

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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**TOWN OF WHITEHALL**

**P. O. BOX 529**

**WHITEHALL, MT 59759**

**November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Ave, Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**PRESENT:** Council Members: Katy James, Bill Lanes, Pat Peterson, Linda Jung, Roy McBride, Shawn Hoagland, Treasurer Allissa Christensen, and Mayor Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh.

**VISITORS:** Kory Klapan, Liz Pullman, Bridget and Dale Morse, Leonard Wortman, John Janik, Tiffany Liden, Jeannie Ferris, Holly Harper

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Roy motioned approval with moving presentations up before reports, Shawn seconding.

Motion carries unanimously

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Pat motioned approval, Roy seconding

Motion carried unanimously

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

Tiffany Liden: Thank you mayor and council for letting me go first I appreciate that. I am Tiffany Liden and I am with the DNRC flood plain program out of Helena. I am a mapping outreach specialist out there. I am working with counties and communities across the state with floodplain maps and particularly when we are doing floodplain map updates. Which is why I wanted to come and talk to you today about it. Allissa and I thought it would be a good opportunity to come in and give you an update about a project we have been working on with Jefferson County for the last number of years. It is a project to update all of the existing mapped floodplains in Jefferson County. With updated, more accurate, more updated information. We started this project a couple of years ago and we had been keeping Summer Fellows updated who was here before Allissa. I thought this would be a good opportunity to just walk through all of this information that we have from that project and what some of the next steps are. Let me back up for just a second and talk about floodplain maps and why you would have any interest or care about floodplain maps, what they do and why they may impact the Town of Whitehall. Floodplain maps that are maps that are usually based on a flood study to determine what areas are at risk of flooding from a crick or a river when we have what is called a 100-year event. That 100-year flood event is kind of a misnomer because people think that it floods only once every 100 years. Better way to think about this flood event is to think about how many percent chance it will have in any given year. There are flood

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plain maps in Jefferson County. You have maps here in Whitehall and the town of Boulder also has a floodplain maps. A lot of those maps were produced back in the 80's and were produced on some pretty old, course information. FEMA is the entity that maintains all of the flood plain maps around the country and here in Montana. They are charged with updating those when it is necessary. We like to do these updates in conjunction with the county and the towns and it is something we have been working cooperatively with Jefferson County on for a number of years. Jefferson County requested updated information because a lot of existing flood plain maps were pretty old and pretty difficult to administer. So, again, why would you care about flood plain maps? They actually get used for a lot of different purposes. Your flood plain maps here in the Town of Whitehall are where your flood plain regulations apply. You have flood plain regulations for anytime someone wants to do a new building or new development in those areas that are at risk of getting flooded, in your case, either Whitetail Creek or Big Pipestone, they need to make sure that whatever is proposed follows the flood plain regulation and follows the right process. Flood Maps also get used for subdivision and planning purposes. They get used by lenders. They will look at the maps to determine if a house they are financing has a risk of being flooded. They also get used by emergency management services. Like if a road is going to be flooded so we can plan ahead for that and for other emergency types of things. So, given all that, we recognize that flood plain maps really should accurately reflect what is at risk of flooding. So, when we have the opportunity to update them, we want to do so. That is kind of a background. I want to give you a hand out here and I might have enough for some in the audience.

With this we have been putting all of the information about this project onto a website and that is on that first page here that I gave. It is kind of a snap shot and the address is up at the top. You can type that in and look at it at home. It has all of that information about it. It's a little bit of background of the project we have been working on and how we make the flood plain maps and what goes in to producing the maps. Then you will see in the grey box that we started to have some draft results that have come out of this project. Earlier this summer we started sharing some of those results with land owners in the northern part of Jefferson County. We had some open house meetings in Montana City and we had one in Boulder in June. We wanted to do that same in this part of the county but we had something we had to address with a part of the flood plain mapping so we had to wait until that got finished. We are now at the point where we want to start sharing some of the draft results with this part of the county. You'll see in that box there that one of the things that we are looking at is we are trying to host and open house meeting for home owners on December 6<sup>th</sup>. I am going to say that that is tentative because we are still working with the county on that. We are looking at doing that over at the Borden's hotel on Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. So, what we would be doing at that meeting is basically sharing the draft results of the new flood studies. For folks in the Town of Whitehall that would be the flood plain results for Whitetail Creek and Big Pipestone. It would also encompass other County areas so part of Jefferson River, Jefferson Slough part of Boulder and some of those other rivers as well. We would like to host it jointly. I have talked to Allissa about that and we do have that on there to kind of move in that direction. So, we wanted to keep you up to date on what we are thinking of doing and what the draft results are looking like. On this sheet if you go onto the website, you will see this blue square on there. If you click on that on the website it

will open up what the draft maps look like. It is on map viewer. I didn't want to pull that up today so I just printed out some screen shots of it if you wanted to look at it.

