

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Preliminary Draft
Town Hall – August 12, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ray McCown called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

ROLL CALL: Mayor Ray McCown, David Jones, Daymon Marple, Tim Southern, Sharon Schnebly and Mark Young. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord, Public Works Assistant Brad Hasenoehrl and Mark Phillips
Absent:

GUESTS Eric Hasenoehrl with Keltic Engineering, Sandra Cavallo, Justin Phillips and Neal Leon.

Eric Hasenoehrl here to talk about the TIB Application. This application covers from the southeast entrance of town to 4th Street. The current application would break the project up into two separate projects, first the southeast side then the north side. It would require construction of sidewalk, storm swale and parking. Anytime you make changes to roads and sidewalks towns must conform to Federal ADA standards. Since DOT just came through and upgraded the roads, ADA upgrades have already been completed by DOT, reducing the costs for the TIB grant. Eric will remove the ADA requirements from the grant application.

Eric explains there is no match required for the application, however you get a point for every percent that you match. The TIB doesn't recognize work for matching in this application. Eric says he will need some direction if they would like to match and then an authorization from council will be needed to allow the mayor to sign the application. Eric presents the application, showing council the forms, cost estimates and pictures of what they are proposing. The deadline for the application is Aug. 21st but will need to be done before the next council meeting. Mark Young questions is the 1% match the estimated cost of the project or 1% of the final cost. Eric said it is 1% of the final cost so if the cost rises the match will slightly rise.

Eric explains what they have been finding in the construction world, if a town bids their project in the winter time most are seeing a savings of about 30% over having the bid completed in prime time. Tim Southern asks how much is in the street reserve, Cody answered it is about \$35,000. Tim confirms with Eric that the quoted price is the price with ADA ramp in the bid and Eric said yes which he will remove before final submittal. Tim said he would be in favor of 1% or 2%. Mark asked are you familiar with the projects that are funded and does 1% give you more leverage. Eric explains that Gloria Bennet knows this is the center of the town and the TIB wants projects that are highly visible. Mayor McCown asked, if the town didn't put any match in do you think it will greatly affect the town's possibilities of receiving the grant. Eric responds, if you are asking my recommendation, I would strongly suggest a match of some kind as it shows the town has a greater interest in getting the project done.

Mayor McCown talks about how it appears the Street Levy for collection in 2016 appears not to have passed. Tim said if the levy didn't pass the town will run it again, we would just need to talk with the public and let them know what the street levy is for; lights, sand, gravel, wages etc. Tim says again he is alright with 2%, the town has street reserves and have never used it. David Jones thinks 2% would be appropriate. Sharon Schnebly said she would be good with 1%, she thinks this in line with what the town can afford also the town won't know the exact amount until the end cost is reached. Mark asks Eric what are the dollar amounts you are projecting and Eric said around \$2,800 at 1% or \$5,600 at 2%. Mark believes they should put something in to show interest, also stating it is important for the center of town to look nice. Mark also feels that 1% would be appropriate at this time. David Jones **MOVED** to approve 1% match for the TIB Grant application to be submitted before Aug. 21st, 2015. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to authorize Mayor McCown to sign the TIB application for submittal before Aug 21st, 2015. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Eric said the only other thing outstanding is the correction to the WWTP, with the addition of the chlorination chamber and SO₂ de-chlorination which removes the chlorine before releasing fluids into the

wetlands. Eric thinks we should go ahead and get this scheduled so the Dept. of Ecology sees the progress. Brad Hasenoehrl said the cost was about \$1,600.00. Tim said the public works guys should go ahead and put it in. Brad said currently the chlorine and SO₂ gases run pretty expensive. Brad and Eric have talked about the installation and the guys should be alright handling the installation with Eric's supervision. Tim would like to see it put in by the end of August so it shows the town is working on it and moving forward. Eric said the biggest reason to make the change is the pressurized chlorine is too dangerous. Tim Southern **MOVED** to get the new equipment for the chlorine chamber and SO₂ changed out by the public works department by the end of August. Mark Young seconded the motion. Mayor McCown said the council may pass the motion to buy the equipment but there is no guarantee the work will be completed by the end of August since the Public Works Department is dealing with a lot at this time and they are not going to mess their schedule up to complete one project. Tim Southern **MOVED** to purchase the equipment to fix the chlorine chamber and SO₂ de-chlorination at the WWTP and have the upgrades done as soon as possible. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor McCown said they will try to get it in by the first couple weeks in September.

