

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
P. O. BOX 529
WHITEHALL, MT 59759
NOVEMBER 12TH, 2019

The Whitehall Town Council held their regular meeting in the Council Chambers at 207 East Legion Street, Tuesday, November 12th, 2019. The Meeting was held on Tuesday due to Veterans Day.

PRESENT: Council Members: Shawn Hoagland, Logan Reiff, Katy James, Gary Housman, Mayor Mary Hensleigh and Town Clerk/Treasurer Summer Fellows.

VISITORS: Dale Morse, Bridget Morse, Lori Young and Allissa Christensen.

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 Francine Janik.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Katy James made motion to approve the Agenda with Logan seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Katy James motioned to approve with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. REPORTS:

Mayor's Report:

Mayor: We are all human and we make mistakes. And last month I made a mistake and I would like to apologize to the Council. After reading over the rules, roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and

Council, when I did the hire, I should have told the new hire that his hire was contingent upon Council approval and that should have been reflected in the Agenda. I didn't do that and I apologize for that. It put us all in an uncomfortable situation and it was unnecessary. I don't do that many hires and fires and it wasn't anything malicious, It was just something I overlooked. I do want to apologize to you because that was awkward and uncomfortable and I won't do it again. I'd like to thank Glenna Waltee for displaying her late husbands art. He's no longer with us but his artwork is and it's absolutely wonderful.

Officer's Reports:

Attorney's Report:

Ed Guza: I think there is a porting of the Agenda that is specific to the dispute with Hardrives so I'll deal with that then. Nothing really more to report than that. Obviously, we are dealing with the lawsuit against the Town and Summer and I were both deposed for that incident. We don't know how that issue is going to resolve itself if it will but, we have our settlement conference soon and we'll see if we can resolve that case. I don't know if anyone has any specific questions for that case but if you do, I can answer them and you can talk to me after the meeting and I'll talk about the Hardrives issue later.

Clerk / Treasurer's Report:

Summer Fellows: I've just been working on books and working on certain reports for Rural Development Grant opportunities. That is taking a lot of my time. I heard back from the auditor today so hopefully we can wrap this up in the next few weeks. They have some questions and I will get them answers tomorrow. We've started the Facebook page so I've been trying to put things on there of happenings, pictures, things going on in Town and positive posts. I've got Allissa working on the website with getting that updated so things are coming along that way.

Katy: Do we have an administrator for the Facebook page?

Summer: I have myself, Allissa and I need one other person. I believe Logan said she would do it.

Public Work's Report:

Kory: Water, I did inventory on our shelf parts, you guys have a P.O. (purchase order) for that tonight. We finished flushing fire hydrants in zone B which is all of First Street, Legion Street and Valley View. We had to shut off the water main for an illegal service connection at 107 Yellowstone that I couldn't get the curb stop to shut off. We worked on it for a while, just shutting off the main. It effected a couple places but only for about 15 minutes. We did work on the fire hydrant down by the Fire Hall. To no avail, we can't break the valve loose on the bottom of that so I ordered a new hydrant. The curb stop valve at the swimming pool, the curb box tube has shifted. I'm going to have to dig it up and replace the curb stop or just replace the tube. I don't know if the sidewalk shifted or what but I'm having problems with it. I had eight water and sewer locate tickets to do this month and I did two water bacteria samples. So, then sewer I did three sewer samples taken on the 6th and DMR (Distribution Maintenance Reporting) was taken on the 8th. I met with Roger from Rural Water to start working on an emergency response plan for the sewer. It's quite detailed and it's going to take me awhile. We worked about three days on the surplus sale between cleaning the garage and getting everything moved down there and then sale day. Streets, we started filling big pot holes with millings on A, B and C streets. I have quite a bit more to do of that but it will be coming. I did fix a water shed problem at 514 Valley View. It took probably two

