

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P. O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
MAY 11TH, 2020

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Town Hall garage (to abide by the social distancing guideline's) at 207 East Legion Street, Monday, May 11th, 2020.

PRESENT: Council Members: Katy James, Pat Peterson, Bill Lanes, Shawn Hoagland, Roy McBride, Mayor Mary Hensleigh and Town Clerk/Treasurer Summer Fellows.

VISITORS: Joe Granvold, Jason Crawford and Alison Richardson.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call was taken. All Council Members were present except for Logan Reiff who was excused.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Roy approved the Agenda with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from March 2020 will be available for the next Council Meeting. No meeting was held in April 2020, due to National COVID-19 restrictions.

VI. REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor: It's been quite the two months for all of us. We've had to be flexible while everything was shelter in place. Town Hall was still open, we did it on a rotating basis where there was only one employee in Town Hall and one employee at the shop. It worked out well because there is still work to

do. Bills need to be paid and there are phones to answer. Working on the audit is an ongoing thing and we did the best we could with the guidelines we were given and actually, we got a lot done. It was a very productive time but we were all glad to come back to work as a team. I was a little sad this morning when I saw that Jefferson County had another COVID-19 case and it just bummed me out for the whole day but come to find out on the news tonight, that person has been out of state for two months, contacted it out of state and hasn't been back into the state, So, Jefferson County has only had the two cases that we covered. We are on very good shape and it's nice to see the businesses opening back up. One sad bit of news is that we won't be able to open the pool this year. Summer and Allissa were suppose to go to a Certified Pool Operator class that was cancelled. We can't hire Lifeguards and get them trained because they train at the Y and they have cancelled all their lifeguard classes and we just have this window of opportunity to get that done and to be open by the middle of June and it just can't happen. We also don't know when phase 2 is going to kick in. Phase 1 we don't know how long it will last. Even in Phase 2 the guidelines for distancing make it almost impossible to have the pool open. It's really heartbreaking but we won't be able to open the pool this year. We'll just have to find other ways to entertain ourselves.

Officer's Reports:

Attorney Report:

No Report.

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Summer Fellows: Audit has been a big thing and we should be done with it any day now. It's not on me, it's on them and Mary can confirm that. To back up what Mary said about the pool, Montana just received a two-page document on phases for the pool and there is just no way. We don't even have the room to do social distancing. So, you guys can take a look at that if you want to. The only other thing in my report is in the water/sewer/garbage meeting we talked about the fees with garbage. I did find in the Ordinance about loose garbage that if garbage is not bagged and tied there will be a \$100 fine. If anyone would like a copy and I can get a copy. Right now, we have people putting saw dust on top of the garbage in the can or shredded paper thinking it's a fun game or to be mean, I don't know. Those people will be fined \$100. That's the first offense and I'm just putting that out there so everyone will know. Other than that, we have budget time coming up again. I will be getting with you guys at some time and have a couple people work on each budget.

Public Work's Report:

Kory: I'll start with Cemetery. Since the last Council meeting, we've dug two graves. We have turned on the sprinklers in the Cemetery, we've leveled out and filled approximately 20 graves. We did add sprinklers in the Connor's area. Our section markers that we've been working on all winter we now have 22 in place. I've been talking with the State about the sidewalk project and there's nothing to really worry about with that. I talked with Hardrives and they were in Town today sweeping and tentatively we have them scheduled for July 6-12th, 2020 to chip seal. They plan on sweeping the streets 3 or 4 times before that date. We had two service line breaks. The main valve on Olive Street we checked and it's going to have to be replaced. The Rec Complex we got all the hydrants on, baseball concessions on and I had to fix the meter pit for the hydrants around the arena. Last week we had a sewer main line block on

Mckay Street. It affected 2nd street and 1st street. We actually had Hunter Brothers jet that and clean it up. There were 2 t-shirts, several tubes for paper towels and I'm not sure how that stuff ends up down there. I am a little concerned about the rest of the Town. At the sewer lagoons we don't have a lot of water. Cell 1 is at 4.5, cell 2 is 5.5 and cell 3 is at 7.0 so, I'll explain that a little bit. We can break cells 1 and 2 down to 3 ½ feet and cell 3 is 5 feet. So, we have a total of 8 ½ feet. One trip on the pivot takes about half a foot approximately so we don't have a lot of water to put out this year. We did paint the front of the City Court building where the old sign was. I put a new yield sign on Valley View and 1st street and I took the old one out on the bottom. Kind of change things up there a bit. We put up 4 "no parking" signs, 2 "stop" signs, 3 call outs, 17 re-reads and 15 locates.