\*\*\*Discussion continues including photos of screenshots and explanations of the maps.

## VII. REPORTS

### Mayors Report:

Mayor Mary: I would like to congratulate Dan Hagerty on his new job as Jefferson County Commissioner. I think that we can both be very proud of a wonderful positive campaign. You CAN actually run for public office and not say anything nasty about your opponent. It leaves you a good feeling after the election to know that it was positive and productive. I wish him all the best. I also want to thank Leonard. You have done a wonderful job and thank you for always showing up and giving your report. Whitehall has benefited a lot from your leadership and this is your second to last meeting and I am sure you are counting down the days. Upcoming events. I would like to remind everybody that this Thursday night is the Harvest Dinner at the Mormon church. It is always delicious I always like going and I encourage everyone to go to that. We have Thanksgiving coming up. Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 o'clock, anyone that would like to help out we are meeting here at Town Hall to decorate the town and get it all sparkly for Christmas. I welcome anybody that would like to volunteer to come to that. I would also like to welcome our new news crew running the cameras here. Thank you very much for coming, Sam is showing them the ropes. We try and keep these meetings to an hour so we don't take up too much of your time.

### Attorney Report:

No Report

### Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Allissa Christensen: court is a little jumbled up this month. It was cancelled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and it will be cancelled again on this Wednesday due to the judge having some conflicts with going to judge school. Our next court date will be December 7<sup>th</sup>. So, if you had a court date scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> just show up December 7<sup>th</sup>. We are up to 140 cases for the calendar year. Which is really good! We had a water treatment plant conference call on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and we are almost there with getting all the funding in place. If anyone ever tells you free money is free, they are lying! On November 9<sup>th</sup> we had a training session with Dan Clark from the Local Government Center and I hope the council would agree that it was beneficial. Todd was able to get our trial balance done so now I am working with our auditors and are hoping to have our audit done by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Working with the auditors involves getting them reports, claims, statements, revenue, minutes. Really whatever they want I have to get it to them. Just a reminder too, the audit reports are public record so if you want to see them, I have them. My door is always open. On the 31<sup>st</sup> I was able to reach the IRS on the clarification of the status of the Town's penalties. I have been submitting timely payments and 941's consistently for 2018. All of the other years have been cleared up. The IRS has denied my request to waive the penalties and interest.

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The town is looking at, depending on who you talk to at the IRS, anywhere from \$25,645.37 to \$31,982.89 and we have paid \$12,939.61 so far in penalties. I am trying to get \$6,303.52 knocked off. All I have to do is figure out why the IRS W-2's doesn't match what the Social Security has. I am thinking that two different documents were sent at that time. I am working on that and hopefully they will knock off that \$6300. So, that is where we are at with that. To increase transparency, I have two binders up here. One is all of the 941's, Jessica has been wonderful about filing and making payments and keeping track of everything. The other one is IRS notices dating back to 2014. I encourage everyone to look at them. I am trying to be transparent here so you know what is going on. Especially you guys (council). To show you we are making the 941's and making them in a timely manner. My door is always open and I will occasionally be in a meeting but come talk to me, that goes for the public too.

Shawn Hoagland: one question, does that \$12,000 dollar amount go towards that 26 amount or does it not?

Allissa: No.

Shawn Hoagland: Okay so it does not. It was already paid in the past and so it is 26 to 31 depending on where things shake out. The 6 you are trying to get forgiven comes off of that?

Allissa: Yes. So that is why depending on who you talk to. They will send me a letter and have an amount in that letter and then when I am on the phone, they are giving me just a little bit different figure. So, that's why I say depending on who you talk to.

Linda: Penalties. Besides what we owe them we are still paying penalties everyday correct?

Allissa: the interest is what tacks on to it. I think November 28<sup>th</sup> is the deadline they say. The IRS is really great with everything. So, yes, interest keeps tacking on the longer we wait.

#### Public Work's Report:

Kory Klapan: Water: November 5<sup>th</sup> our fire house well blew the main fuse on the power pole. It took me about 13 hours to get the power company here to reset that fuse. Talking to them they are quite busy this week. This week we are going to try and get that well running again to see if we have problems. Chances are that the pump is out of that well. We should know tomorrow. We are going to take water samples the 15<sup>th</sup>. We put in 2 meter pits so there's two new services.

Sewer: 2 new sewer taps. Lagoon levels are 6 foot, 3 foot, and 3 foot. So, we are doing pretty good coming into winter on those. It's a little better than the past couple years. We did fill out a new discharge permit and got it filed. It's a big process. We had to change a few things. Right now, we discharge into Pipestone Creek and we hold a discharge permit for that. We don't ever see where we

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would need to discharge into that creek beings that we land apply. This new permit that we are applying for will allow us to discharge into Pipestone Creek if it is an emergency but not on a daily basis. So, that will fit us better. It does away with all of our sampling of Pipestone Creek and the fee is \$750.00 instead of \$1500.00. We did get that done. Allissa helped me with that and the guy from Rural Water. It was a little tough but we got it done.

Streets: we were fixing some speed limit signs around town. We got 3 or 4 fixed and we do have a few more to do. A wrong way sign down by Yellowstone. Besides that, on streets, we just plowed and sanded. There was a lot of snow over a couple days there.

Cemetery: we had one full grave and one cremation. Probably in the next couple months we will started getting the rest of the section markers done. We have about half of them done. This winter I would like to do the other half. I think we have most of the material to do it.

Machinery: we changed oil in the plow truck and both of our one-ton trucks. We did paint the plow truck. The primer was gone and it was rust so we sanded it down and put some paint on it. It looks pretty good doesn't it, Roy?

Roy McBride: not bad

Kory: better than it did!! This month we had 4 water shut offs due to leaks and 6 locate tickets.

Fire Chief's Report:

Sherriff's Report:

No report.

Commissioner Report:

Leonard Wortman: I don't have a whole lot. Our COVID numbers are pretty much staying status quo. I think we had around 10 last month or so. We are still listed at a low risk. ARPA we went through our designated categories and stuff a couple weeks ago. We distributed the money to various pots that didn't get used as much as designated at first. So, that kind of got moved around a little bit. It still was pretty much intact of what we started with. The different numbers and what not we were able to earmark \$40 or \$45,000.00 for the water thing. That should be good. The JLDC and us are pretty close to doing the finalization of the purchase of the Roberts Building for the Legacy Center. We got the appraisal back and it came back somewhat higher than what we wanted to pay for the building. The JLDC agreed to put the 50% down along for the remainder that has been approved. We are in pretty good shape there. I appreciate you. I'm glad the election is over. You know back here in the sticks we know the results the first night. We don't have to hang out there for a week or two.

**A. Committee / Board Reports:**

Planning Board:

See minutes

Recreational Complex Board:

No meeting.

Pool Board:

See minutes.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery:

See Minutes

Water/Sewer/Garbage and Streets/Alley/Sidewalks:

See minutes

T.I.F.F.:

See minutes

CTAC:

No meeting

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bridget Morse: A couple of meetings ago I had commented on the large garbage cans in the street and that they make the town look poor. And they are still in the streets. And I found another set of two of them over on Second Street somewhere and I don't understand.

I also understand that you guys had two meetings between last month's regular meeting and this month. They were not posted at the post office. I went to the post office and looked and there was nothing. I went and asked Tayla at the window and she said she didn't receive anything. Then I went to the library and they said Well, we don't know if anything was posted all we have is for the current meeting. They didn't remember anyone bringing them in. I also had heard that the town was in a lawsuit and it has been finalized at \$140,000.00. I would wonder if the town is going to appeal that or what the process is. And since we don't have a lawyer's report. Maybe next month the lawyer could come and give a report on that.

Liz Pullman with Gold Junction Presents: we are trying to figure out where we are at with the electric car chargers.

Roy McBride: put them in.

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Liz: okay, I know that you said that off the record not like officially. So, he was not sure if he would just put them in and the town would pay for the electricity used. I know that that was being debated. So, are we good there?

Mary: Yes, it got approved.

Liz: okay I just wanted it on record that we know we can go for it. Thank you.

Pat: I do not remember the council approving that the town would be paying for the electricity.

Linda: I don't either.

Roy: we did.

Pat: I would like to see the writes of that because I don't remember that.

Roy: it's going to be 7 bucks a month.

Pat: well, I think I remember myself saying that TIFF should pay for it if they were approving to put the chargers in but I will check the minutes and see.

Liz: well, you guys just let me know.

**IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Planning Board:**

1. Ellen Wagner / development permit/ fence / 12 & 14 E Legion Ave
2. Darrell Wanner / development permit / addition to structure / 506 Valley View Dr

**Pool**

Kelley Seccomb

**Volunteer Fire Dept**

Ben Makowski

**Business License**

Hoffman R&M Services

Alpine Tree Services

1<sup>st</sup> Call Heating & ALC Services, LLC

Roy motioned, Linda Seconding

Motion Carries Unanimously.

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Council determination on Master Plan

Roy motioned approval, Linda Seconding

Roy McBride: I think the TIFF board approved it. it has been approved by everybody except for council to date. So, I think we are good to go.

Motion carries unanimously.

B. Council determination on applying for a transportation alternative grant

Katy motioned approval, Linda seconding

Roy McBride: is that for the sidewalks like we did before Mary or is that something different.

Kory: yeah, so Jason contacted me and its quite a bit different. There is a lot more funding. At one point when you applied for the grant they didn't send back and say you could exclude this to get higher points and we had some things in there that excluded us. This time they are working with us on this so instead of deducting you points they will let you remove it to get higher quality points. Where as last time we would have been successful on it. It is about triple the funding it had last year. It does cost to apply. Last time it was about \$5,000.00 bucks. Did the email say less?

Allissa: all it said was that we would more than likely get approved this time because its easier.

Shawn: aside from collecting the \$5,000.00

Kory: we have done pretty good with him writing grants.

Pat: what kind of money are we talking about?

Kory: I think last year it was \$180,000 on our part and \$890,000 on their part. We can do sidewalks a lot cheaper just doing them but they aren't engineered or up to state spec so it is a lesser product so that is where we have to weigh in. It will be engineered so finding a contractor will be easy. I mean it will go out to public bid. Without us pulling our hair out to find a contractor. That would be a plus.

Shawn: What are the specific projects.

Kory: a sidewalk from the forest service to the grocery store down the hwy. Yellowstone from the bridge at the creek to Whitetail dr.

Allissa: is Kelly Road on there too or is that a different thing?



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Kory: no, it's not. We want to go down Kelly Road but that is not in the works yet. Those are the two that we are concentrating on right now.

Shawn: What side of Yellowstone from the bridge

Kory: from legion to the museum and then down to the rodeo ground. Those are 1, 2, and 3 I don't know what order they will go in.

Mary: What about First st and Division?

Kory: So, the other project that the TIFF was working on was First St. That's where we have to reach out and find out if that is one that will help or hurt us on the point scale from the state. Some of them might be cash in on one of the ones we can do and then some of them that don't qualify very high on their part. I know they are really big, the TA grant is not so much replacing sidewalks as to building new sidewalks. Replacing sidewalks doesn't rank as high but that is something we can call in with the TIFF.

Shawn: \*inaudible

Kory: Allissa do you know or have that email?

Linda: I do. I'll just read it.

"Although we are frustrated with the TA program after the last application cycle. There is a lot more funding this cycle. I believe last time it took us around \$5,000.00 to apply. I imagine that most of the application would be reusable. I believe Kory will have some input on this program. From memory I think that Kory said that he could get the sidewalk done significantly cheaper without going through the TA program."

Linda: there is nothing in here about the Town life over the program. Do you know when they applied for those?

Kory: I can't remember the last time we.

Pat: It says here that the next call for applications will be announced in January of '23 but it doesn't say when.

Kory: you know it is kind of a gamble having him apply. It sounds like this time it might be a bit cheaper than last time. I don't know the dollar amount. He said \$5,000.00 but I think most of it is reusable. That to me means its going to be cheaper I would think. Even at \$5,000.00 when we are talking about a million-dollar project it's a pretty darn minimal gamble. I mean, if we are successful on it then the state is giving you \$800,000.00 for sidewalks.

Shawn: and our participation is?

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Kory: I think our part last time was \$180,000.00. I believe it was a 12.5% match if I am remembering correctly.

*Motion passes unanimously*

- C. Council determination on final contract with McGree Trucking  
Katy motioned approval, Linda seconding.

Allissa: so, this was my fault. I let this fall through the cracks. We finalized on the contract in July and I just never finished it out.

Linda: I found this interesting and I guess I wasn't aware. I thought we had Monday pick up on the North side and Wednesday pick up on the south. But we have Friday too. Do they spend that much time here on Fridays? Probably not.

Mary: Friday is mostly businesses.

Allissa: they get it done fast.

Mary: yes, they are very efficient.

Katy: I have a question. Would the town consider totally getting rid of the garbage and giving it to whatever entity wanted to take it over?

Allissa: other towns do that. They leave it up to the residents. It is their responsibility to call whoever.

Katy: Would that be a consideration that we would consider. The Town of Whitehall.

Mary: we can certainly discuss it.

Kory: can I pipe in on this for a second? Other than McGree, any other garbage service is more than where we stand. McGrees main business is Butte and they work with the City of Butte on the tax. No one in the City of Butte pays McGrees on a bill it is all through a tax process through their dump fees. He kind of figured it per house he gets in Butte and that is what he charges us on the bill. If you look at Manhattan, Three Forks, Bozeman we are a 1/3 of the price.

Katy: this would not be a cost to the town if it were to go out private. They would come to me and charge me a fee to pick up the garbage so it wouldn't be on the City anymore.

Pat: would the citizens then be paying more?

Katy: that would be something that we would have to explore.

Kory: yeah.

Pat: if so then we would have to cut the fees that we are charging them now.

Kory: so we would cut our fees and that would mean that there isn't a garbage fee anymore. The thing that I do like the way that Butte and Whitehall do it is that every resident has to have a garbage pick-up. They pay that fee whether they want it or not and I think it keeps our town a lot cleaner. If you allow people to not have a garbage service, it seems like the garbage gets piled up and spread all over town.

Katy: Some of your cities have where you can take your garbage and drop it off at a dump site. Within the county. So, the garbage is taken care of if the property owner is responsible. I think that is something else that has to be looked at and I think that we should possibly explore it.

Kory: it is fine. I don't see right now the Town of Whitehall; we are balanced in the budget. The girls do the bills and those labor costs are covered. Also Public Works takes a little out of that money to pick up the alleys and debris alongside the street.

Katy: here again we should look at it and investigate.

Pat: I have lived in a community where it was up to the individual household. We had different trash companies coming up and down our streets 5 days a week.

Allissa: if this is something that you guys want to put on the agenda we need to tell Mary.

Roy: I don't think we can do anything until our contract is done anyway.

Katy: yes, food for thought is where it is at.

*Motion carries unanimously.*

- D. Council determination on building addition to town hall for city court so that the old town hall can be utilized by the library

Roy motioned approval, Shawn seconding

Mary: for those of you that don't already know. When this building was built plans were drawn up for an addition on the East side of this building so we already have the architect designs and everything in place. The library is busier and busier and needs more space. The idea was brought up by Jeanne if this could be a possibility so before we explore any further, costs and all that sort of thing, I just need to know how the Council felt about it so we can either move forward and bring more information and go forward from there or if you aren't interest I just need to know. Jeanne do you want to add anything?

Jeanne Ferris: actually, it came about in a conversation Kory and I had and it said that Whitehall needs a new library. We are hanging out the doors and the windows. As we