truckloads of conda off the street through the yard. We plowed and sanded streets on November 11th. We filled potholes and fixed the road out to the lift station; it was pretty bad so we spent about a day working on that. On alleys, we just picked up brush and moved trees. We got the West side of 1st, 2nd and the south side done. Cemetery, we straightened up five head stones just to fill in some time. I did a full grave the 15th and we did a cremation on the 23rd. We removed one small tree that was dead and I did fix the road going into the Cemetery on the 22nd. We did have two head stones set at the Cemetery and I met with the guys who did that to make sure they did it correctly. Parks, we removed two small trees in Legion Park that were dead and picked up branches. Garbage, we did get the small garbage cans on the south side and we picked up the big garbage cans also on the south side. We do have some truck repairs to do. The seal on the steering box is out and the seal on the rear tail gate needs to be replaced. The fuel gage needs to be changed and electrical switch. We washed out the garbage truck 6 times and we greased the truck four times last month. We changed oil and greased the 2015 GMC and greased all the equipment in the shop. We put lights up around all the trees in the Park and hung a sign at the City Court building and we removed flowers from the park. For a day and a half, I had Ron watching safety videos and going over the safety manuals. He has about 12 hours into that and Don and I have an hour and a half each and one hour of employee meetings. I was called out by the Sherriff's Office for a water leak and I had to shut the water off. It was about two weeks ago at midnight. I had an emergency locate ticket at 308 W. Viella and I plowed snow Monday coming to a total of 4 hours of call out time. I did 8 locate tickets and 11 work orders. If you guys ever want to see the work orders I do you are more than welcome to come and see them.

Gary: What about this hydrant you are dealing with down there? Can you shut the gate valve off or is the gate valve part of the hydrant?

Kory: So, I believe the gate valve is just a gate valve but I believe the hydrant is bolted to the gate valve.

Gary continues to talk about hydrant parts. See recording.

Fire Chief's Report:

Summer: I believe the Fire Men are having their meeting tonight, I'm not there obviously. They've had a couple of trainings and it seems lately there have been a lot of calls on the highway which is the norm this time of year.

Sheriff's Report:

Summer: Chad was not able to make it because he was requested at another meeting.

Summer reads a report with all the calls, citations and cases made starting in March to current month. See packet.

Committee / Board Reports:

Planning Board: No meeting.

Recreational Complex Board:

Shawn: The Rec Board had their last meeting and there is no report. They won't reconvene until spring.

Pool Board: No Meeting.

Trees, Parks and Cemetery: No meeting.

Water/Sewer/Garbage:

Katy James: Reads minutes. See packet.

Streets/Alley/Sidewalks:

Katy: Reads minutes. See packet.

T.I.F.F: No report.

CTAC: No Report.

VII. Public Comment:

No comments.

VIII. Consent Agenda:

Development Permit

None.

Business License

Billings's Seafood Guys

K-Designers

Greater Whitehall Area- Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC)

Shawn made a motion to discuss with Logan seconding.

Is the Billings Sea Food Guys just an intermittent thing?

Summer: Yes, they are hoping to come every couple of months. I don't know how business is but they were kind enough to get a business license.

Shawn: That's great. The K-Designers, did I read that right? It's a contractor coming in to install windows just once?

Summer: Yes.

Shawn: So, once again it's a courtesy thing.

Summer: Yes, they have to have a business license to do business in the Town of Whitehall.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

None.

X. Unfinished Business:

A. Discuss Business License, Nuisances, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks. (Tabled)

B. Discuss and vote on Facebook Policy.

Logan made a motion to discuss and vote on the Facebook policy with Shawn seconding.

Logan: I think its good and I think we need it but I worry about the comments.

Summer: I have it set up on Facebook that anyone can comment but it has to be approved.

Logan: Oh good.

Shawn: It has to go through an Admin.

Summer: Right so either me, or Allissa and Logan when I get you set up, same thing. Is anyone on the Facebook page?

Katy: I haven't had a chance to look I up.

Summer: Ok, so anyone can like it. I've recently put on there if anyone would like to post pictures or happenings in the Town, please feel free. It's a good positive thing. Just a quick update, I've talked with Mary about this and I think it would be a good idea if we maybe had a poll on there to see what the people like. We are going to have to have a mill levy increase. Would people like to see their own police department or a recreational tax? Just get some input from the people that way is an idea. I don't know if it's a good idea but it's just something to think about.

Lori Young: Do we have agendas for that?

Summer: You mean for us to put the agendas on the page?

Mayor: We have the website.

Summer: Right. We are working on getting that updated but I can see if I can get it on there. I know I can take a picture and post it on there. I just don't know how great it will be on there as far as people seeing it but I'll try.

Katy: What's the title? Just Town of Whitehall?