Fire Chief's Report:

Joe Granvold: March 1st- May 11th throughout the department, there have been 31 fires. One was in Whitehall. We've had several grass fires. Seven of those we had to call for backup. Joe continues. (See recording).

Sherriff's report:

No report.

Committee / Board Reports:

Planning Board: No Meeting.

Recreational Complex Board: No Meeting.

Pool Board: No Meeting.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery: No Meeting.

Water/Sewer/Garbage: See packet for minutes.

Several corrections needed to be made as well "Jim Hanes" should be changed to Bill Lanes.

Streets/Alley/Sidewalks: See packet for minutes.

Several corrections needed to be made as well "Jim Hanes" should be changed to Bill Lanes.

T.I.F.F.: No report.

CTAC:

Alison Richardson: We did meet in April and for a Zoom meeting, I thought it was very successful. We had 18 people participate. So, our next meeting will be next Thursday at 8am and it will be Zoomed again so I can't give my traditional offering of doughnuts and fresh coffee but you can provide those yourselves and join the Zoom meeting. (Alison continues, see recording.)

VII. Public Comment:

No comments.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

Jason Crawford with Triple Tree Engineering gave an update on the progress of receiving grant funding for the water treatment plant, costs, proposals and the Town's Contract with Triple Tree Engineering. (See recording.)

IX. Consent Agenda:

Planning Board

Deck and shed / Michael Landers / 109 W. Viella / preapproved

Privacy fence / Bill Lanes / 210 W. Viella / preapproved

Garage and retaining wall / Laurie Rathe / 311 W. Second / preapproved

Chain link fence / Kurtis Koenig / 111 N. Main / preapproved

House and garage / National Affordable Housing Network / Lot 2 Corbett Loop / preapproved

Replace existing fence / Grizzly Steel Inc. / 12 N. Main / preapproved

Shawn made a motion to approve with Roy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Business License

Sickler Residential Roofing

Shaw made a motion to approve with Roy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Proclamations

Arbor Day

Kids to Park Day

Pat motioned to approve with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Rec. Complex

Frontier Days permits

Roy made a motion to approve with Bill seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Park Facility Use

Whitehall Garden Club / June 6, 2020 / fundraiser / plant and rummage sale

Katy made a motion to approve with Roy seconding.

Pat: Is this still up in the air pending the Covid-19 restrictions?

Summer: We can't tell them not to but I think they would take that into consideration.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

T.I.F.F.

Flowers for the season of 2020 for the Town of Whitehall's Parks.

Katy made a motion to approve contingent on T.I.F.F. approval with Pat seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XI. Unfinished Business:

A. Discuss rough draft of Nuisance Ordinance and Business License

Mary: Summer, Katy do you have anything new?

Summer: No.

Mary: Not a problem, we'll move onto item B.

Bill: I did have some questions on that being that I am new at looking over this and am I understanding the whole process is to make some clarifications?

Mary: Correct.

Bill: According to these Nuisance Ordinances, they apply to every property owner within City limits, correct?

Mary: Correct.

Summer: Correct.

Bill: I'm kind of curious, the devil is kind of in some of the details of this of the way things are written. I wondering about some clarity and if I can give some input. Maybe I should get with Katy to suggest some of those things. For example, like weeds. Has there been a practice already to address people in Town about the overgrown weeds?

Summer: In your book, it talks about that.

Bill: Yeah, I'm just wondering about after that. Have people really been approached regarding the dealing with the weeds.

Summer: Yeah.

Bill: And the curb growing's?

Mary: Yes.

Summer: Enforcement since my time, nobody has received a fine since I've been here. Typically letters go out to big problems. We don't have the man power to police.

Bill: Yeah that's one of my questions.

Summer: We do what we can. Kory, myself, the Mayor and even the Council Members can go around and drive.

Mayor: And people are very good at complying once they get a letter once it's brought to their attention.

Summer: We have pretty good Ordinance on it.

Bill: I recognize that detail, I'm just curious on what is deemed unacceptable and what is acceptable. Obviously, people don't kill everything and its down to bare ground and people just mow and sometimes they don't and that's why I wonder about some of those standards when we look at this. When we read these things to the letter of the law, do we go by it?

Summer: It gives us something to go by and that's the problem with this Town. Maybe people don't want rules but we have to have some rules.

Bill: I agree with that and I think that is important. Whenever the growth of weeds says "to a condition prohibited", how can you nail that down and say "this certain height" or "this height".

Summer: We have provisions where we send a letter and if there is no response then the Town takes care of it and they are charged. If they don't pay for it, it is put on their tax bill. So, those provisions are there.

Bill: Now, has that been done?

