

Regular Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 7-7-09

The Town of Ethan board met in regular session on July 7, 2009 at the Town Hall at 7:00 pm. Members present were Nancy Schoenfelder, Robert Fitzgerald, Josh Franks and Chad McGuire. Others present were Sonya Hespe, Brett Scott, Dale Meinke, Lyle Lingemann, Patti Scheich, Len Scheich, Sheriff Dave Miles, Chief Deputy Steve Brink, Gallus Thill, Jacob Aragon, Jason Riggs, John Hart, Deputy Don Radel, Dan Schrader and Jerry Backes.

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

Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to approve the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Sheriff Miles gave an update on the contract between the Davison County Sheriff Department and Town of Ethan. The sheriff department will be reviewing rates that other counties charge and will then draw up a new contract. Sheriff Miles recommended the town look into putting speed bumps along the streets by the school. Most violations the department has are stop sign violations in that area.

Jason Riggs talked to the board about the 5 lots he owns on the west end of Main Street. He is asking \$4,000 per lot and would possibly sell 2 or 3 lots instead of all 5. The city has been looking into lots for a new city office/shop.

There was talk at the June meeting about changing the rates at multi-family dwellings in town. Currently each multi-family dwelling pays water and sewer per building and not per unit(s) in the building. Lyle Lingemann, Patti and Len Scheich were in attendance to express their concerns on this change. After discussion it was decided that this will be looked into more before a decision is made.

First reading of the revision to Ordinance 2.3.6 was read. This ordinance regards the date of the regular monthly board meetings. There was an addition that if the meeting date falls on a holiday the date will be set by resolution.

There was an update given by Hespe on the budget. At the June meeting it was stated that money would be transferred from the general fund to the sewer fund. It was pointed out that money cannot be transferred from the general fund to an enterprise fund. Therefore the budgeted sewer fund will show a negative for fiscal year 2009 however there is money in the fund to cover the expense.

NEW BUSINESS

No one from the park board was present to give an update that was requested at the June meeting.

John Hart was on the agenda for two topics. First was about the gravel roads by his house. He complained that the gravel has too many big pieces and they're getting into his yard. He is concerned about spending \$50 a year on mower blades from these big rocks. He feels that the city should mow a strip on both sides of the road. Schoenfelder rebutted that the city has been making a better effort the past 4-5 years about preserving the roads. Scott said that we could purchase gravel from other places in the future. Hart's second topic was the parade. Hart said the parade coordinator did not ask the city's permission for a parade. It states in ordinance section 4.7.1 that prior approval needs to be obtained for any public gathering on city streets or public grounds. He also stated that section 10.1.3 prohibits certain animals in town and that there were horses in the parade. This ordinance pertains to animals living in town. Schoenfelder told Hart that he has continuously brought negative comments to the board and that he should try bringing things to their attention in a positive manner. Hart also had a written comment about feeling he was discriminated against by being told that he had to give 7 days notice to be added to the agenda. Let it be known that the city website states "If you would like an item on the agenda, you must get it to the finance officer 7 days in advance.". This applies to everyone not just Hart. For future reference this will be changed to state "If you would like an item on the agenda, you must notify the finance officer by noon the Friday before the meeting. Notification must include your name and the topic you wish to discuss."

Motion Franks, second McGuire to rescind the previous motion to accept the previously approved agenda and to add Hanson Rural Water. The item was missed by Hespe.

Engineer Jerry Backes from Bartlett & West gave an updated presentation to the board about the potential new water tower with Hanson Rural Water.

The Rural Fire District made a decision at their last meeting that effective January 1, 2010 no organizations will be able to use the community room. The city office can still use the room for daily use and board meetings. The city will be responsible for cleaning. The board will ask the women's auxiliary to clean the room every two weeks.

A list of projects the city has were discussed. Topics mentioned were dirt silos, chip sealing of streets, school project, Ash Street project and city shop. The quotes were looked at for the chip sealing. Topkote had previously submitted a quote of \$1.65/yard but did not include pink rock. Commercial Asphalt submitted a bid of \$2.20/yard including pink rock. With the cost of rock from a different resource and Topkote's quote, the total cost would be about \$27,000 for 17 blocks. Commercial Asphalt would be \$32,000 for 17 blocks. Motion Franks, second Fitzgerald to accept quote from Topkote to do chip sealing.