Eric said the only other thing he can think of at this time is making sure the guys are keeping their eyes open for water entering into the WWTP system that shouldn't be. He left a map last time of where to take measurements of pipes and manholes and check the depth of the water in those pipes. Anything that can be reduced in water quantity heading to the plant is a good thing. Mayor McCown said they do know of two or three issue manholes and they hope to have those fixed by this fall. Mayor McCown instructs the public works guys to get the equipment ordered for the WWTP chlorine system upgrade.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Young **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting July 22nd, 2015. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Chief Neumann and Officer Joe Handley present for the police department.

Chief Neumann said in the last month the department has dealt with a handful of difficult problem areas and kudos to Officer Handley for doing a great job dealing with them. Some arrests have been made and have assisted in making a large impact on the community. Over the past couple weeks it has been very busy in Garfield but has quieted down in the recent days. The patrol car was washed and moved. The town has been having a lot of hay trucks racing through town. Officer Handley made contacts and issued some tickets so word has gotten around and those trucks are now starting to slow down.

Sandra Cavallo lives right on the highway and said every harvest grain trucks approach town going about 50 miles an hour, so far this year it has been much better. Mayor McCown asks if the police were present at the most recent car wreck. Officer Handley was there, the kid is now somewhat responsive and doing a lot better. Officer Handley said this accident was only a mile outside of town and the conditions were such that if the occupants would have been wearing their seatbelts it is most likely no one would have needed to go to the hospital. He reminds everyone to buckle up when driving that they do save lives.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Brad Hasenoehrl and Mark Phillips present for the Public Works Department

Water

- Brad explains they are still having problems with pump #3 not pumping like it should. Pump #4 is pumping a lot more than pump #3. Tim questioned didn't Strom re-do the wiring. Brad said they did change out some of the components but it didn't make much difference. Strom is suggesting going away from wireless so the pumps will communicate better with the Telemetry system. The guy who installed the telemetry is now deceased and the unit is outdated so it needs to be fully re-worked. Strom thinks there should be new hard lines installed between the wells and the shop to help the communication from the wells to the Telemetry system. Mark asks where the town stands on this matter. Brad explains this is a matter the council will need to discuss. Justin Phillips asks do you have any bid alternatives besides Strom. Justin explains that Schweitzer does these kinds of relays and is

close by. Brad asks will Schweitzer install it. Justin will check and see and get back to the town, as far as installation, it would probably be through a representative in Washington State. Brad asks Justin to bring him some contact information. Justin said Schweitzer has a division of waste water and water products that they manufacture.

Sewer

- First week to run both composite samplers. Electric one worked great. The battery operated one didn't work but that may be due to dead batteries so they will check them and try again next sampling date.
- They installed a new refrigerator to house the samples and have everything up and running.
- Will do DMRs on Friday should have about 4 violations, and hopefully they will bring those back down.
- They are getting ready to empty the contact chamber again.
- There is a new load of sludge ready to go up so possibly on Tuesday or Thursday next week they will make the trip.

Garbage

- Garbage truck is working well.

Streets

- Once the town gets some moisture, they will sweep the streets. The pump on the sweeper is broken, and Brad and Mark will address this issue in the coming winter.
- Mayor McCown said Avista is going to come in and start changing poles. Brad said there is currently a crew here installing cable, Brad will be coordinating projects around town with them. Mayor McCown said the mirror will have to come down, Avista will look to see if they have another pole that we can use. Sharon said the mirror is an awesome asset to that pole on the corner of Main and 4th Street, if it wasn't there the pole would eventually be hit by a motorist. Eric asked do you have a franchise agreement with Avista, if so pull it out and take a look at it, possibly it will address this issue.

Park

- Mowing about every two weeks due to the dry conditions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor McCown said the Street Levy did not pass so the town will have to start doing some advertising for the November Election. The Mayor said the worst part is we use every dollar of it to get by in the street department, if we don't have it the town will have to raise rates on water, sewer and garbage to compensate. Mayor McCown explains it is a lot better to have the mileage pass so all surrounding tax payers have to pay for the street levy rather than a rate increase that only the active utility residents within the town limits pay for. Sandra said a disconnect between the community and the way the town spends the money on street projects exists. Sandra said the community is exercising what little power they have to make sure the street funds are being used appropriately. Justin suggested providing the town residents with some literature for what the levy actually pays for.

Eric commented that Garfield is one of the few towns in the area that runs in the black and that is kudos to the council and town employees. Some towns are spending more than they have just to pay the bills. Mayor McCown said he received from Cody a list of expenditures through July, what the town has spent so far is about \$7,000 more than what has been taken in. Sandra said she would like to have clarification on one thing, in order to pay for the street expenses without the levy passing the alternative would be raising the water, sewer and garbage rates. Mayor McCown said no, those rates would need to be raised to pay for all expenses. Tim said technically the town can't raise those rates in order to pay for streets. Mark said the consequences will be the town will have to start reducing services and those services will affect the street department. Tim adds that street patching and snow plowing services would be less if the levy wasn't passed. It is also how the town pays for street lights, this expense would have to come from the general fund which will short other expenditures and programs. Tim said it is a whole maze of how the governments make you use the money in the town's budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. TIB Grant Proposal

Council approved the TIB application and the Mayor to sign the TIB application in the Guest section of the meeting.

2. Garfield Resident Billing Issue

A Garfield resident has suggested they didn't have sewer service for two months while a repair was completed on the sewer main and the resident is claiming it was not their fault for the issue. Brad talks about the resident in question on Wesley Street, the resident ran a sewer snake down their line and said it went to the middle of the street. There was a crack in the main and it could be what initially caused the issue. The resident continued to use the plumbing without notifying the town to the point where the sewage would come out of their clean out trap. The main reason for the plug was there was a bunch of grease that was built up in the line. Mayor McCown said someone put a new sewer line in under their sidewalk, after about ten years it started plugging up where the connection was which is estimated about 4 feet from the main. There is some confusion if the line is the responsibility at the main or at the edge of the property owner's property. Brad said it becomes our issue where it is connected in the main. Mayor McCown asked the council are they going to say yes or no to refunding two months of sewer service while the issue was occurring. Tim said no, Sharon said no that the resident should have notified us immediately of the issue, and Mark said he thinks no on the matter of refunding the money to the resident. Cody will notify the resident of the decision.

Mayor McCown brought up the charges for the residential one time dumpster charge versus the residential rental charge and how they don't seem proportionate to the usage and one another. Sharon looked at the rates and commented so the person that gets their dumpster dumped once is almost double the residential rental rate that gets to have it dumped 4 times a month. Sharon said regardless of the usage and weight, picking up a dumpster 4 times a month should not be cheaper than a 1 time rental fee. The council decided they will study the rates and have the discussion in the following meeting. Mayor McCown said they will table the issue until the following meeting. Sandra asked did the cost of garbage pickup go up again. Mayor McCown said the rates have not changed since the beginning of the year and most likely if she had additional charges this last month it was due to either an additional can collection or over consumption on the allowable 5,000 gallons of the base water usage. Sandra wanted to know about the rate structure. Cody tells her it is an additional \$.75 per thousand gallons on any water used over the base 5,000 gallons up to 30,000 gallons, these rates can be found online.

FINANCIAL:

Approval of Checks: Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Mark Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register # 11962-11965 PLUS EFT Dept of Retire.	Payroll: \$8,103.32	
Check Register # EFT Dept. of Revenue & EFT SBNW	Claims: \$1,549.34	
Check Register # 11966-11989	Claims: \$24,217.31	Total: \$33,869.97

ADJOURNMENT: David Jones **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting 7:44PM. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer