

Regular Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 1-11-10

The Town of Ethan board met in regular session on January 11, 2010 at the Town Hall at 7:00 pm. Members present were Nancy Schoenfelder, Robert Fitzgerald and Josh Franks. Member absent was Chad McGuire. Others present were Sonya Hespe, Jay Larson, Joe Long, Dennis Puepke, Dale Meinke, Gallus Thill and Marilyn Thill.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

Equipment was on the agenda but was tabled due to Scott not being in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

Jay Larson from Midwest Assistance Program explained the procedure the town will need to use to develop a five-year capital improvement plan. Everyone in town is encouraged to submit projects they would like to see completed in Ethan over the next five years. If anyone has a project they would like to submit stop in the office and get a form from the finance officer. All ideas need to be turned in by the February meeting. Larson will go through these projects at a later date with the board to prioritize them. Larson will also go through the process to help set up the financial part of these projects.

Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to hold a joint election with the school in April.

Motion Fitzgerald, second Franks for the following designations for the year 2010:

Newspaper, Daily Republic; engineer, SPN; attorney, Doug Dailey; banks, Farmers State Bank in Parkston and First National Bank in Mitchell; board pay, \$45 per meeting; Finance Officer wages, \$10.00 per hour; maintenance supervisor pay, \$27,660 salary plus a health insurance reimbursement of \$6680.76 annually; mileage rate, \$0.40.

The Ethan Fire District is applying for an energy grant through District III. The fire district is not a member of District III so the grant is going through the city for the grant. The grant funds will be paid to the city and then the city will pay the fire district. Motion Fitzgerald, second Franks to adopt the following resolution for the grant process.

RESOLUTION # 2010-1

WHEREAS, the Town of Ethan, South Dakota has identified the need for the implementation of energy conservation measures, and

WHEREAS, the Town proposes to sponsor and application for the Ethan Fire District to accomplish the following projects:

- Replace the heating system at the Fire Hall with more efficient models;
- Replace the Fire Hall's existing overhead and pedestrian doors at the Fire Hall with higher insulated models; and

AND WHEREAS, the Town of Ethan, South Dakota is eligible to apply to the State of South Dakota for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) assistance for the proposed project(s) as

- 1) The Town of Ethan is included in the latest Census of Governments (2007) as an incorporated municipality; and
- 2) The Town of Ethan has a governance structure with an elected official and governing body; and
- 3) The Town of Ethan was not eligible for a direct allocation of EECBG under the ARRA program.

WHEREAS, with the submission of the EECBG application the Town of Ethan assures and certifies that all EECBG program requirements will be fulfilled,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Town of Ethan duly authorizes the board chairperson to sign and submit all necessary paperwork for the EECBG application on behalf of the Town of Ethan, South Dakota.

This resolution is effective immediately upon passage.

Adopted this 11th day of January 2010

Nancy Schoenfelder, Board Chairperson

ATTEST: Sonya Hespe, Finance Officer

At the special meeting on December 30, 2009 the snow removal procedure was talked about regarding snow removal around the fire hall. It was decided that the city will push the snow in front of the fire bays and door to get it out of the way for emergencies. The maintenance supervisor will come back when time allows and remove the pile. If a bigger snow storm comes or time does not allow the city to remove the pile then the fire district will hire someone to remove the pile. Also regarding snow removal, Schoenfelder stated that she has had phone calls about residents moving snow from their yards and wanting to know if they could put it someplace in town. After all of the snow we have received the piles in peoples yards are getting too high to see when backing out of driveways or along the streets. Joe Long asked if the snow could be placed on the land east of the cemetery. A payloader would have to come in and make a path first. If you have a pile that you need to move contact Scott and he can let you know where you can take it. However, the city will not move the snow for you. Long also stated in the past the city has contracted with the county to move snow on Main St from the old cheese factory to the ball park and then on 6th Street from the ball park to Hwy 42. Schoenfelder will check with the county on this.

The board would like to encourage the residents to submit suggestions for what they would like to see in the new city office. If you have any ideas turn them in to the city office by Friday, February 5th. At the board meeting on February 8th there will be an open discussion period where the residents can express their thoughts on the new building.