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were talking Kory and I thought that it is really silly for the Town to have two empty buildings. If we were to build a new library, we would have the old library building and the City Court on nothing inside it other than court two times a month. So, the more I thought about it and we talked about it with my staff and with the library is this would not be a an all or one kind of deal it would be a gradual process. If you would consider letting us use a couple of offices in the building that is currently vacant and a big room so that we could hold programs in it. What we have coming up in January is we have a series of programs that will involve our senior, the ambulance service through Holly Harper has graciously agreed to do a free 12-week class on mobility issues. Plus, we have 8 weeks of Alzheimer's and Alzheimer's care takers, dementia patients and dementia care takers coming up also in January. ACS which is more planning and the more programs that we do involving our seniors with maybe not such mobility it is more important for them to not have to go up and down those stairs. Right now, we literally have people that can not use the library because they cannot use the stairs and walking to the end of the building and going up the ramp exhausts them. We have a regular class of people from Liberty Place that are coming right now. It takes 20 minutes to move everybody and help unload everybody, go up to the ramp get them into the library to where we can do the programs, we have for them on memory things. We are only going to get busier. We are drawing people from all over. We have people with library cards that come from Three Forks from Silver Bow from Boulder from Cardwell from everywhere. Which is great and it is wonderful and it gets all sorts of little fun things going on but we are just physically out of space. We are running on an average of about 250 people a day and around 6,000 people a month. That is A LOT for that building to handle. What we would like to do is work on a graduated plan. I will be writing grants for an architect what I would like to do is make the main entry of the library to be between the two buildings. That way it is ground level for our people with mobility issues and Montana Library standards say that I must have a staff person in each building. So as long as we have two buildings it would only be part time use even for us. I can have volunteers help work the library if it is one building and the entry way in the middle then I can have my volunteers and my staff people run back and forth between both buildings. I just found out that this is a concrete idea so I am working through all the scenarios. But our first thought is that we would really like to put the adult section in the old town hall so that all of our adults with mobility issues would then be able to use the library. Right now, we are happy to run books up and down to them or drop books off at their homes but as you all know it is nice to go and pick things out for yourself.

Mary: Jeanne, just come into the office. You are more than welcome to use the big area for any of those things that you were talking about other than on a Wednesday. Just come in and we will get them on the calendar. You can start using it for that immediately.

Jeanne: wonderful. We are really looking at January as we are really looking for the schools to finish up with the holidays so our programing will go down. If we could start in January that would be amazing!

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Mary: that would be great. We have had other trainings there and other groups in that room. You will just have to come in and we will put you on the calendar.

Roy: when you go in to apply for funds if we donate this building for you to use and add on to this one how will that work? In your mind.

Jeanne: Libraries qualify for loans that other agencies don't. where I would be able to fund through grants to get an entry way built or if we were to need more shelving or something. That would cover that. As far as Allissa and I have talked the second grant for ARPA money is coming up and looking at some different grants to see if I could help her to write grants to put a new court house in. But I cannot write a grant for the library to get a new court house building. My library board would not be very happy. I would be more than happy to help with this and exploring grants because you guys also qualify for grants that libraries do not.

Pat: and the reason we are talking about putting the addition on this building is that where we would put the court. So, we would be completely out of old town hall and this is where we would have court.

Mary: we would not be completely out of old town hall. We would retain the garage and storage space.

Pat: Right but for court.

Allissa: I am only there twice a month.

Jeanne: and we don't have a library vehicle to drive around town so we don't need the garage.

Pat: I think I would like the library board to come to us with a proposal. They can use it now but that doesn't include the construction and moving of the court. They can use it now but if you need to go beyond that I think we need to see proposals.

Mary: that is what this motion is to move forward with that.

Jeanne: the library board have a lot to think about. I just told them last week that this is a possibility. We know it's going to be process and time and figure out the logistics what the staff requirements would be.

Pat: Go ahead now and use it that it's available but before planning of the court or any construction we would need a lot more information and plans.

Mary: Right, we just didn't want to put any work into this unless you guys were in favor of moving forward to find out all of that information. Just baby steps. This is just the first step.

Pat: well, I am glad that they can use it.

Jeanne: me too.

Mary: all you have to do is ask.

*Motion carries unanimously.*

- E. Council determination on suspending purchase order process until new procedure is in place  
Pat motion, Shawn seconding

Mary: this is what we discussed at our training session and this is just to move forward with that and come back to council.

Allissa: they are going to set the policy.

Mary: right. Allissa has it on listserv to see what the other towns are doing now.

Roy: does this say suspended?

Mary: yes.

Roy: no.

Shawn: I agree.

Katy: I disagree also.

Shawn: We don't want to suspend. It would be business as usual until we have something ready.

Pat: you do not get rid of procedure until you have a replacement ready.

Roy motioned the new procedure isn't in place and to continue doing what we have until council has a chance to review work on this, Katy second.

*Motion carries unanimously*

Pat: we have talked about maybe doing a working session on this.

- F. Council determination on leasing the town hall garage to the ambulance district for the winter, no more than 9 months.

Pat motioned, Bill seconding.

Pat: have they come forward with a formal request on this or has it been informal conversations at this point.

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Mary: It has been informal at this point. I thought that now that the town is part of the district that a good will gesture to the ambulance and to get them off of the street to let them park in the two bays that are open right now. I am thinking about the people that live in this town. A lot of elderly people and we are so lucky to have an ambulance. At the county commissioners in Willow Creek, Three Forks desperately recruiting and pleading to their people. And out of the north end their ambulance service abruptly closed. It is a problem state wide if you have been watching the news. EMS and ambulance in these rural communities. I just felt strongly that we try to support them as much as possible. They are in the process of building their new ambulance barn which I think is wonderful. I am so happy to see that progress. This would just be a temporary gesture over the winter. It is up to you. We can do a \$1 lease like we do with the Library and the Country Store. We can charge \$650 dollars. That's what they pay out at the business park for the garage space. That is up to you.

Holly: it's only \$450

Mary: oh! I am sorry I thought someone told me it was \$650.

Roy: I am not in favor of this for quite a few reasons. We are going to have to store some of our equipment outdoors for some of that space we would normally have indoors. Fire dept has one of those bays and we put them out to put the painter in and I think we need to have them come back. Plus, issues with the lawsuit not being settle or settled. I just think that is not a good idea for the council to go back into that right now. I am glad we have an ambulance service but just has a little pain on it. I think we could use it a little better for ourselves and to take care of our equipment and keep it indoors. We have cleaned two bays already but we would have to clean all of the plumbing supplies out to get in and out of there. I think at this time I would oppose that.

Shawn: I have two questions. You guys are out at the electrical facility but your vehicles are not under cover. Is that right?

Holly Harper (Jefferson Valley Rural Ambulance District): we are here from the district and you guys just resolved to join the district. Honestly do we rent a bay or not is really miniscule in the grand scheme of things. We are really excited because this was the vision from the beginning that whole The Whitehall High School District, except for the 10 Silver Bow residents. We have arrived at what we wanted in the beginning and it is super important and I don't want this to turn into something weird. The only comment that I wanted to make was... well to answer your question right now we have 9 ambulances. The second question is how many are running. The parking of the ambulances inside. We do have some ambulances parked inside but the current... and they need an ambulance parked at the foot of the mine because they need an ambulance parked there. We can definitely use the indoor ambulance storage. I also want to clarify the "we" there is a lot of confusion of the "we". We are the ambulance district and are a county entity the board seats are elected. The ambulance is a nonprofit. We the district contract with them. They park their vehicles where they park their vehicles. So, our roll in this conversation is that if there is a relationship between the town council and the county entity that is the district and what we do with that

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space would be determined by us. At this point because it is really early days and this is just a casual conversation, we are in the process of trying to buy a UTV with a trailer and we don't want that to be outside either. Ideally nothing is outside, right? But there is not enough space. We are interested in learning the dollar amount of leasing that space. However, we don't have a lot of money and in spite of the resolution for Whitehall to join the ambulance district we won't see a dime until next January. We aren't going to get this sudden influx of money. We are not flush by any means but we are curious so we are mildly interested. If you all feel the way that Roy feels then it's a bad idea and that's ok.

Pat: now, are we talking about an agreement between the Town of Whitehall and your district and not a private contractor.

Holly: yes, that is what this conversation is about.

Bill: How many ambulances are inside now?

Holly: 3

Bill: so, this is written for no more than 9 months. Are we talking just this winter or are we talking into next winter?

Mary: no, we are just talking this winter, because they are building the new facility. As soon as it warms up in the summer it is not so much a problem. I have had to write citations because ambulances are parked on City Boulevards because they have to plug them in because of all the mechanics and mechanisms in an ambulance should be in a heated garage. It makes everything easier to get to the emergency and take care of the patient and hopefully save a life. When I think of this, I don't think of what happened in the past. I think what is best for the people of Whitehall. That is my only concern. What is best for the people we represent. This is a public building. We have been able to move things around. It won't hurt us for one winter to do without those two bays. The fire dept because we did have the space, I allowed them to park their trailer in there. I don't see that trailer as being a necessity. It is only used maybe twice a year and just sits in here. Whereas, the ambulance goes out I don't know how many times a week. I feel very strongly that we need to take care of the people in this town.

Linda: I do have a couple questions. Insurance. Liability. Have we figured all that out.

Mary: no this again is just the step we would have to figure all of that out and bring it back for next council meeting. Like I said on the other issue. It is a waste of our time to put all of this work into something to have it get shot down. We need to know from you where you stand, so we can either move forward or not.

Pat: personally, I would like to see a formal request made so we can understand what you want and what is expected. Okay. What happens in the middle of the night if the alarm goes off, you have to come in here and open the garage door and someone slips



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and falls? Who's liable? I think it is worth looking into but things like that need to be ironed out and then we can move forward with the research.

Mary: we can bring all of that information to you next council meeting. We just need to know if you want to move forward or not. We are kind of in a time. We need to decide by next month because the weather is horrible and it is not going to get any better.

Pat: there have been a lot of informal discussions that seem to be driving some of these things. I would like something a little but more formalized. So, we can understand what really is being asked.

Roy: who is the lease with? Is it a county lease?

Mary: it's a district lease.

Holly: \*inaudible. \* it's a special district.

Pat: not with the contractor?

Roy: but we have to let the contractors in here.

Holly: it's your building I guess if you said ambulance district if you lease this space for X amount of money but we don't want the contractors in there then we would know that those are the parameters. I guess that we are mildly curious and if this is going to cause a lot of grief then don't do it. There are other places. It was just an informal conversation and now this information conversation has happened repeatedly in fact and this is really a nice response.

Bill: I do agree with Mary that we do have to let some things in the past go. Because we are trying to move forward as a town through all of that stuff. I am a little confused between the ambulance district and the contractor. You are kind of one in the same? The ambulance district is similar to the fire department? We own the fire hall correct?

Allissa: we own the land and the rural owns the building? Or is it the other way around?

Kory: Neither. The rail road owns the land and the rural leases that from them. Not a town building.

Mary: So, the ambulance district contracts just like we contract for the garbage. Our dealings would be with the district.

Bill: so, that is something we do with other entities too.

Mary: Yes, and we have used this garage space for the painting of the murals. It is a wonderful thing for the community. They needed a big space and something warm to get those done and it looks wonderful up there. We have the senior citizens toe clinic

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here every other month. That is a service for the community that is very helpful. It used to be at the community center but we have better parking more space.

Roy I would like to change the motion.

Roy motioned tabling until next meeting

Roy: and maybe do a working meeting with all parties involved to see what the numbers look like

Allissa: I would suggest doing a set date on when you want to do that.

Holly: there is talk of renting it for \$1 and then all the way up to I don't know. I really don't want to waste anyone's time.

Roy: we just need to figure out... what if one of those ambulances in there get damaged. Who is liable for that? Us? You? Someone backs the ambulance through the wall. Who is liable for it? us? You? There is just a lot of questions that need to be answered.

Holly: do you have a list of specific questions so we can get the right answers.

Kory: one of my questions to you guys is. We are set up back there where all my brass is set up in one of those rooms. So, we are going to be sharing a space unless I move out. Does that work or? The way I see it is if we are going to lease something that we need to be out of it and you guys should be in it.

Holly: to be honest with you I had no idea which bays we were even talking about. I didn't know if it was going to be in this building or in the little one next to the jail cells. We don't know the answer to that.

Kory: that was my concern is I still have a lot of stuff in there so it would take me two days to move all that out. It was a concern I shared with Mary. The office gals have a bunch of stuff in this first bay. The way I visualize a lease is it should be a secured space. I don't think the town employees should be going around the ambulances and the ambulances should be going around town stuff. That is the stuff that I think needs worked out.

Roy: will your ambulances fit in the garage at city court?

Holly: some of the stuff I'm sure wouldn't. but when we talk about having a dollar lease on some of the buildings came up that's what I thought. Maybe we should talk about that. Because what we have and what we want to have is... we don't speak for the ambulance service the 501c3 we don't speak for them. It is kind of the idea of someone slips on the ice and brains themselves on the bumper of the ambulance. That isn't our answer. You are in fact contracting with us and that is all we can speak for.

Mary: and that is an option we could move all of the stuff that we have in the city court garage and move it here and then free up that space. So, we can't discuss that until we have all that. So, the motion is to table it.

Shawn seconding

Motion carries unanimously

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

Shawn motioned approval, Linda seconding

*Motion carried unanimously*

**XIII. ADJOURN**

*Motion carried unanimously*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Mary Hensleigh

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date