Summer: Since I've been here, I have not done it. In the past, I honestly would have to research that. I know that there are issues all the time with weeds, junk vehicles, you know.

Bill: And that's some of my questions because if we are going to get to a point where we approve these, I want to understand what we are approving and I'll even use myself as an example when it comes to junk vehicles. I approached Mary about this months ago about what kind of standards that we have there and the details of that because I'm not going to approve something and expect that I get a free pass. Like on the junk vehicle section, it talks about parts, mechanical, structural part of any vehicle. Do we realize there's a lot more of that here and are we going to enforce these guidelines and say "yeah, you have a pick up box" or "you have a fender" and we're going to start fining people for that and I'd have to be one of the first people you would fine.

Summer: And believe it or not we have gotten complaints from your neighbors on that in the past since I've worked here.

Bill: Honestly, I've talked with Mary about this and no one has ever approached me.

Summer: No, but they have called here and asked us to take care of it. That's the problem with most neighbors and people. They don't call Shawn because your dog came in their yard, they call Summer because Summer has to go by the book and there's a rule and that's what we have to do. So, they are pretty cut and dry and unfortunately, we can make them better or stricter.

Bill: That's what I am wondering if there can be some clarity written into some of these for example, I have a pick up that I am completely restoring and I have some of those parts on my property, is that in violation to this nuisance?

Summer: Well, and one Town I think might have showed you their Ordinances and there is nothing allowed in their front yards.

Bill: Obviously that's not us.

Summer: No, no it's not but if you take a bunch of other Towns, we are not the only Town fighting this right now.

Bill: Sure.

Mary: If you would like to work on this with Katy...

Bill: That is what I was simply suggesting to give some input because I'm not going to approve something that I'm in violation of.

Roy: I could be in violation of it too.

Bill: That's what I am saying, are we following these to the letter of the law? Or are we going to have to be really picky?

Katy: A lot of our ordinances are on the antiquated side and that's kind of where I started with it.

Bill: And I appreciate that. I think that maybe there is a way to put a little clarity and not written that anybody that just collects stuff and it stays there forever but I think there is a section in here that has some exceptions and maybe we need to write something for some of those matters so that it is clearly stated and not ambiguous.

Katy: I think we can do it with another set of eyes that would look at it and have thoughts and join together in discussion

Bill: You bet and that's part of the reason why I got involved. Instead of complaining I got involved.

Mary: So, it will be on the agenda next month and just get with Katy and that's what the whole process is about.

Bill: Great thank you.

Mary: Thank you.

B. Discuss and Council determination on Solid Waste (garbage) whether to get a new truck or contract it out.

Katy made a motion to discuss with Shawn seconding.

Roy: We kind of went backwards and now we are up against the blades. The truck could die at any minute. It's going to take 12-18 months to get a truck, if we get one and \$350,000-\$400,000 so that's additional debt for the community. In my eyes it's a push whether we lease it out or buy a new truck and we got to have a new employee and all that goes with that. If we lease it and do the lease right, I

think we're in a break-even situation because we don't have to worry about the truck every five minutes. We put \$30,000-\$40,000 in it every year and if we get a new truck, we are going to have some of the same issues. After a year or two we're going to have to start putting in \$30,000-\$40,000 into it because it wears out with all the wear and tear on it. I think we ought to just let someone else have the headache. We have the funds to do it and we'll still be able to do the large stuff that we need to do like, Frontier Days and clean up days and we can use our old truck for that. I've talked to Kory about it quite a bit and discussed it heavily at the last garbage meeting. That's when we had Summer draw the RFP (Request for Proposal) up to look at it. I think if we can do that, I think we need to be very picky on who we hire. If they don't meet the requirements or not meet our standards, I don't want to take a cheap bid for a cheap job. So, that's my thought on it.

Bill: I concur with what Roy was saying. I think the concern about putting us more in debt in the City is very valuable and we already have seen incredible spending measures that need to take place and I think it makes sense to go about that option.

Roy: And the other thing is, if we bid this deal for a couple of years and see that it's not going to work, we can order a truck if we have to and let the contract run out. But, right now we have to put another \$30,000 into that truck maybe tomorrow.

Summer: Well, it was messing up some garbage cans today.

Roy: And it's down for maybe two weeks and then we have to go hire somebody or we run the demo and have to buy that truck to make the difference up and have two old trucks that will cost us nothing but headaches. So, I think if we just let someone else have the headache, we can move on.

Mayor: We had Ed look at the contract?

Summer: I drew up something and had him look over it. He said it looked good and I did put some dates on there. They do have to be a sealed bid even on RFP, I have that out of the handbook. So, they have to be sealed, we get in by 5pm Friday and the next Council Meeting is June 8th and that is when they would be opened. Once again, if you guys read it, I put what you guys asked.

