

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2021

Present: Mayor Tyler Gibson

Trustees: Christy Brady, Jim Howard, Ted Locke, Trustee Maltbie, Dan McVey

Absent: Trustee: Mike Cooper

Guest Present: Holli Locke, Bernie Alvarez, Leslie Stewart

Guest/Phone: None

Staff Present: Merna McGinnis, Town Manager, Treasurer

Tammy Newman, Town Clerk

Katrina Martin, Police Chief

Keagan Gonzales, Police

Joan Day, Admin Police Department

Heath Piper, Electric Superintendent

Don Steerman, Town Attorney

- ITEM 1 Call to Order:** 6:00 pm
- ITEM 2 Roll Call:** Trustee Brady, Trustee Cooper, Trustee Howard, Trustee Locke, Trustee Maltbie, Trustee McVey, Mayor Gibson
- ITEM 3 Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Mayor Gibson.
- ITEM 4 Prayer:** Led by Trustee Maltbie.
- ITEM 5 Approve minutes:** February 11, 2021 Board of Trustee Regular Meeting, and Special Trustee Meeting February 23, 2021.
Trustee Locke made a motion and seconded by Trustee Maltbie to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 11, 2021 and the Special Meeting on February 23, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.
- ITEM 6 Approve Bills**
Trustee Brady made a motion and seconded by Trustee Howard to approve the bills. Motion carried unanimously.
- ITEM 7 Farmers Market Leslie Stewart:**
Ms. Stewart would like to organize a Farmers Market summer activity for Springfield and Baca County. Ms. Stewart wondered if Trustees would be supportive of the idea, and what all would need to be done to make this happen. This event would possibly be every other Saturday and would like to stay on Main Street. Memorial Park, City Park, Town Hall parking lot, Courthouse, Peoples Credit Union or JW Petro parking lots would be places to consider. There are 3 to 4 vendors that would be there every time but have a list of 30 plus vendors that sell things from the county and would like to get them involved, consisting of crafts, meats, fruits and vegetables. There would be no charge for space, vendors would bring their own tables, chairs and shades. Ms. Stewart is trying to get a committee together and will check with Walsh to see if they could alternate Saturdays. Town Attorney Don Steerman said we could get a liability waiver from all vendors and would satisfy the insurance part. Town manager McGinnis said could get some event insurance through CIRSA. Trustees in favor of moving ahead wonderful idea.

ITEM 8 Element Engineering-Proposal for Professional Engineering Services:

Mayor Gibson presented a contract with Element Engineering for professional services in pursuit of USDA Loans and grants to fund the water/wastewater project.

Town Manager McGinnis stated if going to go ahead with project this needs to be signed and sent back. Town Attorney Don Steerman said this is a standard agreement. Trustee Howard wanted to bring forth an alternative proposal for a filtration system to sell drinking water, don't need to spend 5 million dollars to redo the system. This could start a new business, water delivering service, hire new employees to deliver and help elderly with the water in their house, (5 gal bottles). Trustee Locke agrees with Trustee Howard and would like more studies to show why we need to do this project, as the treated water will be wasted watering lawns, flushing toilets, etc. They would like to have engineers look at it again. Mayor Gibson pointed out it is more cost effective to raise the water rates which are rather low, than it is to purchase bottled water. Trustee Brady worries about the legality of not having safe tap water. Town Attorney Don Steerman said the state is becoming more stringent on their regulations and may end up having to filter out the water anyway down the road.

Well 10 & Well 13 which are the town's largest wells would be tied together and ran through the filtration system before put into the water system for safe drinking water. Trustee McVey stated that at the last meeting it was discussed and voted to do this project and was unanimously passed to start the process. The Board discussed the water and sewer rates and what has to happen over the next 2 years to get the rates to the increased amount of \$16.21 for a total of \$23.71 for the water base rate and to increase for the sewer rate \$2.27 to get it to the \$17.27 rate. Also making the water rates into a tiered structure will generate more revenue to help pay for the project.

Trustee McVey made a motion to go into contract with Element Engineering. Trustee Brady seconded.

Yes-Trustees McVey, Brady, Locke, Maltbie, Mayor Gibson

No-Trustee Howard

Motion passed.

ITEM 9 Water/Wastewater Rate Fees:

Town Manager McGinnis, explained that example used was off of her personal highest water bill last summer at 52,000 gallons of water and what the cost was, compared to the new proposed tiered rate for resolution 2021-4. Trustee McVey suggested to increase to \$2.00 for the next 18,000 gallons.

