

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SARATOGA TOWN COUNCIL
HELD DECEMBER 2, 2014, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
SARATOGA TOWN HALL

Mayor John Zeiger called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present were Councilman Steve Wilcoxson, Councilwoman Susan Howe and Councilwoman Judy Welton. Councilman Mike McWain was absent from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Lance Grubb under Items from the Public. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Councilwoman Howe made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting as presented. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Councilwoman Welton read the following bills for approval: Accounts Payable: \$16,689.02; Payroll and FICA for 12/1/14 in the amount of \$53,326.01; and manual checks in the amount of \$50,123.15, for a total of \$120,138.18.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$120,138.18. Councilwoman Howe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Zeiger read a letter received from Vin Zachariah, Senior Vice President for Residential Services for Vyve Broadband stating that local residents may be seeing an increase in fees to allow Vyve to continue to carry local broadcast stations.

Clerk Cox was directed to contact Vyve Broadband and ask that a representative be here for the December 16th meeting to address the increase and issues that the town continues to have with the service and maintenance received from Vyve Broadband.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Lance Grubb addressed the council concerning the recent accident involving his young child when he had been hit by a car that slid on the icy street. Mr. Grubb expressed his gratitude for the quick response of all involved. Mr. Grubb asked that the crews be mindful of the hills and plow and sand more often to assure that the streets are maintained when they are slick. A discussion followed and it was discussed that the other option would be to close that particular hill because it is not always practical to expect it to be maintained so that it was never slick. The hills are hard to maintain with ice slicer because it takes a certain temperature for the product to work properly and when it melts the snow and then the temperature drops the street becomes slick. It was noted that at one time that particular street had been closed and the children used it as a sledding hill because it had become hard to maintain safely.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to close the street so that it will not become a hazard if it is not plowed and maintained as requested. The motion died for lack of a second.

Richard Hodges asked Chief Knickerbocker if the police department had body cameras that the officers use while on duty. Chief Knickerbocker responded by saying the department currently has small mini cams that the officers clip to their uniform. The problem with these cameras is that they have a short battery life and recording time is limited. Purchasing the longer operating body cameras is very expensive and each officer does have a vehicle camera. Homeland Security funding was discussed for purchasing this type of equipment and it was noted that more federal regulations are attached to the federal funds and new guidelines regulate what these funds can be used for. Criteria has changed and will continue to change the way that federal funds are used and reporting requirements make it harder for smaller departments.

Mayor Zeiger (speaking as Carbon County Emergency Management) stated that these requirements have always been in place since the beginning of the grant cycles. However Homeland Security was always lenient with the sub-recipients in the past and didn't require the sub-grantees

to be so diligent in grant reporting. Now that it is being required and those individuals are frustrated and don't like it. He added that even though FEMA's Whole Community Concept has been around forever they are expecting us to focus more on this concept in the upcoming Grant Cycle. The Whole Community includes those with special needs, faith based, schools, non-governmental partners, and many more. Homeland Security now expects us to include the Whole Community when doing our plans. There is also an expectation of Community Outreach, including training. Homeland Security does like to see a terroristic part, but also expects that other hazards including Natural and Manmade disasters will be addressed.

Additionally, in no way is Homeland Security trying to federalize the sub-recipients, all they are saying is "we are making these funds available to you." "If you choose to receive them then there are certain requirements that you must meet." The Commission or the Council of every sub-recipient must sign off on the acceptance of the grants. Not only must they sign off on it but so must the department head that is receiving the grant. If any department head feels that it's not worth their time to follow the requirements then they, can ask their commissioners or councils not to accept the grant.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

Town Hall: Mayor Zeiger read the LGLP official ballot adding that the ballot is due no later than December 31, 2014. There are two positions that will be vacated January 1, 2015, the Special District position (3 year term) and the County Commission position (3 year term).

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to nominate Donna Geho to the Special District position, seconded by Councilwoman Howe. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Howe made a motion nominate Brad Basse for the unopposed County Commissioner position, seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Department: No report

Police Department: Police Chief Thomas Knickerbocker reported that he has two individuals interested in the Resource Officer position and will be interviewing as soon as possible.

Chief Knickerbocker explained that the Resource Grant continues through the end of May 2015 and as long as the town shows due diligence in trying to recruit an officer for that position the grant funding is secure. Chief Knickerbocker indicated that a past town treasurer neglected to make the appropriate draw downs by submitting the appropriate paperwork. Fortunately that individual is no longer employed by the town and when the issue was brought to the attention of the police department steps were taken to make the appropriate draw down in the amount of \$74,000.00 and the town was able to continue with grant program. We have attempted to fill the position but it is difficult to bring someone in for a limited amount of time. Currently one local individual is interested in the position and if possible that individual could continue on a part-time basis after the resource officer's position was completed.

Recreation Department: Recreation Director Lisa Burton reported that the Missoula Children's Theatre auditions were held December 1st with fifty-six children participating. The children will be practicing this week for the performances of The Pied Piper which will be Friday, December 5th at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 6th at 2:00 p.m. at the Platte Valley Community Center. Other upcoming activities include the Jingle Bell Run on December 6th at 8:00 p.m. and Ladies Night Out on December 11th.

Department of Public Works:

- Street Department: Department of Public Works Supervisor Chuck Bartlett reminded the council of the River Study Committee workshop and the Public Hearing on the Platte River Restoration Project scheduled for Friday, December 05, 2014. The Committee workshop will be at 10:00 in the council chambers of the town hall and the Public Hearing will be at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Center Gymnasium.

Chuck Bartlett also reported that the town is having a beaver problem in the area around the hot pool and he has called the state Wildlife Services Specialist and was waiting for a call back to see what could be done.

- Water & Sewer: Department of Public Works Supervisor Chuck Bartlett reported that the crews were working on the bridge near the hot pool and had completed the last of the concrete work for the bridge.
- Weed and Pest: No Report
- Hot Pool: No Report

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Airport Board: The next Airport Board meeting will be on December 10, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.

Community Center Joint Powers Board: The next meeting of the Community Center Joint Powers Board will be held Monday, December 8, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board: Chuck Bartlett reminded the council and the public of the workshop for the Council and the Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd at 5 p.m. at the Saratoga Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting will to be to address sewer charges for mobile home parks and apartment buildings.

The next meeting of the Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board will be Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Landfill Board: The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Saratoga.

Medical Board: No Report

Planning Commission: The next Planning Commission meeting will be Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Commission: The next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be Monday, December 8, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Community Garden Board: The next meeting will be Monday, December 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

South Central Emergency Medical Services: No Report.

Executive Session: Councilwoman Welton made a motion to go into executive session at 6:48 p.m. to discuss personnel and matters of litigation in accordance with W.S. 16-4-405(a) (ii) and (iii) seconded by Councilwoman Howe the motion carried unanimously.

Mayors elect Ed J. Glode was asked to join the council in executive session. Clerk Suzie Cox and Police Chief Thomas Knickerbocker attended portions of the executive session.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:18 p.m. seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Howe made a motion to seal the minutes from the executive session seconded by Councilwoman Welton and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Zeiger reported there was no action taken.

Adjournment: Being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilwoman Welton made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 pm. Councilwoman Howe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Saratoga Town Council will be held on December 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Saratoga Town Hall.

John Zeiger, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzie Cox, Clerk