Katy: Is it in our packets?

Summer: I put it on your desks tonight. It's pretty simple, I think we can adjust dates. I think we should start with a year contract or 6 months which I could write that in. I do need to put something in the paper however to put it out for two weeks so we can get this ball rolling.

Shawn: Have we done this in the past? Have we requested a bid on this from anybody in our history?

Summer: Well, yes. We have talked to different people just in conversation.

Shawn: Ok.

Mayor: We had contracted out just temporarily when the garbage truck was broke down.

Shawn: Do we have a package to submit to prospective bidders?

Summer: It's in here and it talks about, if they so choose and they come to me and I would give it to them.

Katy: I can see one change in here. In the first paragraph, we are a Town and not a City.

Summer: Well, I did this in two days.

Mayor: It's ok.

Summer: Ed didn't catch it either so I'll give him a bad time. If you guys want to look it over and see any changes let me know. Now that I'm thinking about it, I do think we should put something in here as far as a 6-month contract or a one-year contract. The biggest thing is, if we are not going to provide a service that we are providing now to the community, not that it's perfect but it's still a pretty good service considering that I know situations outside of Town right now where garbage hasn't been picked up in two weeks.

Pat: Yeah, you have to put the duration of the contract and conditions on which you can cancel.

Summer: Right, that's what I was saying I think that that is the only thing I am lacking in this. When we go into contract, we can put that in there.

Pat: It can be a six-month contract or time options that can be renewed at the end.

Summer: Yes.

Katy: You have "City" in there twice.

Summer: What paragraph?

Katy: Paragraph 4.

Summer: Yes, ok.

Katy: And I'm worried about the Town has many alleys. Audio issues.

Conversation continues. See recording.

Roy made a motion to approve sending out and RFP for a garbage service with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Shawn: You're saying when we look at these RFP's, we're going to get this started June or July?

Summer: Yes.

Shawn: Do you think there are other service providers we will get to?

Summer: There will probably be only 3 or 4 that bid it. Quite honestly, they are limited.

Shawn: Who can start on July 1st with a three day a week service?

Roy: Guilio can and we've talked to him, right?

Kory: Yes, I've talked to him.

Shawn: Ok.

Katy: Where are we going to publish this?

Summer: Well, you know what? I'm doing what is by law and that is in the paper.

Katy: How about we send it up north and west on their papers?

Summer: Sure.

Katy: Then maybe we can get it to at least four places and we publish it well so we don't get someone coming to us saying they would like to bid it because not everyone subscribes to our paper.

Summer: No, but what they do is put it on a board and anyone can go to that board.

Kory: The other thing Katy is as a Town we could call 4 or 5.

Katy: I was just thinking fairly so that we aren't chastised.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Discuss and Council determination on mill levy increase on General Fund. Recreational or Court and Law Enforcement mill levy? Two dates for Public Hearings. May 18th, 2020 and June 3rd, 2020.

Roy motioned to discuss with Pat seconding.

Pat: What kind of levy are you talking about? How big?

Summer: That is up to the Council. We are talking about the general fund and that's the only fund that we levy. Right now, I don't know how many mills we should go but we do need to increase our general fund.

Pat: If anyone got their ballot today, there are nine mills on ballot.

Roy: It won't go until November.

Summer: Ours won't go until the November ballot. Ours is not on there now but we are running out of time.

Pat: I'm just saying.

Summer: You're right though but, unfortunately the County put in all these levies. That's not the Town of Whitehall.

Pat: Yeah.

Bill: There are two correct?

Mayor: The County has two on.

Bill: What were they? The dog pound and?

Mayor: The library.

Bill: So, it's our local library?

Summer: Right, which by the way we fund some of that Library already.

Bill: Right.

Mayor: The mill levy is for the Boulder and Whitehall Libraries.

Roy: One of the things that is killing us is our law enforcement. There's \$111,000 that goes to the Sherriff's Department. Right now, there is \$46,000 that goes to the Court system. That makes it impossible to do anything with the Fire Hall, impossible to do anything with our kids, parks, streets, infrastructure of any kind, we do not have the capability to maintain this Town to a sustainable scenario.

Mayor: We haven't asked for a mill levy increase since the 1970's.

Roy: We need to do something. The Fire Hall is struggling. You need what? A \$100,000 worth of equipment? We don't have the money to do it.

Joe: I've asked to split between the Town and Rural for the SCBA's. Hopefully we get a grant. We also have other upcoming equipment; some are 25 years old and they are \$30,000-\$40,000.

Mary: So, the things that are required by law are the Sherriff which is \$112,000, Judge is \$40,000, attorney is \$40,000 and Fire is \$20,000. That's a total of \$212,000 out of \$440,000 total budget.

Pat: If we do a Law Enforcement mill levy, would that also cover the Fire Department or is it strictly law enforcement?

Summer: No, it's strictly Law Enforcement. So, you could do a fire Mill Levy that could pay for equipment and it maybe would expire and you could do it that way. Kind of like the ambulance and what the County did. We did a Mill Levy with the fire truck and the Ladies paid it off. The other one is Parks and Recreation and Swimming Pool. So, you could lump all that together and have a mill levy that way. Everybody is getting hit with taxes here that just came out as a 20% increase across the board. So, everybody is hurting and irritated right now but we can't keep doing what we are doing.

Bill: Well, it seems like mill levy's here specifically are not very popular but it does make serious sense nothing has been done since the 1970's.

Summer: 1970 or 1971 and it's when Bonnie Ramey first started.

Bill: I'm wondering if, can we make an assessment of what is one of the greatest needs. As I've started coming to meetings the last three months, I definitely hear it from the Fire Department. These are local volunteers and they need this equipment. These are people that are just volunteering so maybe go in that direction and people will be more understandable saying "yes, this is valuable and we need this", if we can be specific like that.

Pat: Or if we do it for Law Enforcement. The extra money we raised for law enforcement reduce what we pay and then move that over to Fire.

Summer: Ok so, here is what we are doing here. Bill, I understand what you are saying about the Fire Department but, what you have to understand right now they are living off of a budget of \$16,000.

Bill: Which isn't cutting it.

Summer: No, obviously it's not but, the thing about it is that is what we, I'm on the Fire Department are surviving on. The Rural does half, we do half and we have an agreement between the two. When you talk about a mill levy for the Fire Department, whatever that mill levy goes for the money has to be spent for that. Problem is, it's not solving all the other problems in the General Fund.

Bill: So, what are the top three?

Summer: Law Enforcement would be one, swimming pool is a high next to the Law Enforcement as far as money sucking thing. Law Enforcement is not, I want to clarify that.

Bill: It runs all the time?

Summer: Negative big time.

Bill: You said Law Enforcement runs in the red?

Summer: No, I'm not saying they are sucking.

Mary: We are required by law to have Law Enforcement.

Bill: That's why obviously it's not sucking money.

Summer: No, we have to pay for it, the pool is not a requirement.

Pat: I think people would be more understanding of Law Enforcement than the pool because we won't be able to use the pool this summer.

Summer: One of the complaints we get is people want more law enforcement.

Mayor: Right.

Pat: I mean, why should we pay for a pool with our taxes that you won't even let us use?

Mayor: Right.

Bill: Even this summer, that would be a bad idea.

Katy: And Law Enforcement is 12 months out of the year and like that says, only a few weeks for the Pool.

Summer: And I don't know what's going to sell best. Like I said, I hear from the community sitting in this office all the time you know, I hear people like the Pool, people want more Law Enforcement and people talk about the Fire Department too. But, mostly it's Law Enforcement, the Pool and the Parks and then the biggest thing is the streets. Problem is all of those fall into the General Fund. They don't fall into the water, sewer and garbage, those are all businesses we have to run. The General Fund is all based on taxes. So, if people want these things, they are going to have to pay for it.

Pat: And I'm trying to think what would be...

Summer: We have to sell it! And you guys are going to have to sell it to your Wards.

Pat: More power to the people.

Bill: I'm wondering how we prioritize. It seems to me that the Fire Department is a bigger issue than the Pool frankly.

Summer: Yes.

Bill: Correct me if I'm wrong, especially this summer the Pool should have a lot less expenses that fall into the black this year.

Summer: No, they won't.

Bill: It's that far off?

Roy: There is not a swimming pool anywhere that makes money. Anywhere. They are just a black hole for money.

Mary: There is \$4,758 left in the pool budget. Now, we do have to do maintenance and there's things we have to do at the Pool to maintain it even though we are not using it. So that will be used up.

Summer: It will be in the hole by June, just so you know. And we have to remember when we start up the Pool next year, with that monies we usually put into the Pool so, when the Pool is starting up, the fiscal year is coming to an end. When we start our new fiscal year, the Pool is halfway done coming to an end. So, a majority of the money comes from July 1st to closing the Pool. It's the big lump sum of money.

Mayor: We've already spent \$27,892 on the Pool and that was for last summer. It falls kind of awkwardly.

Pat: And if we do a Pool, recreational mill levy that money has to go to recreation, parks or the Pool?

Summer: If it's specific to that, yes. Like I said and I will caution you guys the Pool is kind of the drainer of the monies. The parks, the cemetery and the streets- the only thing that we have in the streets right now as far as the General Fund is the wages because there is no way we could even make, you know. The rest comes out of our gas tax fund that we get. It's about \$2,048 a month and that is what pays for pot hole mix and such. We are living off of the very minimum and we can't do it anymore. We are going to have to get rid of stuff.

Mayor: So, we could do a public safety mill levy for Sherriff and Fire. Correct?

Summer: I think so yes.

Bill: We have to do both? It can't be separate?

Summer: Yes, it has to be both and I know we cannot add in the Court system because we can't add in the lawyer. The Judge, I don't think you can either.

Mayor: No, it would be public safety, Sherriff and Fire.

Summer: No.

Mayor: And I think that would be an easier sell than recreational.

Pat: I do too.

Bill: Yeah, I agree.

Katy: I agree.

Joe: There's a requirement to have a Fire Department right?

Summer: No, you are required.

Mayor: By law.

Summer: By law.

Joe: That's what I'm saying, is there a budget set for that?

Summer: Whatever the Town Council says. By the way, our Fire Department when it comes to budgets, we are very spoiled as far as other Towns. They work off way less than we do. So, we are lucky to have what we have, it's just not enough. Every Fire Department is running into this right now and the lack of volunteers is dying. Most of those volunteer Fire Departments is going to paid departments, paid volunteers.

Mayor: So, tonight if you make a motion and you approve a public safety mill levy for Sherriff and Fire, then we set the public hearings for the public to see.

Roy: So, can we figure out or can you talk to Bonnie and say "ok, this is kind of the dollars we are looking at".

Summer: There's a formula I can work with.

Roy: Can we get that formula?

Summer: Yeah. It will take me like a day.

Roy: That way we know if someone starts asking. I don't think the Sherriff is going to hold this \$111,000.

Mayor: No.

Summer: No, I'm going to tell you right now it's only a matter of time. There are things in our contract right now with provisions with his saying he's going to up our contract. He can't do that. He has to give us notice.

Katy: It's too late this year to do it.

Summer: Right, it's too late this year but it doesn't mean it's not going to come next year, three months or six but I promise you it's coming.

Roy: So, one of the things we need to do is, we know we have to have a mill for at least \$111,000 and I don't think you can have a mill levy high enough for everything the Fire Hall needs.

Summer: Probably not.

Joe: My suggestion is and I've told you guys before is to maybe get mill levy and create a Fire Department fund to where we start building that fund up. The SCBA's will need replacing and tools...

Summer: And a new truck coming soon too.

Mayor: So, probably a \$200,000 number.

Roy: Ok, I was going to say \$170,000-\$200,000.

Joe: Continues on about the needs of the Fire Department. See recording.

Roy: Can we go ahead and figure it at \$200,000 and see what the mills are?

Summer: Sure.

Roy: Or is that too steep?

Shawn: Just to clarify, we are talking about City limit residents?

Summer: Yes.

Mayor: Yes.

Shawn: And this is an annual?

Summer: Yes.

Shawn: Approved for annual assessment?

Summer: Yes.

Shawn: 140 households is \$369 a year.

Summer: Yes. I know, it's hard! I agree, we are taking food off people's tables.

Mayor: The motion would be to have the mill levy be for public safety and have the office check in with Bonnie what that would be and email you that information.

Summer: What was the Library's off hand?

Katy: It's covering 3-4 libraries.

Summer: Yes, but it was a very minimal amount off the taxes. You know, added to the taxes. So, I would have to do the formula and see what we would come up with for \$200,000

Shawn: We are talking the Town of Whitehall.

Summer: Yep.

Shawn: It's not Boulder's Library.

Summer: Nope.

Shawn: It's just us.

Summer: Nope, it's just the Town and that's all we can do!

Shawn: We can get help from outside for the volunteer fire department...

Summer: (Interrupting Shawn) The Town and you see, this is the other thing, this is just for the Town not the rural. Rural pays their own.

Mayor: We are just talking Town.

Roy: There's already a mill levy out there for the rural?

Summer: Yep and it's already on your taxes because you live in the Town of Whitehall.

Conversation continues. See recording.

Shawn: Are we making a motion to check into those numbers?

Summer: Ok so, we are running out of time. We only have until August. I know that seems like a long time but it's not.

Shawn: That's why I'm asking

Summer: That's why I'm going to tell you right now it is a motion to move forward with our public meetings. I can come up with the information but this is all going to depend on what we have with the public.

Shawn: That is my question.