Hespe presented to the board a bill that is being proposed to the legislature this year. If passed this bill would allow each town in the state to add a third penny sales tax. There would have to be a vote within each town to pass this before it would go into effect. If the citizens in the town approved the increase the additional funds can be used for general, sewer and water fund capital projects. The additional tax is only for a specified time period and ends when the time is up or the dollar goal has been reached, whichever is sooner. The SD Municipal League was asking for support from all towns in the state to help let the legislature now there is interest in this bill. The decision of the board was to not support this bill.

REPORTS

Hespe presented reports from Scott for the water tower readings and infiltration rates.

Hespe told the board that she was asked if the city would get a speaker system for the board meetings. There have been people in attendance that cannot hear what is being talked about. This will be checked out.

OTHER BUSINESS

Schoenfelder told the other board members that the city needed to change the locks on the doors at the fire hall. It's not known how many keys are out for the building when it was being used by various groups. The citizens present at the meeting said they felt that the fire district should be the ones to change the locks since they own the building and they were the ones that are no longer renting it to other groups. The city will not be changing these locks.

The city had applied for a grant that would cost share 50% of the cost of a generator. A letter was received noting the city was approved for this grant. Approval was given for Hespe and Scott to go ahead with purchase of the generator.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2009 regular meeting and the December 30, 2009 special meeting.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

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

GENERAL FUND

Brett Scott	wages for February 1 paycheck	
Chad McGuire	wages	\$83.11
Josh Franks	wages	\$83.11
Nancy Schoenfelder	wages	\$83.11
Robert Fitzgerald	wages	\$83.11
Sonya Hespe	wages	\$798.95
Aflac	employee insurance	\$128.42
Agland Coop	fuel & oil	\$244.81
Daily Republic	publishing	\$283.41
District III	annual dues	\$498.00
Farmers State Bank	payroll taxes	\$665.00
Farmers State Bank	cashiers check for land purchase	\$13,895.50
Gary Stadlman	snow removal	\$127.20
Maxwell & Bowar	insurance	\$64.00
Menards	supplies	\$44.84
Morgan Theeler	legal	\$37.00
NorthWestern Energy	street lights \$465.37; shop \$18.78	\$484.15
Palace Motors	pickup repairs	\$506.12
Santel	telephone	\$87.49
SD Retirement	retirement	\$290.50
USDA – RD	loan payment	\$654.72
Weber Sanitation	garbage service	\$1250.00

*** previously approved claim Brett Scott \$1407.16

SEWER FUND

Brett Scott	wages for February 1 paycheck	
NorthWestern Energy	utilities	\$54.93
Santel	telephone	\$30.33
SD DENR	annual fee	\$50.00
USDA – RD	loan payment	\$368.28

*** previously approved claim Brett Scott \$469.08

WATER FUND

Brett Scott	wages for February 1 paycheck	
Hanson Rural Water	bulk water	
NorthWestern Energy	utilities	\$24.98
UMB Card Services	supplies	\$35.60
USDA – RD	loan payment	\$368.27

*** previously approved claims Brett Scott \$469.08; Hanson Rural Water \$2655.80

Dennis Puepke talked about the water and sewer rates at the apartment and duplex units in town. He said those units are getting a discount compared to a single family home. The board and Hesse told him what information they had and why the decisions were made on the rates that are being charged starting February 2010. This topic was on the agenda more than once in the past several months and people could have expressed their concern at that time. The decision has been made and will stand as the last motions were passed.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to go into executive session at 9:35 pm for personnel and vacant board position. Schoenfelder declared executive session over at 10:37 pm. Motion Fitzgerald, second Franks to increase Hesse's wages to \$11.00 per hour and to add her to the state retirement system. It was decided to not appoint any one at this time to fill the vacant board position since there is only three months left of this term.

Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to adjourn at 10:58 pm.

Sonya Hesse
Finance Officer

Nancy Schoenfelder
Chairman

Published once at the approximate cost of \$_____.