Summer: Town of Whitehall, Montana. If you're on Facebook, just invite everyone to like it, I think I invited you Logan. I know not everyone has a Facebook account but one of the biggest problems we see in the office is people claim to not know when garbage pickup is. My problem is, we are on T.V., we have things posted and we put things in the newspaper. I don't know how much more we can do, in short of me going door to door. So, hopefully the Facebook page reaches a new crowd.

Shawn: And help get the word out.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Discuss and vote on Hard Drives current proposal regarding failed chip sealing of streets.

Roy motioned to discuss with Logan seconding.

Ed: I assume most people know that we are talking about 1st Street, Division Street and Main Street here in Town starting the chip seal work that Hardrives did on those streets. It's been a couple years that the contract was first entered into, August 17, 2017 to be exact. So, this is something that the Town has been dealing with for quite some time. What I've done is meet and discuss with Roy, Kory, Summer and the Mayor at various times to try to come up with what we can agree to, to put this behind us on short of litigations. That's the last thing that the Town wants or needs. So, it's been my effort to talk to Will Livingston who is the project supervisor, in fact, he was the project supervisor who worked on this project here in Town. He has been the company representative that I have emailed this issue to him on several occasions trying to get him to tell me what terms would be agreeable to Hardrives that I could then present to the Council so that we could come with an agreement that suits everyone. That took some time. I'll say that not every email was responded to. I had to come back and flush out some specific issues and all along I made it very clear in that nothing I was telling him was binding on the Town, I don't have that authority obviously, that's up to the Council to decide whether or not we are going to enter into an agreement to resolve this or not. Also, what those terms would be that's the Council's role not mine. He understands that, or at least he should, I have it in writing. So, one of the things that was discussed was whether or not we should come up with some sort of monetary settlement. That came up at one of the prior meetings. We talked about doing that and the problem was at least the numbers they were giving us came nowhere close to actually dealing with removal of the chip sealing that was defective and actually re-chip sealing those three roads. My focus was trying to get the Town full. Full to me means redoing those roads in their entirety. So, that was the basis of my conversation with Mr. Livingston and I believe we have come to a point now where I can present to him a settlement agreement that outlines the terms that his company can agree to and I'll just quickly run through it. I have and worked on today the settlement agreement. I gave Kory a copy and Summer but I forgot to give you a copy Roy, my apologies.

Summer: I'm passing mine down for them all to look at.

Ed: Perfect, thank you. So, again we are talking about 1st Street, Division Street and Main Street. The date that the Town decided that they need this work done in consideration of their summer obligations was July 17th, 2020 and it's at their sole expense that Hardrives will re-chip seal the full length and width of all three streets and they will do that in conformance with the DOT's (Department of Transportation) regulations, state law and codes, etc. We asked for two weeks prior notice and they agreed to that. So, in other words, July 17th, 2020 is the cut off date. They can do it before then but all along they have to give us two-week written notice and then that gives the Town enough time to clear those streets and work can be done without any hinderance on Hardrives. One of the things that Hardrives wanted was which that would allow them to have delays and that is a sensitive issue for the Town because of some of the history. The way that I wrote this agreement was that it would have to be the type of delay that they couldn't control. So, if they overbooked for the summer for example that would not be an excusable delay. But, like if there was a natural disaster, flooding or something like that we wouldn't expect them to work on the road when obviously conditions wouldn't have been foreseeable and conducive to putting in a good solid road for us. They are going to be responsible for all damages to all person and property to that and I have an identification provision in here that Hardrives will agree to indemnify, defend and hold the Town harmless. I have quite an extensive provision in there, I won't go into all the details but indemnify means for example if one party is sued because they feel that they were wronged and they happen to bring in the Town for example, the Town could say "wait a second

we're not responsible for this action, Hardrives is and they need to step up and indemnify issues with the Town, pay attorney fees and everything else associated with that ". So, there is an indemnification clause and a one-year warranty as well. Much of this came in the original agreement so I'm not putting things out there that wasn't originally agreed to by Hardrives. So, there is a one-year warranty, a 1-million-dollar liability insurance policy and a right for the Town to inspect the work and give Hardrives notice if there is any defect we see. So, those were the main terms that we agreed to. One more thing, I think is very important in this case is that there are attorney's fees in the event of dispute between the parties concerning the work that is being done here, we have an attorney fee's clause if unfortunately, we do have to go to litigations. That's where we are at with it and I am hopeful we can present this agreement to Hardrives, get a quick response, signed and move forward with this to conclusion which is what everyone wants.

Roy: I would just like to say when we first started this, we really wanted to get the cash out of the deal but that was not going to happen. I think this is the best deal for us.

Shawn: Effectively, if they agree and sign, when you get to that point that pretty much stops our ability to run out the clock correct? It's kind of resets things to this contract.

Ed: It does and you are absolutely correct because of one of the things coming up as part of the hurdles we had to overcome was that their argument was that it's been this length of time that it's been used since we put the new road down and the money that they were talking about is isolated to some certain time frame. It just wasn't realistic considering the situation that we are dealing with roads; they have to be used every single day. So, it just wasn't a realistic issue they presented to us.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XI. New Business:

A. Discuss and vote on Town of Whitehall forming their own Police Department.

Shawn made a motion to discuss with Logan seconding.

Gary: We've been through this before and we can't afford the workman's comp, retirement and benefits. Do you recall that Mary or was that with Dale?

Mayor: That was with Dale but I do recall that it has been brought up before.

Gary: We get protection from the County and I don't think we can compete.

Summer: Our Deputies do a great job. This is not about the Deputies, Dispatch or the County because I want to first of all say they are great. I think the biggest complaint we have from the Town is the lack of things they want enforced in the Town. If we want to enforce those things like Mr. Doolittle said, it costs. Right now, the County covers all over Jefferson County. The only Town I could compare this to would be Boulder. So, I called Ellen and their budget is 202,000 a year. Now, they had to make some budget cuts so she was thinking they were probably going to go over that a little bit. That is three people. The Chief of Police they put on a salary and the other two are hourly. Starting wage is \$18 dollars an hour. After they complete the academy and pass they get a dollar increase and after they have been there a year they get \$20 dollars an hour. There are several kinds of pay that they have and that is what's called; overtime, call out and on call pay. In their budget it costs them about \$20,000 a

year and that's in the \$202,000. One thing I do know is that they are on an agreement with the County, I don't know Katy do you remember? I know they pay something for dispatch.

Katy: Mm hmm. (confirming head nod)

Summer: It use to be kind of a hand shake deal as far as the jail cell and using the office.

Katy: Since then, the Boulder PD (Police Department) has moved their office out of the actual Sherriff's office building and into another building and that's probably contracted with the County.

Summer: Right, and I'll have to check into that as well as far as if that is included in this \$202,000. I would find that a little hard.

Roy: Does that \$202,000 cover workman's comp?

Summer: It covers everything. One of the things that we are looking at is we have to do something with the General Fund. We haven't had an increase in the General Fund since 1971. We can't keep maintaining the General Fund with the way we are going. The cost of business doesn't go down. So, it has been brought to my attention by one of the Council Members that there could be a way to have our own police force and put a mill levy on the police so it pays for itself. Start up costs is going to be spendy, I don't know if we could get a grant but this is just kind of a beginning of what the Council wants to do.

Mayor: This is to just start exploring.

Summer: I don't want to go into this too much until I really know what direction the Council wants to go.

Mayor: Manhattan just voted on a mill levy to have a three-person force. So, that's what they are doing. So, we just want to get some comparisons. We have people come in saying they would like the Town to have their own force and we have people that say to just leave it with a contract with the County. This might be one of those things that we poll on the new Facebook page, what do you think? The Bozeman Chronicle does a weekly poll. Just as an example, they polled the Law and Justice center and it failed. The poll showed that people weren't going to vote for it numerous times and they still put it on and it failed. These polls aren't always 100% accurate but they are helpful because we can't talk to every single person in Town. We are looking for permission to look to different avenues and then come back and present to the Council. This is just step one.

Roy: Can I ask you another question?

Mayor: Sure.

Roy: Is there any law or Ordinance or anything that says how many hours you have to cover if you have law enforcement?

Ed: Yeah, Summer raised that with me prior to the meeting and I'd have to look into it Roy. I don't know off hand. I can say statutorily Montana Code Annotated I'm not aware of anything that specific but there are Administrative Rules that are numerous and sometimes difficult to decipher but they're out there and those Administrative Rules are tasked with the role of putting more meat on the bones I guess that pertains to statue. I can certainly help Summer if the Council approves moving forward if she has more questions. We have search engines in my office that can dive into those pretty readily.

Summer: And I do know there are certain hours that they call lag time with the County but I do know there is a 6-hour period where there is no coverage on duty in the Town. I talked to the deputies and they switch it around. It's never a set time. Boulder does the same thing; they have a lag time. I was going to research the Administration Rules but I think they are a little more difficult.

Mayor: I didn't want Summer putting in a whole lot of time into this before we know which way the Council wanted to go.

Katy: I did a little bit of research talking to the officers and deputies because of the fact I have contact with them all. As well as the Sheriff. We are going to be looking at three officers with three vehicles and you are looking at \$40,000 per vehicle. That does not include a radio and the radar system. We now have computers with our officers in their cars and the Town of Boulder has put theirs in, just so they can track each other and we can see them as well as the deputies. For a new computer we could be looking at \$3000. Radar equipment \$5000, the mobile radio \$8000 and those are guestimates. So, start up is going to be very costly and this isn't something that is going to happen overnight. We can put this mill levy out on the June election ballot and then we would see the money in November and that money would only be just getting us started. There are deals out there right now like Ford dealership has some kind of a deal if you buy so many vehicles you get them at costs. So, we could be looking at a year before getting this thing going. Then the hiring process and if we hire someone and they are not post certified which is going to the Academy. But if they are post certified, they have the extra education which will weigh into their salary. Then down the road we have to look at like Gary said the workman's comp and everything, we've got to look at what workman's comp is going to cost us, their compensation for overtime, etcetera. We have to provide uniforms, taser, weapons, ammo, shot gun and video recording because they all wear cameras. The vehicles have it as well. Then are we going to incur a cost of office space and bookings from audio to video and recording during bookings. We're going to have an expense to transport the prisoners to Boulder so we are going to have wear and tear on our vehicles so, that will have to be figured in there which is typical with any kind of business that you are running. Housing the prisoners shouldn't cost us because depending on what or how they are arrested, a felony the County has to house them. So, I don't think we have to worry about that. If we would consider putting our own dispatching back in the Town it would be very costly. Where we could contact with the County to do the dispatching for us it would be a direct link and it makes sense because I know with dispatching down here a little bit we didn't have access to running the vehicles with the people but Boulder does so we'd have to call up there anyhow. We'd have to look into pay differentials, like you said Summer they pay a salary to the chief in Boulder. So, we could be looking at two years to do this if we do a mill levy. Hopefully we can research the start up to see what it's going to cost.

Summer: That's kind of where I am at. The only other thing that I can tell you is right now in our contact, we pay for a portion of that for dispatch and the only other town or private service, Boulder is the only other one. Unfortunately, it kind of stinks for Whitehall because there are only two incorporated towns and that's the issue. Boulder has their own force but there is really no other place we can compare to. But I can promise you Montana City, Jefferson City those places up there, they get the same amount of law from the County as we do. The only difference is we are paying a contract and they aren't.

Roy: What's that contract going to go to or do we have any clue?

Summer: I know that when Craig and we met he talked about the contract going up but we don't know. At one point in time they were going to rent the old Town Hall and that fell through for whatever

reason. Maybe budgetary or we didn't get it done in time, I don't know. It could go up \$20,000 or \$60,000 I don't know.

Allissa Christensen: How much do we currently pay?

Summer: \$111,000 roughly but it is under \$112,000. I don't know the exact dollar amount. It's something to think about right, wrong or indifferent. I think the biggest complaint from people in Town is like when they call in a loose dog and about some of the stuff the County doesn't enforce the only stuff the County enforces is what they would have to enforce if they were incorporated or not. They don't do anymore than that.

Mayor: We wouldn't have to buy brand new vehicles.

Summer: No.

Mayor: Or would we?

Katy: I know one of our deputies right now, he gave me his mileage the other day when he transported a criminal and his mileage was 197,000. He's a new Deputy and he got one of the older vehicles. They put on a lot of miles on their vehicles in a year's time. Every one of them do.

Summer: The County?

Katy: In the County yeah. Driving around Town here and there maybe not as much.

Summer: That's what I'm thinking too.

Katy: Their mileage will most likely be incurred on their way up to Boulder and back. You probably can take a look at surplus.

Summer: I just want to know if the Council wants me to go forward with more facts, costs and stuff.

Shawn: Well, yeah. My vote is yes. I would like to know what we are legally obligated to provide.

Logan: Yes definitely.

Summer: No one has been able to tell me that and I just asked Ed tonight but yeah.

Shawn: I think that's worth investing in to know because you can't make a decision or compare until we know what our obligations are as an incorporated Town. With your knowledge you said, three officers, three vehicles, is that a hard fact based on hours that need to be provided to a municipality?

Summer: Well, Boulder did have two officers. They've been back and forth.

Katy: We have three officers in Boulder and one of them finishes up the academy in the middle of December, I think. As soon as he is through, my observation ok? Right now, they are running two officers. One is the Chief of Police and he other is an officer and right now they are working 12-hour shifts. So, we've always got an officer we can contact on this call out or whatever but they've got to have time off. So that's where that third one comes into play as well. It will be interesting to see in January to where they work out the schedule.

Roy: I don't want to be caught short when the County gets us wanting \$60,000 more than what you've got.

Summer: I can tell you right now, we have to have law enforcement and I'm curious if we get it up \$20,000, \$30,000 there is no money in the General Fund and I don't know where it's going to come from. I would say that would shut down the swimming pool, I mean what do you do? We have to have it.

Shawn: We need to explore plan B which is having our own and if it comes to it, tell the people.

Summer: I don't know but I bet there are grants out there. When it comes to small towns and third class, there's a lot out there for that.

Katy: We are running at least five deputies down here for the Sherriff's office that live here.

Summer: Yep.

Shawn: I agree. It's a tough call.

Mayor: We could move City Court.

Summer: The jail cell is not legal though so it cannot be used.

Mayor: We are not talking about the jail cell so we are good there.

Summer: Just wanted to make sure.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Discuss and vote on Town of Whitehall looking into contracting out the garbage service.

Shawn motioned to discuss with Roy seconding.

Roy: I think its another one of those things you need to look at. It's the same scenario. We've got an antiquated garbage truck that's trying to die on us. We're going t have to put \$300,000 into it if we buy a new one.

Summer: If we buy a new one, it's around \$300,000 maybe more.

Roy: Plus, you got to have people that service it, on it, run it and if you can get a decent contract and still the great kind of service and do it for what is allowed in the City budget for the garbage which I think when we were down we were able to do that.

Summer: Yes, and to just give you a run down. At one time Rusty. was going to do it for us for \$76,000 or \$86,000.

Kory: \$77,000 is what I think I had.

Summer: Ok, but the Town was set up a little bit differently then. And plus, we would still be doing all the administrative stuff if there wasn't a garbage picked up, the Town still has to go pick it up. We are going to have to adjust for those costs. I'm not saying Guilio's is the way to go, I believe at one time, there were only two people who could actually bid the job and people don't understand this, you have to have a permit to cross Counties. They don't give out those permit's easily. I did my homework at that

time and there was only two and come to light possibly a third one so we could possibly put an RFP (Request for Proposal) out but, we are limited on choices. McGree, Guilio and possibly Tri-County who was the third one I found out about today. So, I will reach out to them if that's the way the Council wants to go.

Mayor: And here again, we just want to explore the costs because we are also looking at a water treatment operator as a fourth hire. Do we want to do that or do we want to contract out the garbage and stick with the three employees? We need to do some comparisons to see what will be best for the Town.

Gary: I still think you got way more help than work here. Now, next spring your going to say "lets get rid of the Cemetery or Parks". Well, then we got three guys. Why can't we keep the garbage? We spent a lot of money on that truck keeping it up.

Mayor: Ok, that's what we want to explore. That's what we want to see what will pencil out and what will be best for the Town.

Summer: And I'd like to add too when we talk about personnel. When I first came on with the Town, there was three guys working. They worked there for a couple of years. Every summer, the old Public Works Director at least a couple of summer's I can account for there were always extra people working doing mowing and they contracted out. So, there's lots of different things, you have to compare apples to apples not apples to oranges because the prior Public Works Director had his two assistants and a laborer. In the summer time they hired 3 seasonal that I know of. We've never had that since I've worked for the Town, we've never had that many helpers. So, if we could hire some people seasonal and keep three guys on busy with this water treatment center fine, whatever the Council wants to do. If we are going to compare hours and stuff I mean, there was a lot more help back then.

Mayor: And here again, we're just wanting to see what direction you want to go. We don't want to put a lot of time and hours into doing all this homework and getting all these facts and figures unless we have permission from you.

Katy: Maybe to put it to rest we do research it. You know, take a look at it and see. Just like with the Police Department. Let's research it and get some answers and can then say "this is what we did, here's our documentation".

Logan: I think Montana did a bunch of research on the garbage service.

Summer: Even before Montana this was something that was discussed about. Back when Dale was Mayor, you remember Gary this was talked about. Some people were for it and some were not. I don't want to put a lot of time into doing the research and putting feelers out there if the Council doesn't want to do that. It's just been something that was brought up by a Council Member and wanted it put on the Agenda.

Gary: One thing you are going to have to watch though is they'll come in and low ball you trying to get their foot in the door and then we get rid of the garbage truck, then what do you do? Then we got to stay with them.

Summer: We don't get rid of the garbage truck.

Shawn: We need a comprehensive plan and we don't get rid of the garbage truck.

Summer: And we could put a clause in there, this is what it's going to be for 4-5 years. That's where Ed comes in.

Shawn: And its best to negotiate from a position where you're not desperate.

Summer: Right. And I say no matter what we don't get rid of that truck.

Logan: Because we are always going to have to recover in case something does happen.

Summer: And like I said it would come in handy. The one thing I can say from working in the office is that people complain more when we have contracted the garbage out. It's a downside because what would happen was, they would come in here, do the garbage fast and quick and they are gone. Granted they are out to get a buck.

Katy: But they were short time doing it. If this is going to be a full-time permanent deal, they better do a better job at it.

Summer: I agree.

Shawn: Do the research, take some time to research it and look what industry standards are for Municipalities. For me, I see a contract that is longer than a year with extension options and look at the budget to see how it works.

Summer: And like I said as far as consistency with the garbage cans and that cost, there's just a lot of things to consider.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Discuss and vote on approve selling the old ambulance for the bid price.

Logan motioned to discuss and approve selling the old ambulance with Shawn seconding.

Mayor: The Council approved minimum bids of what they would accept and the small stump grinder sold for \$300 and that was the minimum. The skid steer was set at \$150 and it sold for \$175. The mower was set at \$250 and it sold for \$339. The ambulance is the only thing that didn't reach your minimum, the bid on it was \$1,100. So, we wrote on the bid sheet contingent on Council approval.

Shawn: Inform me, what was the minimum set at again?

Summer: \$2,500.

Mayor: \$2,500 was what was approved.

Shawn: Katy?

Katy: It's not doing us any good.

Mayor: No.

Katy: And I don't know the conditions of the ambulance if its drivable or not. If someone's going to use it for a camper or something sure.

Logan: It doesn't appear to be.

Summer: Nobody wanted it from the Town.

Katy: It's not usable as an ambulance from my understanding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Discuss Council and Mayor responsibilities.

Mayor: In your packets we put in Mayor and Council responsibilities and I hope everybody had a chance to look at those. I've learned from personal experience to read them over so you don't make mistakes. So, any questions or comments? I think the main thing is communication and I think we have a little problem there. I think it would be very helpful if the Council Members individually would make a little time to come in and talk to the Mayor about things that concern you, things that I need to do and things you'd like to see changed. Roy does come in and talks to me on a regular basis and it's been very helpful. It's not that we always agree but at least we have the discussion and we move on from there. But I think we are lacking in communicating and being more connected. By law, I cannot call or text all of the Council members and poll you on an issue. I can't do that but, you can come in here and talk to me anytime. I'm here on a daily basis usually between 10am and 2pm. So, if you come in, I'm always here over the lunch hour. But I think we are lacking in communication. I think that would be useful and I realize everyone has a busy schedule, that you all are working and I know it's difficult but even once a month would be helpful for me to do a better job. Just a few things I highlighted- Mayor reads Council and Mayor duties, (see packet). And I thought in January with a new Council we will have Dan Clark come in and do another training session. It's always good to have a refresher course but its always really helpful for new members.

Shawn: Yeah, that's great.

Logan: Thank you for putting that all together.

