

Regular Meeting, Ethan Town Board, 11-7-11

The Town of Ethan board met in regular session on November 7, 2011 at the Ethan School at 7:00 pm. Members present were Nancy Schoenfelder, Lisa Hjellum, Robert Fitzgerald, Dale Meinke and George Puetz. No members were absent. City personnel present were Sonya Hespe & Brett Scott. Others present were Wilma Grunewaldt, Marj Engel, Beverly Nearhood, Harold Nearhood, Howard Caylor (left 8:03), Brenda Reinfeld, Marilyn Thill, Marilyn Hart, Betsy Raymond (arrived 7:14, left 8:03) and Rich McBrayer (arrived 7:14, left 8:03).

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

Motion Puetz, second Meinke to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Hjellum, second Fitzgerald to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2011 regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

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

General, sewer and water funds - employee and board wages \$3,347.21; Aflac, insurance \$128.42; Agland Coop, fuel \$455.48; Bob Brenner, rent \$250.00; Card Services, postage \$93.10; Commercial Asphalt, street repairs \$40.04; Daily Republic, publishing \$254.20; Farmers State Bank, payroll tax \$593.53; Hanson Rural Water, bulk water \$2,932.10; Maxwell & Bowar Agency, insurance \$599.00; Menards, supplies \$118.16; Morgan Theeler LLP, legal \$2,034.00; NorthWestern Energy, utilities \$501.51; Santel, telephone \$109.72; SD Dept of Revenue, sales tax \$94.01; SD Dept of Revenue, testing \$12.00; SD One Call, locates \$4.20; SD Retirement, retirement \$312.62; USDA – RD, loan \$368.27 and \$1,023.00; Weber Sanitation, garbage service \$1,250.00; WorldPay, credit card machine charges \$8.18.

OLD BUSINESS

Puetz asked the board to consider signing a contract agreement with Larry Jirsa to be placed on a retainer as the city architect. The decision was made to wait until the building is actually purchased.

NEW BUSINESS

Rich McBrayer on behalf of the Ethan Rural Fire District requested the board to consider reducing or waiving the surcharge fee on the water bill. He said there are other surrounding towns that give their fire departments/districts a reduced rate. The board would like to take some time to think about this and will have an answer at the next meeting.

The fire district submitted a building permit for an addition to the current fire hall. There is a water line that runs north & south on the east side of the existing building that feeds the county shop and a residence. The new addition would be over this line. If the line would break it would mean tearing out the floor of the building to repair the line. There was no easement put in place when the property was sold to the fire district regarding this line. There was discussion about rerouting the water line so that the current line would no longer be used. The Town will obtain estimates on the cost to reroute the line and will make a decision then.

A first reading was given of the 2011 supplemental budget. Money will be transferred from the contingency fund to two departments in the general fund. Motion Puetz, second Meinke to supplement General Fund, Fire department for the amount of \$20,000 with a State Grant that was received for the same amount.

The city landfill will be closed for the season. If items need to be taken out, residents can make an appointment. Scott asked the board about expanding the cleanup of the cattails at the lagoon. The waterway should be cleaned out, permission was given to do this. Scott also informed the board and public that contrary to rumored complaints, the cattails have no contamination and they can be taken to the city rubble site to be used as compost or as a bank buildup. This was confirmed with a call to SD DENR.

Hespe asked that the regular meeting date in December be changed. The next regular board meeting is Wednesday, December 7th at 7:00 pm at the school.

Motion Puetz, second Meinke to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Sonya Hespe
Finance Officer

Nancy Schoenfelder
Chairman

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