ITEM 10 Resolution No. 2021-4:

A resolution establishing and/or modifying water user charges, tap fees and deposits. Trustee McVey made a motion to pass resolution 2021-4. Second by Trustee Howard, Motion Passed.

ITEM 11 Resolution No. 2021-5:

A resolution establishing sewer user charges and sewer tap fees. Trustee Maltbie made a motion to pass resolution 2021-5. Second by Trustee Brady, Motion Passed.

ITEM 12 Public Comment for non-agenda items:

Planning and Zoning Chairman, Bernie Alvarez presented Attachment #2 on SECH, Intergovernmental review consultation form, proposal: PJ820720. Construction on the Hospital.

Hollie Locke addressed the Board on banning commercial trucks on town streets. Trustee Locke also addressed the Board to look into Walsh's' ordinance on no trucks on town streets. Add this next month agenda.

ITEM 13 General Business:

No general business discussed.

ITEM 14 Administrative Reports**Town Manager/Treasurer Merna McGinnis**

Ms. McGinnis discussed the wage comparison spread sheet. Boise City, OK, Plains, TX, Santana, KS, Syracuse, KS, Sublette, KS and Lakin, KS was added to the list that was handed out last month.

Ms. McGinnis reported Ryan Wade painted the dog pound, so that has been completed.

Ms. McGinnis stated one of the spring toys at the city park has been replaced as per insurance company CIRSA. A trash can has been placed by the basketball courts. Armando Burciaga has removed the stumps from the park. Purchased a used edger for the park, from Jerrod Summers.

Ms. McGinnis reported on the landfill inspection. While we passed, the town needs to do an engineering and operation plan, to be done by September 1, 2021. The town needs to apply for a permit to use alternate daily ground cover. Trustees were given a hand out on a spray on ADC Mulch, which could be used as an alternate daily cover. The landfill operators would like a chipper for the landfill so they can chip the wood as it comes in. The landfill compactor is down and will need Wagner to work on it, estimate just under \$10,000.00. Ms. McGinnis stated the landfill is still receiving items that is not supposed to be in the landfill. The State Inspector doesn't want any more tires at the landfill or we are going to have to get a special permit.

Ms. McGinnis reported on the airport taxiway grant money available for 2022 budget year. There is \$400,000.00 available with a 10% match. This grant has to be in by end of next week. The town can use in-kind as part of the 10% match, which would include removing the old asphalt.

Fire department got a grant to purchase a used truck, Steve Bush is in route to go get it from Florida and take it to Illinois to get it fitted out.

Electric Superintendent Heath Piper:

Mr. Piper stated that Greg Ming with GM Construction will be here to do the boring 1st or 2nd week in April. Mr. Wilson didn't have any paperwork on removal of the fuel tanks. Mr. Piper will talk to Mr. Rothman whom took the tank out last spring 2020 and see if he can get something from him.

Town Clerk Tammy Newman

Ms. Newman discussed the 2021 Holiday Schedule. Trustee Brady made a motion to accept Holiday schedule as presented, Trustee Howard seconded. Motion passed.

Town Attorney Don Steerman

Mr. Steerman stated there were 3 code enforcement cases taken to court on March 3, 2021 and the town was successful. The defendants have 30 days to clean up the properties or the town can abate the cleanup cost to their property taxes.

Mr. Steerman will work with the staff to clean up the employee manual on March 25, 2021. Mr. Steerman is working on a Resolution for the master fee schedule on the building code. Mr. Steerman stated he wrote a contract for the scrap metal with Charlie Turner.

Police Chief Katrina Martin

February Police report was presented to the Trustees. Chief Martin stated that there are only two full time officers working. Riley Cooper and Dustin Martin have been filling in part-time to help out. Chief Martin stated she has an applicant for the open position, but they will have to go to academy in

the fall so will be a next year before can handle calls on his own. Chief Martin stated they were able to get a grant to pay for the academy.

ITEM 15 Mayor and Trustee Reports

Mayor Gibson discussed the Cobblestone project. Mayor Gibson, Town Manager McGinnis and Town Clerk Newman had a meeting with Tim Shefchik. Mr. Shefchik reported that he has not been able to get in touch with the original investor, due to COVID-19 illness, so he is looking into local investors at this time instead. Cheryl Sanchez with economic development is still looking into grant monies to pave the road as planned.

Town Manager McGinnis stated a gentleman from a retail store chain has contacted the town's electric and water/wastewater departments.

ITEM 16 Adjournment:

Trustee Howard made motion to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Trustee Brady second. Motion carried.