

Town of Garfield
PUBLIC HEARING AND TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Andrew Flodin (7:04 pm), Larry Hunt, Daymon Marple, Tim Southern and Rob Watkins. Staff – Public Works Superintendent David Ulrick; Fire Chief Brian Conklin, Police Chief Jerry Neumann, Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: Tim Southern

PUBLIC HEARING – 2011 Revenue Sources: Mayor Pfaff opened the public hearing at 7:01 PM. Council discussed the current general levy with the proposed 1% increase amounting to \$574.38 plus any increase for new construction, improvements to property, newly constructed wind turbines, any increase in the value of state assessed property, any annexations that have occurred and refunds made. The total collection would be \$58,012, estimated at \$2.73/\$1,000. The voter approved Street Levy remains the same at \$55,000, estimated at \$2.64/\$1,000. There was no public input. It was confirmed no decision was required at this time. At the next meeting, council would be presented with the ordinances for the levies. The mayor closed the public hearing at 7:03 pm and opened the regular council meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Annie Pillers noted she had corrected a typo for the total voucher amount approved. Larry Hunt **MOVED** the minutes of June 23, 2010, be approved as corrected. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Jerry Neumann updated council on the police department activities and provided the Garfield Activity Log. The mayor asked about the invasion of privacy case. Chief Neumann confirmed the case has been sent to the Prosecutor's Office and that he has requested some follow up work from the police department.

Larry Hunt asked about the continuing problems at the park. Chief Neumann suggested council consider adopting a resolution setting park rules. Palouse city council had discussed this the evening before. Park rules could then be posted such as no drugs allowed, don't hurt people, etc. If found in violation of these park rules a person would be subject to his rights being terminated from the park. It would be similar to the junk vehicle ordinance, where a hearing could then be requested with council. Chief Neumann and Stephen Bishop had discussed this and Stephen would go forward with this.

Council briefly discussed the recent property damage to the restroom. For now the town has paid for the repair. It was confirmed the individuals had possession of an illegal explosive. Chief Neumann noted this type of firework is legal on the Sovereign Nation, but not anywhere else.

Larry Hunt addressed the problem with free newspapers being thrown around all over town. He watched a vehicle in town tossing them out on both sides of the car without regard for occupancy or not. He noted Potlatch addressed this very same problem and contacted the newspaper about the littering issue. Since then, the problem has been resolved in Potlatch. He noted in just 1 block of his neighborhood with 5 houses, there were 11 newspapers thrown about. He asked if Chief Neumann could contact the newspaper about stopping them from just being tossed all over town. Chief Neumann said he had no qualms contacting them. Brian Conklin asked if this was in violation of the Green River ordinance but it was clarified they were not soliciting anyone.

PUBLIC WORKS: David Ulrick updated council on the following:

1. Street Oiling: David Ulrick reported running into a snag with the company selected to do the oiling this year. They could not get their license. He contacted the other bidder (Mort's) and they agreed to abide by their initial bid price. He said the town could go with them. Rob Watkins asked if they were the only 2 in the area. David noted they were the 2 he had the best luck with. It was noted Lyman had been seen in the area too. Council gave approval to go with Mort's bid for street oiling this year. Mayor Pfaff asked that the corners be done as well this year. Last year the corners weren't done, such as D Street. Dave agreed he could put the corners back in. Rob Watkins suggested the corners be done every other year.

2. Street Sign Posts: The sign post needs to be replaced at 2nd and Adams. The square posts come in a bundle of 25 and are 12 gauge 10-foot 2" posts. They are \$25.75 each. Mayor Pfaff said the town should change some street signs. He said it was okay to get a bundle of 25. Dave noted post options included 1", 1-3/4", and 2", noting the post at the tavern is a 2". He said the anchors for the post are \$19.10 for a bundle of 25. The anchor allows for a quick replacement, but if the anchor is damaged at the same time the post is, then both would need to be replaced. Rob Watkins asked if the anchor helps keep the post straight. Dave said it's a larger piece of square tubing that holds the post up. To install the anchors a \$154.59 tool is required. Both Andrew Flodin and Rob Watkins agreed the post could be installed without the anchors. Rob said it would seem easier to hit a sign and have the ground come up then have the post sheer off. Dave noted there were lighter duty 14 gauge posts that were \$21.08. Mayor Pfaff said he was okay with the 2" posts. Larry Hunt recommended getting the bundle of 25 so the town can get standardized and then have a supply when needed.

Dave confirmed, as discussed previously, he will be standardizing the corner that the street signs go on. Right now they are placed where the stop sign is located. Mayor Pfaff asked that the new street sign for Highway 27 be installed. Dave said the town can't do the stop signs. The state has to do their own and they are wooden. The town has put street signs on their posts. The town can do its street signs. Dave estimated it would take 6 or 7 post from Main Street to Manring and likely 15 to do all of Hwy 27. Rob Watkins suggested the new posts and signs also be installed along 3rd Street to the school. The mayor requested Dave order one bundle of posts to do Highway 27 and then to do 3rd Street.

