

*Town of Garfield*  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Final**  
**Town Hall – January 25, 2017**

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

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Ray McCown, David Jones, Dave Ulrick, Neal Leon and Daymon Marple. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer Cody Lord and Public Works Reuel Klempel Absent: Mark Young

**GUESTS:** Don Brown, Carol MacPherson, Larry Kruse, Sandra Cavallo, and Sonja Hall.

- Sandra Cavallo Seeking Approval to Fence Off Front Yard for Parking

Sandra Cavallo said she is here to talk about installing a fence on the front portion of her property so she can have a protected parking space and not need to walk 3 blocks to park in the winter. Mayor McCown said she would have to have her place surveyed to know where she could stick her fence and said that the state would also require her to get it surveyed since she is on the state highway. Neal Leon said her property line will be 40 feet from the center of the state highway. Sandra said the neighbor to the north has a fence on the front half of their property line so she could just follow what they did. Mayor McCown said to make sure it is 40 feet from the center line. Sandra also said she would like to have the fence at least 5 feet high so snow thrown by the snow plow won't damage her vehicle. Mayor McCown said that would be between her and the building inspector and Sandra replied so the town has no objection to her building this fence and the mayor said no but when the snow from the state plow knocks over her fence call them. Sandra assures the council she can build a fence the snow plow won't knock over.

Larry Kruse was present to discuss the sewer backup that occurred in the basement of his home on January 18<sup>th</sup>. He informed the mayor of the backup and the mayor had Larry call Mark to come and look at it. By that time there was nothing the public works department could do as the damage had already occurred. It contaminated the walls in the rec room and the carpet. Service Master is working on the demo of the bathroom and rec room walls and floors. Larry's homeowner's insurance called and they will not cover any of it saying it was not the homeowner's problem but the town's issue. Larry doesn't know the extent of the damage yet as Service Master is still working on assessing the issue and cleaning it up. Larry said he would just like to know from the town when the issue will be fully taken care of and Mayor McCown replied it will be as soon as possible. Dave Ulrick also said there will be several options for repairs once the snow is gone.

Reuel Klempel elaborated on the sewer backup saying there were roots in the main line and they know that because they ran a snake down the line and several roots came out when the snake was pulled out and also the level in the manhole dropped immediately. They snaked the line again with the cutter and a lot more roots were retrieved. They then jetted and flushed the line from the upper manhole. Reuel said they cut a lot of roots out of the line and now the line is running nicely again. They will need to do more work on the line but he doesn't anticipate the roots growing back within a week or month so the line is temporarily fixed until they have better weather to work on the main line again. Larry said he called all the neighbors above him on the main line and asked them to not flush and use water sparingly until the system was clear. Reuel said it was obvious that it had been backing up for a long time and finally the roots seized the line. They shot water from the firehose down the line and everything is now moving nicely.

Larry said he believes there are at least six other homes above him on this line including; Slocum, Renstrom, Roach, Jones and Harriman's. Mayor McCown said the best they can offer right now is to keep a close eye on the line and make sure no additional backups are occurring until better weather comes. Larry questioned if he had approval to start repairing the damage. Mayor McCown said the repairs would be fine to make. Reuel said there were so many solids in the manhole making it apparent it had been backing up for weeks and finally made its way to the lowest spot of exit which was Larry's basement. Larry said he was going to go ahead with the repairs and would bring the bills down to Cody as they come in. Larry also stated he was scheduled for a hospital procedure the day after the backup occurred so he was

forced to stay at a hotel in Colfax that night and will be sending that bill along with the others. Larry asked does the town have an adjuster. Cody explained that the town's insurance provider has been notified and it will be up to them whether or not they will send out an adjuster. Larry thanked the town employees for taking care of the situation.

Carol MacPherson is present to talk about the snow berm at 2<sup>nd</sup> and California Street. She thinks the berm is a hazard since it is sticking too far out into the intersection and causing a blind spot, causing people stopping at that intersection to have to creep too far into oncoming traffic to see through the intersection. She is wondering if anything can be done to remedy the situation. Mayor McCown said he will talk with Mark and see what can be done to take care of it. Carol questioned if there is a wreck at that intersection because of the berm, who is at fault and Mayor McCown stated it would be the driver because if they are traveling the speed limit there will be no accidents. Sonja Hall was also here to convey her concern about this same intersection.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Chief Neumann and Officer Joe Handley present for this meeting.

2 vehicles were tagged in town, one has been moved and the other was towed. The department gave some others a couple more weeks to take care of getting the vehicles moved. Chief Neumann said he wanted to follow up after the last meeting so there was no confusion about how the department decides to handle things. Chief Neumann said he is only here as it is warranted or when the town has contentious situations that he needs to be involved with, otherwise he is only required to be in Garfield four times a year to give quarterly reports. Mayor McCown asked did someone ask you specifically to come this evening. Chief Neumann said he was uncertain after the last meeting if they wanted him here more often and said the way it is now, officers Handley and Merry do the lion's share of the work in Garfield and the chief will fill in for them while they are on vacation or away from town but they are the ones who are required to handle the situations in town as they arise and Chief Neumann just wanted to make sure the town and him are on the same page.

Chief Neumann said he would like to reintroduce the ATV ordinance again and see what the town's take was on it. Mayor McCown said the attorney doesn't feel like the town really needs it. Chief Neumann said you understand without that ordinance in place, ATV's are not legal to operate in Garfield because the town doesn't have guidance rules and it could become a liability for unlicensed vehicles to operate in town. Mayor McCown said that he has issues with the way the ordinance is currently written and Daymon Marple stated he felt that they were close to having a signed agreement on ATV and to not do it and make them totally illegal would be silly. Dave said he has used them in his neighborhood to do things like move snow and he thinks putting the ordinance in place sounds like a good idea. Neal Leon said he believes they don't need it at this time just because there are not many of them in use and he doesn't believe the police department would target them. Chief Neumann said it is a pretty small town and they are going to see them out and about and they will stop them. Mayor McCown asked that the matter be tabled for one more meeting until Mark Young is back and they can then take action on it.

The street snow conditions were brought up and Mayor McCown said this is the worst winter he can remember in a long time. There was a good amount of snow on the first round which froze underneath and then more snow was added on top so there is a deep compact snow and ice surface. With a road grader like Moscow they probably could have scrapped the roads and gotten more ice up. The mayor is noticing most towns are using their graders to address the roads this year. Mayor McCown also said having the backhoe has been a blessing.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:****Sewer**

- Reuel already covered the sewer backup at Larry Kruse's house.
- The flows at the WWTP are up significantly, they were about 50,000 gallons a day on the 18<sup>th</sup> and have jumped to between 188,000 and 160,000 gallons a day now.
- Gravel and rocks have also been entering the system since the flows increased. Reuel showed the council the size of one of the rocks that was in the system which was about the size of a baseball. Also more rags were coming into the system.
- The pump to the aeration basin kept tripping out on the ground fault and Reuel noticed the seal at the bottom is wore so bad the pump would not seal and was blowing water out sideways. Currently they only have one pump running.

Daymon asked with the heavy flows, have the good bacteria been flushed from the system and Reuel said they were still operating alright and within permit tolerance. He is unsure how the flows will average out over the month and will have to wait to see if the flows start dropping. Mayor McCown added there was some flooding at the plant and Reuel stated they had some issues inside the pump room which filled up with water and it was high enough to go over the motor and the ground fault tripped. Reuel said there is a hole in the wall that is not sealed and it allows water to come through the wall where the pipe is. Reuel will have to buy a new seal to prevent this in the future. They got the alarm system set up so they can monitor that in the future.

**Water**

- Reuel said he came in on Monday a week ago and the telemetry system said the water tank was at 38 feet and then he discovered while completing his readings that something was not right. He reset the system and the tank dropped to 22 feet. The telemetry and tank were not communicating correctly. Well #4 has since tripped out a couple times and he hasn't been able to solve the problem yet. Currently Well # 3 is keeping up with everything.

**Streets**

- Snow removal is the only thing happening in the street department and they are trying to keep on top of things as best as possible.

**Garbage**

- Mark has been getting stuck with the truck just on flat grounds and having issues getting the truck around town. Dave said he is only using single chains and he needs to chain all the tires which will cost about \$600.00 a set. Dave suggests a place to check the prices on chains and says he thinks he can get a good set for \$600.00.

The brakes have been a problem on the garbage truck for some time. Mayor McCown said that Chris McCully replaced the brakes on the truck. One of the brakes on the truck will lock when breaking causing it to slide on the road surface. Neal said he was at the shed when Chris was there to work on the brakes and he replaced the rear seals and brake drums and the slack adjusters were worn out. According to Chris that truck hasn't seen grease in a long time and if the guys keep them lubed, they will be fine for a long time. Dave asked if the truck has a front break cutout. Neal said it does have a differential lock and with an empty box and chains it should be able to go anywhere. Dave said it really needs three rails.

- Reuel said on heavy ice days he went with the backhoe and collected the cans in the high areas and brought them down to be emptied.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Door Lock Box For Secure Night Drops

Mayor McCown said they have talked about the locked night drop for utility payments in the past to

increase the security of money when dropped through the door and he wonders if council is ready to take action on it. Neal Leon **MOVED** to purchase a secure lock box for the door and a new stronger door for the entry. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Neal said he would like to know why the town can't maintain all the roads in the winter and he realizes there are priority streets and routes but once those are completed he would like to see the rest of the town roads plowed. Neal said the town has received numerous complaints about the conditions of the roads this winter with people wondering why all the roads are not being serviced. Dave said it takes them getting down a good routine and this is Mark's first year at snow removal, he is still figuring it out but Dave feels given this variable he is doing a fine job. Dave said he needs a lot of lead way this year and he is doing a good job so far. Mayor McCown said the biggest issue has been the amount of time needed to pick up garbage this year with the snow and sometimes it takes up to three days to complete the garbage route.

Neal said he understands and is not saying he needs to get it all done at once but if Mark needs some more guidance on snow removal with the snow plow, Neal would be willing to help him and Dave also has experience in the truck and could help guide him. Reuel said he was under the impression they got the majority of the roads in town and if there are roads that aren't done to bring that to their attention and they will get on it. Daymon said 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from California to Main Street is the worst. Neal said Mitzimberg had called and said she wasn't even able to get home because her road was not passable. Mayor McCown said they will try to have a better route set up for next year. Dave mentions it is also important to get out early around 5 am and get it started. Daymon said the street fund has some reserves available and possibly they could find someone with a CDL that could help out on the snow plow truck. Mayor McCown said they would have a hard time finding someone to operate the snow plow at \$11 an hour.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### 1. Resolution 2017-01 Amending the Existing Water Rate Schedule

Mayor McCown said they have already talked about adjusting the water, sewer and garbage rate schedule in an open public forum and now they need to adopt the resolutions for each to set the new rates and put them into effect. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2017-01 amending the existing water rate schedule. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

##### 2. Resolution 2017-02 Amending the Existing Garbage Rate Schedule

Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2017-02 amending the existing garbage rate schedule. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

##### 3. Resolution 2017-03 Amending the Existing Sewer Rate Schedule

Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2017-03 amending the existing sewer rate schedule. David Jones seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **FINANCIAL:**

Approval of Checks: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Neal Leon seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #12605-12603 PLUS EFTPS	Payroll: \$2,709.06
Check Register #12606-12608 Final 13 <sup>th</sup> Month Transactions	Claims: \$1,301.68
Check Register #12609-12613	Payroll: \$3,723.74
	Total: \$7,734.48

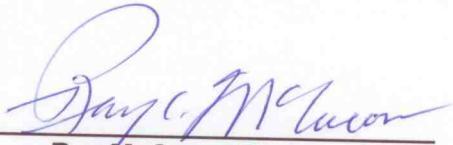
#### **End of Year Budget Position:**

Cody explains the total net gain for the operating budget in 2016 was \$7,510.07 which is pretty tight. Cody explained to the council the funds that were cash positive and negative and said that in 2017 with the rate

increase they still need to be very mindful of the expenses occurring in the water, sewer and garbage fund. The town usually tries to carry over \$55,000 to \$60,000 so the fund is self-sustaining and this year the fund beginning balance is \$39,871.

Mayor McCown asked about the outstanding balance on a delinquent utility account and Cody said they received partial payment on that account.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 PM. Dave Ulrick seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

  
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Ray McCown, Mayor

ATTEST:   
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Cody Lord, Clerk/Treasurer