum
Chairman

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