Dave reported to secure the sign to the post, requires a 12" sign cap at \$22.32. To put two signs on at a 90 degree cross is \$44.64. The estimate for the post and 2 signs caps was \$75. Council gave authorization to order 25 sign posts and required sign caps. Dave noted the sign posts cannot be purchased from the same place the signs were purchased. He further noted in Spokane they charge \$5 a foot for the posts.

3. 2" water line in front of Cathy May: The 2" water line on Spokane Street has been changed. It should not leak again for many years. A locator wire was installed with the pipe. The mayor and council complimented Dave and Perry for a good job, noting that it looks good and was filled in nicely. The mayor asked Dave to use the street sweeper to get the gravel off the road.

4. Grader Repair: Steve with Hasan's Tractor Repair will be in town tomorrow. Dave is hoping with Steve's expertise, he will be able to determine if the snap ring that came out was just installed to hold parts in place during assembly. When they talked about it, they agreed if it just on the spring to hold it, it won't hurt to run without it. Dave will go that route before spending \$4,000 to fix it. Larry Hunt asked if the roads were in good enough shape or did they need to be graded first, noting the grader was not in use. Dave said it never hurts go over them again but that loose gravel defeats the purpose though.

5. Recyclables: Larry Hunt hauled the cardboard to Spokane yesterday. Today Dave and Perry took the rest of the recyclables up at a value of \$1,779. Larry noted while he was there, a different gal was in the office than Dave had talked with and she gave Larry \$385 for the cardboard rather than sending a check to the town. Larry's haul fee is one half the recyclable value. He said he could keep one-half the payment now or give the town the entire amount and send a bill for his service. It was agreed the town would collect the full payment and Larry would send a bill for his services. It was noted previously, Larry had offered to take the cardboard to Whitman County for his fuel cost. The final decision was for Dave to research the

most economical option for disposal. Dave had confirmed the best method was to go to Spokane and receive some value for the cardboard. Larry indicated there were likely 2 more loads the same size to go to Spokane.

6. Illegal out-of-town dumping at town compost facility: Today Dave stopped a guy from out of town, dumping at the compost pile. He noted there was another individual from out of town who has been dumping at the site too. It was thought this individual was from Palouse. Chief Neumann asked for the cost for chipping the material if the town was to do it. Larry Hunt noted this person can't bring it here legally and that he has to pay for what he has dumped in the past. He suggested the Police Department contact the person about getting restitution and let him know he cannot come back. Chief Neumann agreed to make contact with the person about restitution. Dave estimated it would take 3 hours for 2 people to chip the material, plus the rental cost of the chipper. Annie Pillers would provide the cost figures to Chief Neumann. There was discussion of the Whitman County landfill taking yard waste. Dave said there is a fee to dump yard waste now at Whitman County. Dave indicated the problem is that the town doesn't have a place to get rid of it.

7. 3/4" wrench set: The 3/5" new wrench set was delivered today by Rob Watkins.

8. Asphalt Work: Mayor Pfaff asked Dave when he would be getting the asphalt work done. Dave said he was waiting on Larry. Larry confirmed it was left that Dave was to contact him when he was ready. Dave said he thought he could do the asphalt work by the end of next week.

9. Sludge Removal from WWTP: Dave is still trying to get rid of the sludge at wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Pullman is paying \$9,000 to get their sludge spread on a field. Dave noted everybody pays to get rid of their sludge now. Tekoa has a farmer that applies it using a manure spreader. Dave has been trying to find a farmer to put it on his field. Then town would have to find a manure spreader to spread it or use a truck with a gate. He reported one of the difficulties in finding a field is that it has to be plowed under. Stephen Bishop had made out the contract for the last farmer, but then the farmer rented out his field and that farmer did no-till. The neighbors at the sewer plant won't take it. Once applied, the Department of Ecology comes out to see how it was done. Mayor Pfaff suggested talking with Warren Neal. Dave said he tries to get a place around the cemetery.

Larry Hunt asked if the sludge could be composted. Dave said the town would have to redesign the compost area. No water can run on or off the spot. It would require a pond for leaching into and that would have to be pumped back onto the pile. Dave estimated 25 or 30 yards of material, about 5 years worth of sludge. Dave noted BarTech would pick up the sludge for \$350 to haul plus \$3,000 to take it. They are the cheapest. BarTech said they have to mix it with chips. Dave hold him the town has chips. BarTech said they would only charge half but Dave noted that would then double the weight?

Fire Department: Fire Chief Brian Conklin reported:

Fire Commission Meeting/Elberton Fire Discussion: The district meeting was good. One interesting point was that they wanted to know what happened at the Elberton fire. Allen Wride asked about a truck getting stuck and it having to be pulled out. Fire Chief Conklin explained during a recent training he had dumped water near the rear tires and had to have that truck pulled just a couple of feet to get it out. There was not a truck stuck at the Elberton Fire.