Shawn made a motion to put a public safety mill levy out for public comment with Roy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XII. New Business:

A. Discuss and Council determination on signing Triple Tree's contract contingent on Ed Guza Town attorney approval.

Roy made a motion to approve with Pat seconding.

Shawn: I'm not up to speed on that but \$466,000 is strictly engineering assessment? That's not sticking a shovel in the ground? Has this been put out to bid?

Kory: It was a request for Proposal yes. He's been working on this for a year and a half.

Shawn: I understand that.

Kory: So, that's the whole design of everything we've been planning.

Shawn: Right.

Pat: It's the construction overview.

Shawn: It's an oversight.

Summer: It's from start to finish.

Mary: And it's for the two engineering firms.

Shawn: We've got grants for \$1.2 hard firm now?

Kory: No, so R.D. (Rural Development) hasn't come through yet. R.D. we were hoping to get 40% grants and 60% loan but we don't know where that is at.

Shawn: So that's Rural Development so the community development block is at 450 and the TSEP is at 625?

Summer: That is confirmed.

Kory: That is confirmed. He has a pretty good cost analysis on what it should be. He's predicting the whole project to be about \$2.4 million.

Shawn: That's what it says.

Kory: We should end up being about \$900,000 short on grants is what we are kind of predicting.

Conversation continues. See recording.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Discuss and Council determination on Pool Fund Allocations.

Roy: One of our dump trucks is dead and if Kory ever got stopped he'd be in jail for life because it's not supposed to be on the road I assume. So, we need to find another used truck either through the State or somewhere so we need to spend some money so we can buy another service truck. We've got one now but we need one in the summer time to do the asphaltting, Cemetery and all that other stuff. We need a one ton or ton and a half so we need to move some money since we are not going to open the Pool and use it. We need to find a piece of equipment or buy a truck somewhere.

Summer: We only have about \$10,000.

Katy made a motion to discuss with Shawn seconding.

Bill: Now Mayor, did you say a few minutes ago something regarding \$3,000 for the Pool? How much do we have to allocate?

Mayor: Well, this would be for next budget.

Roy: For the next budget but we need to start looking now.

Mayor: Right because right now all we have is \$4,758.

Roy: So that Pool money can be used elsewhere.

Bill: But don't spend too much because we have to plan for next year.

Summer: Like I said, we only have about \$10,000.

Katy: We are going to maintain it for the summer even though we are not using it.

Summer: Right, we're not going to heat it so that will save us \$2,000 a month just in heating the pool to 70 degrees. Basically, what they need to do is go acid wash, drain and fill it up again because otherwise it will pop out of the ground. We'll probably have to add some chlorine here and there.

Kory: I believe the pumps will have to run the chlorination through it so there will be a little expense running the pumps.

Bill: What's a reasonable cost idea for a truck?

Kory: It totally depends on what you get. I've been researching them for quite a while. If we can find a decent one at the State surplus, they are probably \$5,000-\$7,000 but honestly, I've turned down quite a

few in years past because they are State surplus. You're not going to find anything better than what we have now. So, if we would have the funding, I'm guessing \$7,000.

Shawn: Do they have what you need?

Kory: They just have a little dump truck.

Shawn: Ok. It makes sense. That budget starts?

Summer: July 1st.

Shawn: July 1st and we've already went through that right? The budget numbers and we've allocated for that?

Summer: Well, we've cut the Pool down quite a bit in the last few years since I've started working here, The Pool was actually allocated \$22,000 for the year budget. I'm sorry, I lied, it's \$32,750. So, that's what it was allocated and I've seen the Pool go as high as \$43,000-\$47,000 for the year but I say we stick with this number for the year.

Shawn: We've been coming in about there or have we been burning through that?

Summer: Oh, we would have been in the hole. So, what we budgeted for the whole year because remember their year is starting when our year is ending so this \$4,000 by now, we have to hire people, train people, just the class for me and Allissa to take was \$600 a piece but we have to by law have to have a Certified Pool Operator. This would have probably been in the hole by July 1st with wages I would say probably \$6,000-\$7,000 in the hole on top of this \$4,000.

Bill: The last calendar year, what was the Pool in the hole roughly?

Summer: half. The Pool only brought in \$16,000 so out of that \$32,000 they only brought in \$16,000 even with lessons and we even raised our rates a dollar more. The Pool is not a money maker, it is a money sinker.

Shawn: Well, under the current circumstances, it's feasible to pick a truck.

Summer: We just need to know the start up costs next year and like I said there would be about \$10,000 left in that budget to start the Pool next year.

Mayor: So, what are you thinking toward a truck? \$20,000?

Roy: \$20,000? We're not going to spend \$20,000 on a truck, are we?

Shawn: No.

Kory: Not if we're getting it at a surplus. There are a couple different options, they are hard to come by and I've been looking.

Conversation continues on buying a new truck. See recording.

Roy made a motion to not exceed \$12,000 to purchase a new truck with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Discuss and Council Determination on installing an outside camera to monitor front door and payment drop box.

Katy made a motion to discuss Shawn with seconding.

Mayor: We've had a problem with the drop box and Summer can elaborate a little more therefore, the reason for our request.

Summer: I think two things should happen 1., we get a camera to monitor the lock box or 2., we do away with the outside box all together. We've had two situations recently within the last three months. One was supposedly someone put a check in the box. It never got cashed, we could never find it and we were accused of losing it. Recently we had somebody drop money in the box. They told us three different amounts. \$300, \$315 and \$320 cash in the drop box. We've looked high and low and once again it wasn't there. That individual did show up today with the stub and payment for the full amount with a check. Which I told them, "please don't put cash in the box". I've never had that problem here but the problem is, we need to do something to be able to show people that I'm sorry, no you didn't put it in the box. There is no way you can get into the box. I took Roy, Katy and Bill and showed them the box. You can't put your hands in there because there are bars in the way. It's impossible.

Mayor: Do we have a price for a camera?

Summer: No, TSS is suppose to give me a price on two cameras. One facing the door and one facing the box.

Bill: So, since we are sitting here, I see some cameras in here. Are these ones tied to a system?

Summer: They were tied to a system but they were never hooked up.

Mayor: Could they maybe be used?

Summer: I don't know if I can get into the system. If I can, yes.

Bill: If they are here and they are usable.

Summer: Absolutely.

Mayor: I thought the same thing.

Summer: Like I said, I don't know if I can get into them. These ones were never hooked up.

Joe: I think you need outside cameras.

Summer: These ones can be inside or outside.

Mayor: Do you know what the cost was for your outside camera?

Joe: I believe it was right around \$350-\$400 dollars.

Summer: It was right around \$1500 for the whole thing, I think.

Joe: Yeah, the outside cameras were more expensive.

Summer: We just have to do something because it is becoming a problem. I have the upmost trust in my office and this is not an issue in my book but, I also can't have people coming in here, I don't know why anyone would put \$300 in the box.

Mayor: Do you have extra in your budget because we didn't go to Mayor and Clerk school?

Summer: Well, I usually have a budget because I never spend it.

Mayor: Oh. So, I guess we need only approval because we already have money in the budget.

Summer: Well, depending on what the amount is.

Mayor: Well, it costs us more that \$1,500 to go to Clerk School.

Summer: Yeah.

Bill: If we could take the money from somewhere that would be great. That's why I was asking about these. These are just dead then huh?

Summer: They've never been hooked up. We have the whole system at the old Town Hall too. So, I will check into seeing if we can use those.

Bill: Why buy another one if we already have one.

Mayor: Right.

Shawn: I don't want to authorize just pulling the trigger and spending the money. Not \$1,500. There are other options first.

Roy: Take the damn box out.

Bill: Or that too.

Summer: I'm ok with taking the box out because I'll tell you what, we have nothing but problems with it. Like I said, I have better luck with people that pay their court fines. They never give me any issues but this Utility thing is becoming an issue.

Mayor: But it has been very convenient with the Covid -19. It was the only way people could pay. So, you could just table it until next month and we can check into it and have a better proposal.

Summer: Or you could make a motion and do away with the box.

Shawn: Cameras aren't going to do away with the issues.

Summer: Nope.

Roy: It's the cash that's the problem.

Summer: It's the cash that worries me! I have people just put money in there and I'm suppose to know where that money is supposed to go!

Katy: Removal of the box would be a mistake as long as the hours are what they are at the office because we've had complaints about people not being able to get in here before the office closes. You are going to have that complaint right back at you.

Mayor: Well, it is handy.

Shawn: See if we can use a camera from the old city building or check Ebay or Amazon. I know there is really sophisticated stuff out there for very reasonable.

Sam Kraha (camera man): If I may, we would be able to install a two-camera system for under \$1000.

Mayor: We will check out the other cameras too.

Shawn: Ok.

Shawn made a motion to table with Katy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Audit Update.

Mayor: I think we've pretty much done that already. I called her two weeks ago and she said it would be done in two weeks and that's today. So, we are hoping to schedule exit interview and be done with it hopefully by this next week.

XIII. BILL/ CLAIM APPROVAL LIST TO BE SIGNED BY ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shawn made a motion to approve the bill claim approval list with Roy seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XV. Adjourn:

Roy made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Pat seconding at 8:50pm.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date

