

*Eureka Town Council Meeting
Eureka Town Hall --- Eureka, Montana
Monday, April 13, 2020*

Present AND constituting a Quorum:

Mayor	LeeAnn Schermerhorn
Council Members	Scott Bernhard, Arthur Walters, Douglas Davies
Town Clerk	Lisa Flynn

Visitors: Nikki Meyer, Tracy McIntyre, Neil & Rachel Duram, Mike Cuffe, Josh Letecher, Kathleen Johnson

Due to social distancing guidelines for the Covid-19 pandemic, the council meeting was conducted online and by phone. Mayor Schermerhorn, Council Person Scott Bernhard and Town Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Flynn were present at Town Hall. Council people Arthur Walters and Douglas Davies were present online. Meeting visitors joined the meeting online.

Mayor Schermerhorn called the council meeting to order at 7:00 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT on agenda items. None.

Doug Davies said he would like the minutes to include that he stated any area in the Town that has issues with junk and trash need to be addressed. Scot Bernhard made a motion to approve the minutes with the addition Mr. Davies requested, seconded by Doug Davies, carried all ayes.

Scott Bernhard made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Doug Davies, carried all ayes.

Reports. No comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wastewater Project – Phase 1b. Tracy McIntyre provided a review of the sewer project budget. She stated the budget was on target and slightly ahead of schedule. Due to additional costs for the project for engineering of \$35,000, administration for \$5,000, and legal services of \$2,000; a budget amendment is needed. These changes will result in no change to the overall budget costs. Scott Bernhard made a motion to approve the budget amendment for \$35,000 for engineering and \$5,000 for administration and \$2,000 for legal services, seconded by Doug Davies, carried all ayes.

Ms. McIntyre presented the invoices that needed payment approval from Sandry, Jackola, and Rural Economic Designs. Doug Davies made a motion to approve the invoices from Sandry Constuction, Jackola, and Rural Economic Designs, seconded by Scott Bernhard, carried all ayes.

Mayor Schermerhorn read a brief update supplied by Toby McIntosh. Sandry Consttuction resumed work on March 19th and has been making steady progress. They are currently working in 12th Street and plan to move on to 2nd Avenue the week of April 20th. The low-pressure sewer main along Hwy 93 has been completed and tested. The current schedule shows construction ending at the end of June.

Capital Improvement & Growth Policy Planning. Mr. McIntosh’s report stated that Jackola has worked to summarize findings from the inventory process and has developed a plan outline that discusses trends and issues discussed. The coronavirus pandemic has created issues with scheduling meetings. Public outreach will be a challenge.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ratify Declaration of a State of Local Disaster Emergency. Mayor Schermerhorn said she forwarded the declaration to the council members, and posted it on the website and Facebook. The Mayor emphasized that the declaration was there in the event of a worst-case scenario. The provision in the declaration for up to a two-mill emergency levy would need to be voted on by the Council and it has not been. In the past, the two-mill levy would need to be enacted in order for the Town to receive emergency funds from the State or Federal governments. Since the Mayor signed the declaration, the Governor of Montana has rescinded the two-mill requirement, so it is no longer necessary. Scott Bernhard asked what services the Town may need in an emergency. Tracy McIntyre stated the Town would be the funnel for funds for organizations like the ambulance service. Mayor Schermerhorn said that in our last emergency, the schools came through the Town emergency declaration for funds they needed due to the snow. It could also be possible the medical and health services may also be in need of emergency funds at some point. Having the declaration in effect allows for a swifter response if funds are needed. If the Town were to be without licensed water/sewer operators due to illness, we would not be able to provide those services and would need to assistance from organizations like Montana Rural Water and contract for someone licensed to operate the system. If the police were out due to illness, the Town would need to contract with another law enforcement provider. Scott Bernhard asked if the ratification vote could be delayed because he felt he did not have all the answers. Doug Davies said he thinks the declaration is well done. Arthur Walters said he has read the declaration and agrees it is well done. Arthur Walters made a motion to ratify the declaration, seconded by Doug Davies. Arthur Walters and Doug Davies voted to ratify; Scott Bernhard voted against. Motion passed two to one.

COUNCIL AND MAYOR COMMENTS

Doug Davies said that since stay at home has started, he has been pleased with community efforts. He has only noticed one business that did not cooperate with social distancing.

PUBLIC COMMENT on non-agenda items.

Neil and Rachel Duram asked what a worst-case scenario would entail. Mayor Schermerhorn said a large increase in cases would mean a much greater increase in services needed. Our local medical services like Eureka Healthcare and Eureka Ambulance Service could need assistance if they experienced a sudden and steep increase in demand. If Town water/sewer operators and/or Town police officers became infected, the Town would need funds to cover the additional costs of short-term personnel to continue to provide those services. Doug Davies said if the Eureka area were to become a hot spot, there may be a need for field hospitals and quarantine areas. Mayor Schermerhorn said that we would need the State to come in if events became that bad. Tracy McIntyre said the Town of Shelby may serve as a model since they have experienced a sharp increase of cases.

With nothing further to come before the council, Mayor Schermerhorn adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

LEEANN SCHERMERHORN, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Flynn Clerk/Treasurer