Allen said he had heard the fire was a problem. Fire Chief Conklin said he had heard just the opposite - the Elberton fire went very well. Captain Chris McCully was down there and took command. 2 other responding departments said he did a good job of commanding. Colfax took over when they came on scene. Andrew Flodin clarified Chris did not relinquish command. Colfax changed to a different radio frequency. Rob Watkins asked about Truck 313 being stuck in 4WD, then 4 low and then out, but still stuck. Chief Conklin confirmed it was driven home in 4WD but after backing into the station, it came out of 4WD. Rob Watkins noted his point was that the Garfield Fire Department had done a good job. Albion, Colfax, Steptoe, Palouse, Garfield and Oakesdale departments responded into to McGregor's assistance. The other departments had expressed their appreciation for being called early for mutual aid as the fire

could have really gotten out of control.

Fire Chief Conklin noted one firefighter will be put on suspension for 2 weeks and its possible the department may lose him.

State Mobilizations/Equipment Grant: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has grants available for wild land shelters and backpacks. In order to respond to any state mobilization, firefighters must have the proper shelters. Chief Conklin said the backpacks have a spot for water bottles, gloves and dust masks. He said these packs would be very handy and he would be working on the grant. Jerry Neumann left the meeting at 8:02 PM.

2. Replacement Hose: One lesson learned during the Elberton fire was that the 1" forestry line hose bought with the FEMA grant a few years ago has Canadian type fittings that do not interchange. Chief Conklin has contacted House of Hose regarding the cost to swap ends and test the hose. It was noted it may be cheaper to get new hose.

3. Purchase of Turn Outs: The department is in need of new turnout gear for structural fires. The rural commissioners were agreeable to splitting the cost 50/50 with the town. They would match the town's purchase. Chief Conklin said initially he was proposing the district buy 2 and the town buy 1 since the town had only budgeted for 1 set. Brian noted this split was the tradition in the past, but now the Commissioners were talking about the 50/50 split. Chief Conklin confirmed earlier in the year the department bought helmets and a couple of sets of wild land gear. His plan was to purchase 3 sets of turnouts. They would be measured to fit 3 people on the department rather than purchasing generic sizes. He further noted the turnouts the department has now are expired. This is due to the fire retardant chemical. Andrew Flodin agreed this was true, noting the standard though, is based upon daily usage. Rob Watkins noted Farmington has a set of turnouts they want to get rid of. They are a large set. Chief Conklin will contact them. Chief Conklin asked if the town would authorize the purchase of 1 set. He noted the maximum cost for a set of turnouts would be \$1,200. Larry Hunt asked if the district would go for splitting in half the cost of 2 or 3 sets. Chief Conklin confirmed the district was willing to spend up to \$1,800. Larry Hunt said if the district was willing to split 3 sets of turnouts the town should match this. Council approved the purchase of 3 sets of turnouts at a 50/50 split with the rural fire district.

4. 4th of July: Firefighters Chris McCully and Andrew Flodin took a truck out on standby during the evening of the 4th of July.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Asphalt Patching: Daymon Marple asked about the asphalt work that the town could do and if a different roller was needed for the town to do its own paving. It was agreed the current roller was fine for the type of asphalt patch work the town does. It was further noted, doing any bigger asphalt projects takes more crew and equipment since the asphalt can't get cold before laid.

2. Used Gator Purchase: Andrew Flodin asked if the council was going to make a decision on the purchase of a used gator. Council was presented with the prices of other 6-wheel units, noting they would have to ensure they were paying fair market value or less. The mayor confirmed the average price for those units, without a cab, was \$4,772. This used gator has a cab on it. He indicated he was fine with the \$5,000 purchase. Andrew Flodin agreed he was okay purchasing the unit at \$5,000. Larry Hunt indicated he did not think the town needed one. The mayor said he was okay with it last time. Larry further commented that he had difficulty with this type of purchase at this time. Daymon Marple noted his support for the purchase because it would make the crew more efficient, allowing them to get the job done quicker so they can be doing other things. Annie Pillers was asked how this vote would work. She confirmed that Rob Watkins would have to abstain from voting since he was selling the unit. She noted there was still a quorum of 3, but unsure about voting. Larry Hunt indicated it was fine if the council wanted to table this until there was a fourth member present, but that he would not change his decision. Annie Pillers said maybe it was better to wait for the fourth member to vote. The decision on purchasing the gator was tabled until the next meeting.

3. Thank You to Town Crew: Brian Conklin thanked David Ulrick and Perry Brown when the Garfield Community Church Parsonage had a water leak, noting he really appreciated their assistance. Dave found where the leak was likely located. Perry helped during the repair.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS: Daymon Marple **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #9541-9545 Payroll: \$5,367.34

Check Register #9546-9547 Claims: \$762.44

Check Register #9548 Claims: \$17,189.52

Check Register #9549-9567 Claims: \$26,578.70 TOTAL: \$49,898.00

ADJOURNMENT: Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer