

Regular Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 2-10-10

The Town of Ethan board met in regular session on February 10, 2010 at the Town Hall at 7:00 pm. Members present were Nancy Schoenfelder, Robert Fitzgerald and Josh Franks. Member absent was Chad McGuire. City personnel present were Sonya Hespe and Brett Scott. Others present were Kevin Termeer, Lonnie Roth, John Hart, Patricia Puepke, Dale Meinke, John Sonne, and Kathy Roth.

Chairman Schoenfelder called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.
All motions were unanimously voted as aye unless stated otherwise.

Motion Fitzgerald, second Franks to approve the agenda with additions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2010 regular meeting

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to approve the claims as presented.

GENERAL FUND

Brett Scott	salary for March 1 paycheck	
Josh Franks	wages	\$41.56
Nancy Schoenfelder	wages	\$41.56
Robert Fitzgerald	wages	\$41.56
Sonya Hespe	wages \$504.99; mileage \$6.80	\$511.79
Aflac	employee insurance	\$77.06
Agland Coop	fuel & oil	\$273.07
Avera Queen of Peace	random drug test	\$50.00
BPI	supplies	\$130.36
Campbell Supply	supplies	\$62.02
Circle H Trading Etc	snow removal \$1240.00; repairs \$35.00	\$1,275.00
Daily Republic	publishing	\$414.54
Farmers State Bank	payroll taxes	\$396.00
Interstate Power Systems	generator	\$15,061.00
Lower James RC&D	annual dues	\$55.00
Maxwell & Bowar	workmans comp insurance	\$325.00
NorthWestern Energy	street lights \$497.26; shop \$112.60; Christmas lights	\$748.20
One Call Systems	bi-annual billing	\$14.70
RBS WorldPay	freight on credit card machine	\$34.59
Santel	telephone	\$86.32
Schoenfish & Co	1099's	\$25.00
SD Retirement	retirement	\$165.96
Sturdevant's Auto Parts	repairs	\$51.12
UMB Card Services	supplies	\$120.38
USDA – RD	loan payment	\$654.72
Weber Sanitation	garbage service	\$1250.00

*** previously approved claim Brett Scott \$1407.19

SEWER FUND

Brett Scott	salary for March 1 paycheck	
Sonya Hespe	wages	\$168.31
Aflac	employee insurance	\$25.68
BPI	supplies	\$74.51
Farmers State Bank	payroll tax	\$113.64
MARC	chemical	\$764.59
NorthWestern Energy	utilities	\$59.21
Santel	telephone	\$30.33
SD Retirement	retirement	\$55.32
UMB Card Services	supplies	\$62.10
USA BlueBook	supplies	\$131.83
USDA – RD	loan payment	\$368.28

*** previously approved claim Brett Scott \$469.06

WATER FUND

Brett Scott	salary for March 1 paycheck	
Sonya Hespe	wages	\$168.31
Aflac	employee insurance	\$25.68
BPI	supplies	\$74.51

Farmers State Bank	payroll tax	\$113.64
Hanson Rural Water	bulk water	
NorthWestern Energy	utilities	\$19.76
Quentin & Jill Myers	deposit refund	\$63.50
SD Dept of Revenue	water testing	\$24.00
SD Retirement	retirement	\$55.32
UMB Card Services	supplies	\$62.10
USA BlueBook	supplies	\$96.71
USDA – RD	loan payment	\$368.27
*** previously approved claims Brett Scott \$469.06; Hanson Rural Water \$2,881.40		

OLD BUSINESS

Equipment was tabled from the last meeting. The board asked about the condition of the truck and tractor. Scott said both are running but not efficiently. He would suggest replacing the truck before it breaks down instead of spending money on repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Termeer representing the Ethan Fire Department requested approval to hold the Ethan Fun Day again. This year the fire department is looking at having the street dance on Friday, June 4th. The Fun Day events would be on Saturday, June 5th. They are also thinking about having a youth dance at the park on Saturday night. Permission was granted for these activities.

Schoenfelder told the other board members that she has had citizen complaints about vehicles being parked on the east side of Cook's In along the County road. She talked to the county commissioners and they suggested sending a letter requesting a setback at the intersection. Fitzgerald asked if the town could also submit a request for a 4-way stop at the corner of Elm & 2nd. A letter will be written to the county requesting these items.

There were two property tax abatement requests received. One was for Javern & AnaMae Hofer of \$6.17. The second was for Ethan Fire District of \$23.82. Motion Fitzgerald, second Franks to approve the abatement for both properties.

The water & sewer rates for the school were discussed. The school did get the \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons of water increase along with all properties in town when the rate increase took effect in February. However, currently the school only pays one surcharge for the main building and no surcharge for the meter at the shop or football field. The school only had an increase of \$0.17 per month for the sewer when other properties increased by \$1.00 per month. This was partly due to the school being on a budget and not having any other increase factored in to their budget. Scott suggested that the school should have a higher water surcharge than a household because they have a larger meter that allows access to more water than a household. In his opinion, the sewer rates are comparable to an average household. After other discussion a motion was made by Fitzgerald, seconded by Franks that starting with the schools new fiscal year in August the school will pay a surcharge for each meter. The sewer rate will be reviewed in more detail when Jay Larson from MAP meets with Finance Officer Hespe to review all rates being charged for water and sewer.

Options for the design of the new city shop and office were talked about. No one outside of the board members or employees had submitted any ideas. The design is still in a planning stage and no decisions have been made yet. The public is encouraged to come to the March board meeting and let the board know what they would like to see in the building. Patricia Puepke asked if this would go to a public vote or if the board would just build. According to the SD Municipal League there does not have to be a vote to approve or disapprove a new building.

Puepke also asked who Brett Scott's boss is. She thought there was a conflict of interest with Nancy Schoenfelder being on the board since she is Brett's mother-in-law. All board members are his boss but Brett's contact board member is Bob Fitzgerald. Schoenfelder is informed on situations that arise along with all of the other board members. However, she does abstain from any personal issues that pertain to his employment, such as employee evaluations and so forth.

REPORTS

Scott informed the board that the water usage is good right now. The infiltration at the lagoon is still very high, especially for this time of year. Snow removal issues were talked about. The emergency snow route around the school has been a problem because of the off street parking on the east side of the school. He would like to remind everyone to please not park on the street when there is 2" or more of snow.

Hespe gave the sheriffs report to the board. They installed a computer program that will now allow them to track hours. There are 2 deputies that are not on the computer system yet. Without the hours of those two officers the department still had over 26 hours reported for the month of January. Josh Franks will be the town board representative for Lower James RC&D. Hespe asked the board about the utility bill at Terry Mathis' house. His family has not been paying anything but does not want the water shut off. The board felt that his property had to be treated the same as any other property in town and the bill would have to be paid. If the family chooses to have the water shut off they can pay the "seasonal account" fee. Hespe informed the board there is an informational meeting on March 2nd about the Board of Equalization process. Hespe also asked the board about ordinance enforcement, specifically how much time is allowed to correct the problem and what are the fines if not followed. This will be addressed at the March board meeting.

The next regular board meeting is Monday, March 8, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to adjourn at 9:51 pm.

Sonya Hespe
Finance Officer

Nancy Schoenfelder
Chairman

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