Mayor: Yeah. There's lots of rules and lots of different areas. You know, we all try to do the best that we can, we make mistakes, try to correct them and move on from it.

Roy: And I think it will be good, I'm fairly new to just go over things or just have someone say what we need to do or where we need to be. Because a lot of times I have a perception and it could be wrong. So, it doesn't hurt to sit down as a group and know where the boundaries are and where you fit into the box. Whose toes are you going to step on, who's you can't and who's you shouldn't. Also, I think it would make this board run so much smoother. It works fine now but maybe it would make things a little easier down the road because I think the next year or two is going to be very tough. There's going to have to a lot of big decisions made and I think we all need to be educated in what our responsibilities are. As far as I can understand whatever goes on in this City, if it goes south, this Council is liable for it. If it goes south and we don't do our job in due-diligence. Is that right Ed?

Ed: It most certainly could be Roy, Yes.

Roy: You could be hanging out there a mile and not even realize it. And I don't want to be on that mile. So, I want to know upfront what's going on. I'm probably a pain in Mary's butt because I do come down here a lot and ask a lot of questions and sometimes, she thinks I'm mean to her but I'm not, I just need

to know. I don't like the headlines like we had the other day in the paper. Those are just not constructive at all for this community and this Council. So, if we could all just get our heads wrapped around where we need to be, I think we'll do a much better job for this community.

Mayor: You can always call me or text me. I always answer my phone and it would just be very helpful and it would be very helpful for the office staff and for Public Works because we can't move forward on the things you approve without the purchase orders signed. Summer is a real stickler for that as she should be. We have to wait for those signatures to order the parts so we can get these projects done that you have approved so it would just help things to move smoother if you could come in and do that on a regular basis because we really appreciate it.

Summer: And I would just like to add to you know, I know a lot of you work, I know you work nights Katy but Kory and I do feel like there is a disconnect and when there is a disconnect between the Mayor and the Council, then we are kind of left out there. For example, if a pump goes out at the Lagoon and I don't have a purchase order, I would say at that time I would make the call but it's not my call. But, I can't make you guys show up to sign purchase orders and I can't make you guys call in to check in.

Shawn: Is it weekly?

Summer: It could be daily sometimes, as far as the purchase orders. If it's something serious I can call each of you individually and say "I need four signatures" but sometimes we don't have time for that. I'm being pulled a lot of different directions. My staff is I mean, Allissa and Angela are great. Allissa is doing the website update. There's a lot of stuff that I want to do but haven't had time.

Shawn: I personally like text communication. Don't be afraid to say it's urgent.

Mayor: So just send out a group text.

Shawn: Yes.

Katy: I think legally, like Mary said she can't text us, we can't text each other but, this person (pointing to Summer) can text for us and we can all respond to her.

Summer: That's what I have been trying to do. Gary, do you have a smart phone?

Laughter.

Gary: Is that a joke?

More laughter.

Summer: No, I was just going to say you are the only one I don't have on text. It's ok, I'll just call you.

Laughter.

Mayor: Gary only has one more meeting left anyway.

Gary: I'm not buying a phone for one meeting.

Laughter.

Summer: I'm good with that Gary.

Roy: Another thing that has been helpful for me is I rode with Kory and he's showed me what he's doing and what's going on. So, I've been to the sewer lagoon and I've been to the pump stations. So, when he tells me "I'm out at the lagoon looking at the pump" I know where the pump is and I know where the wells are. It's helpful because when he's talking, I need to have some vision. You can ask him; I bitch about the streets every time I see him.

Kory: You read water meters with me last month.

Roy: Yeah, I read meters with him just to see how it's done.

Summer: And how many times does he get called by the office because something needs this or that? There's just a lot of things with three people in our office. I don't think any of us work our fingers to the bone but we stay pretty consistent busy. Sometimes it can be chaos. If there's a water problem or somebody didn't get their garbage picked up, it's a crisis that they want dealt with and that's our job.

Mayor: One of the most idling jobs I ever had was riding in the garbage truck picking up garbage. It's when we picked up garbage in the alleys and you get a whole new perspective of the Town going through the alleys. It's just amazing.

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

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

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

XIII. Adjourn:

Katy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm with Shawn seconding.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Mary Hensleigh

Date

Town Clerk Treasurer

Date