Hespe inquired about the \$100 reconnect fee. The original intent of the high fee was to try to get water/sewer bills paid on time. Hespe presented the board with a list of reconnect fees from other towns. After some discussion there was a motion by Franks, second by McGuire to change the rate from \$100 to \$25 with an after hours charge of \$35. A first reading will be read at the August meeting.

Dale Meinke asked about the road by his house. He gets a lot of water build up in his yard.

REPORTS

Scott gave an update at the lagoon. There are about 50,000 extra gallons going through. As of July 7 it is at 181,000 per day. Cell 3 is completely full. Cells 1 & 2 have about 6" to work with. He said the rain and sump pumps are a contributing factor but not the only cause. As a reminder, it is illegal to run sump pumps into the sanitary sewer system.

Hespe notified the board that Jay Larson from Midwest Assistance Program could come in and talk to the board about setting up committees. Hespe feels it would be more efficient to have the board broke down into committees rather than have all of them handle everything. Ray Wermers had expressed concern with Hespe about the trucks at the lumberyard running all night. The board will mention this to the lumberyard. Hespe will schedule a special meeting with SPN to further review the proposed wastewater project they presented.

August board meeting will be Monday, August 10th at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion McGuire, second Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2009 board meeting.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

Motion McGuire, second Franks to approve the claims.

CLAIMS

July 7, 2009

<u>General Fund</u>		
1	Brett Scott	salary
2	Chad McGuire	salary \$41.55
3	Josh Franks	salary \$41.55
4	Robert Fitzgerald	wages \$41.55
5	Sonya Hespe	wages 1161.30; mileage 132.00 \$1,293.30
6	Terry Mathis	salary \$41.55
7	Agland Coop	fuel \$144.60
8	Bill's Trucking	gravel \$480.00
9	Campbell Supply	supplies & pickup toolbox \$233.33
10	Daily Republic	publishing \$241.11
11	Davison Co	2nd quarter sheriff protection \$1,500.00
12	Ethan Coop Lumber	supplies \$23.85
13	Farmers Alliance	supplies \$258.27
14	Farmers State Bank	payroll taxes \$627.72
15	Menards	supplies \$322.11
16	Michele Uhing	refund overpayment \$11.00
17	NW Energy	street light 403.97; fire hall 8.00 \$411.97
18	Santel	telephone \$90.63
19	SD Municipal League	workshop registration \$40.00
20	SD Retirement	retirement \$276.60
21	US Treasury	payroll tax correction \$249.11
22	USDA - RD	monthly loan payment \$1,023.00
23	USDA - RD	monthly loan payment \$368.27
24	Weber Sanitation	garbage service \$1,250.00

*** previously approved claim Brett Scott \$1,427.86

Water Fund

1	Brett Scott	salary	
2	Brett Scott	supplies reimbursement	\$23.41
3	DSG	meter pits	\$3,677.10
4	Hanson Rural Water	6/09 usage	
5	Michele Uhing	refund overpayment	\$20.00
6	NW Energy	utilities	\$25.92
7	SD Dept of Revenue	water testing	\$12.00
8	Violet Koutz	deposit refund	\$50.00

*** previously approved claim Hanson Rural Water March usage \$2354.20 ; Brett Scott \$475.96

Sewer Fund

1	Brett Scott Bender's Sewer & Drain	salary water jet sewer mains	\$266.00
2	Brett Scott	supplies reimbursement	\$23.41
3	Colonial Research	chemical	\$420.00
4	Michele Uhing	refund overpayment	\$17.00
5	NW Energy	utilities	\$68.37
6	Santel	telephone	\$30.22
7	SPN	collection treatment	\$3,000.00

*** previously approved claim Brett Scott \$475.96

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion McGuire, second Franks to go into executive session for personnel review at 10:44 pm.
Schoenfelder declared executive session over at 11:29 pm.

Motion McGuire, second Franks to give Hespe a \$0.50/hour raise effective August payroll.

Motion Fitzgerald, second McGuire to adjourn at 11:31 pm.

Sonya Hespe
Finance Officer

Nancy Schoenfelder
Chairman

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