

Regular Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 1-9-12

The Town of Ethan board met in regular session on January 9, 2012 at the Methodist Church basement at 7:00 pm. Members present were Lisa Hjellum, Robert Fitzgerald, Dale Meinke and George Puetz. Member absent was Nancy Schoenfelder. City personnel present was Sonya Hespe. Others present were Chris Lingemann (left 8:41), Marilyn Hart (left 8:41), Marilyn Thill (left 8:41), Brenda Reinfeld (left 8:41), Rich McBrayer (left 8:15), Tom Freidel Jr (arrived 7:08, left 8:15), Eric Ambrosion (arrived 7:12, left 8:41).

Vice-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 Hjellum to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Fitzgerald, second Puetz to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2011 regular meeting and the December 22, 2011 special meeting with the following corrections to the December 7 minutes. Under New Business, the 7th paragraph regarding the purchase of the snow bucket should read "Motion Hjellum, second Fitzgerald to purchase a bucket in 2011." Under Reports, the street signs need to be changed by 2015, not 2012.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Motion Puetz, second Fitzgerald to approve the claims as presented excluding the claim to Lemke Digging. This claim should be billed to the contractor that caused the break and not to the Town.

General, sewer and water funds - employee and board wages \$3,844.33; Aflac, insurance \$141.32; Agland Coop, Ethan Bucks \$25.00; Agland Coop, fuel \$51.20; Bob Brenner, rent & utilities \$450.78; Campbell Supply, repairs \$59.43; Card Services, postage & supplies \$220.07; Colonial Research, chemical \$229.96; Daily Republic, publishing \$306.48; Farmers State Bank, payroll tax \$643.11; Hanson Rural Water, bulk water \$2,632.40 and tower payment \$423.00; Hilary Nesheim, water deposit refund \$85.00; Maxwell & Bowar Agency, insurance \$103.00; Menards, supplies \$41.99; Morgan Theeler LLP, legal & easement \$2,723.00; NorthWestern Energy, utilities \$543.74; Pfeifer Imp, snow bucket \$1,480.00; Planning & Development District III, annual dues \$516.00; Santel, telephone \$117.37; SD Dept of Revenue, sales tax \$87.91; SD Dept of Revenue, testing \$24.00; SD One Call, locates \$3.15; SD Retirement, retirement \$333.00; Tom Whitaker, water deposit refund \$16.00; USDA – RD, loan \$368.27 and \$1,023.00; Weber Sanitation, garbage service \$1,250.00; WorldPay, credit card machine charges \$9.70.

PUBLIC HEARING

Motion Hjellum, second Fitzgerald to enter into a public hearing for the funding application for the wastewater project.

Eric Ambrosion from Planning & Development District III gave another review of the cost of the project which is approximately \$1.1 million. An application was submitted to SD DENR under the Clean Water SRF program for a 30 year loan at 3.25% interest. The funding plan is to finance the entire project through DENR with the hopes of a 50% forgiveness. This would leave a loan repayment of \$550,000.00 with a payment of \$26,810.00 annually. Ambrosion shared that the town has increased the sewer rates to cover this loan payment and operating costs. The DENR meeting to find out if funding is approved for Ethan's project is set for March 29th in Pierre. Motion Fitzgerald, second Hjellum to close the public hearing.

OLD BUSINESS

The pole barn that was purchased from Lester Buildings out of Minnesota was discussed. The building is currently located on the DakotaFest grounds in Mitchell and needs to be moved this spring. Motion Puetz, second Meinke to declare the building as surplus and advertise for bids to be opened at the February board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion Meinke, second Hjellum to approve the following designations for the year 2012: Newspaper, Daily Republic; engineer, SPN; attorney, Morgan Theeler Law firm; banks, Farmers State Bank in Parkston and First National Bank in Mitchell; board pay, \$45 per meeting; Finance Officer wages, \$13.50 per hour; maintenance supervisor pay, \$31,261.89 salary plus a health insurance reimbursement of \$5,745.60 annually; mileage rate, \$0.40.

Marilyn Hart requested that the Chairman and Finance Officer sign off on a legal description change regarding some land she owns. The boundary of this property has not changed, just the legal description was listed wrong in survey records. Motion Puetz, second Meinke to approve the change.

A tax abatement was presented to the board for \$24.44 for property belonging to Tom & Cheryl Stirling. The abatement was requested for the abandoned house they tore down on 1st Street. Motion Fitzgerald, second Hjellum to approve the tax abatement.

Motion Fitzgerald, second Hjellum to change the ordinance relating to dog tags. Roll call vote; Aye, Hjellum, Fitzgerald, Puetz; Nay, Meinke. Motion passed. A first reading of the changed ordinance will be read at the next board meeting.

Two delinquent utility bills were discussed. Since they can't be assessed to taxes they will be turned over to small claims. Motion Hjellum, second Fitzgerald to approve the bills being turned in to small claims.

Motion Puetz, second Meinke to advertise in the Daily Republic and Parkston Advance and with SD Career Center for the Finance Officer job opening. Closing date will be the February board meeting.

REPORTS

No reports were presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion Hjellum, second Fitzgerald to enter executive session at 8:44 pm.
Hjellum declared executive session over at 9:30 pm

The next regular board meeting is Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 pm at the school.

Motion Hjellum, second Meinke to adjourn at 9:34 pm.

Sonya Hespe
Finance Officer

Lisa Hjellum
Vice-Chairman

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