

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SARATOGA TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD MARCH 3, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF  
THE SARATOGA TOWN HALL

Unedited audio recording of the March 3, 2020 meeting  
is on our website at [www.saratoga.govoffice2.com](http://www.saratoga.govoffice2.com)

Mayor John Zeiger, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present were Mayor John Zeiger, Councilman Jon Nelson, Councilman Steve Wilcoxson, Councilwoman Judy Welton, and Councilman Bob Keel.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The draft minutes submitted to the council prior to the meeting were discussed with Councilman Nelson reviewing the changes that he had made to the draft prior to the minutes being finalized. Councilman Nelson made one final change to the Saratoga Airport report; second sentence, insert "needs" as the last word in the sentence.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2020 meeting as corrected, Councilwoman Welton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Mayor Zeiger read the following bills for approval: Accounts Payable in the amount of \$69,459.53; net payroll for 3/03/2020 in the amount of \$32,273.66; and payroll transmittals for 3/03/2020 in the amount of \$19,442.40 for a total of \$121,175.59.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to pay the accounts payable bills in the amount of \$69,459.53 Councilwoman Welton seconded the motion, Councilman Nelson brought the bills up for discussion.

Councilman Nelson stated that based upon the email that was received on Friday (2/28/2020), he has reservations about approving the bills, which he would like to comment on during council comments. Adding that, as pointed out by "our" accountant, the approval of expenditures constituted an implicit approval of the transferring of funds from the enterprise funds to the general fund, and he would like to exercise his right by voting against paying the bills.

Following a discussion of how the council could pay the bills, Mayor Zeiger called for the vote.

A poll of the Council: with Councilman Nelson voting nay, Councilman Wilcoxson voting aye, Councilwoman Welton voting aye, Councilman Keel voting aye and Mayor Zeiger voting aye, the motion carried.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to pay the 3/03/2020 net payroll in the amount of \$32,273.66, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to pay the payroll transmittals for 3/03/2020 in the amount of \$19,442.40, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Zeiger read a Thank You from the Chamber of Commerce thanking the town crew for assisting to make the Fishing Derby a wonderful success.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilman Nelson presented an email dated February 28, 2020 from James Childress, Childress Audit and Consulting, to the Saratoga Town Council referred to as: Updated financials draft.

Discussion followed with Councilman Wilcoxson making a motion to set a workshop that would include the council, James Childress, the current auditors from Carver, Florek and James, the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Welton.

A poll of the Council: Councilman Nelson voting aye, Councilman Wilcoxson voting aye, Councilwoman Welton voting aye, Councilman Keel voting aye, and Mayor Zeiger voting aye, the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Nelson noted that James Childress had earlier indicated that there were two sets of numbers and not being sure if adjustments and corrections had been made in the town's accounting software, Councilman Nelson made a motion to suspend Childress activities and engagements until further notice, including all integrated adjusting entries, seconded by Councilman Keel for discussion.

A poll of the Council: Councilman Nelson voting aye, Councilman Wilcoxson voting nay, Councilwoman Welton voting nay, Councilman Keel voting aye and Mayor Zeiger voting nay, the motion failed.

Discussion continued and Councilman Nelson made a motion to contact the Wyoming Department of Audit, Public Funds Division and ask them to come in and perform an audit of the Town of Saratoga, Councilman Keel seconded for the purpose of discussion.

Clerk Suzie Cox stated that she had been contacted by the Wyoming Department of Audit stating that they were going to come over and perform an audit for Saratoga. Following a conversation and after

explaining that Carver, Florek and James were performing the audit for the town and providing him with contact information he stated he would be calling back. The state auditor called the audit firm and returned a call to Clerk Cox indicating that they would be requesting duplicate information and they would not be coming over to perform an audit, but would wait for the final audit prepared by Carver, Florek and James.

A poll of the Council: Councilman Nelson voting aye, Councilman Wilcoxson voting nay, Councilwoman Welton voting nay, Councilman Keel voting nay and Mayor Zeiger voting aye, the motion failed.

As the discussion continued, Councilman Nelson made a final motion to call LGLP (the town's local liability provider) and asked that they come over and review the issues that he had outlined concerning the town's financials, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded the motion for discussion.

Clerk Cox informed the council that she had been keeping LGLP apprised of the situation and was including them in the emails that were being sent and received, too which Councilwoman Welton attested.

A poll of the Council: Councilman Nelson voting aye, Councilman Wilcoxson voting nay, Councilwoman Welton voting aye, Councilman Keel voting aye and Mayor Zeiger voting aye, the motion carried.

#### **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Resident Steven Niccolls addressed the council stating that he believes that Jon Winter and his DPW crew has done a wonderful job in trying to keep the roads clear in Saratoga. He added that as he travels around, he believes Saratoga does the best job of keeping the roads clear this year. Additional favorable comments of appreciation were shared by the council.

#### **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS:**

Town Hall: No Report

Police Department: No report

Fire Department: The three grant applications submitted for the fire department were discussed for clarification, no action taken.

Councilman Nelson reviewed an email he had sent on February 10<sup>th</sup> questioning the coding of the fire department bill from Pine Cove. The fire department was asking that the charges be removed from one line item and charged out on another line item. The other email item will be discussed at another meeting or during a budget session.

Recreation Department/Commission Report: Recreation Director Lisa Burton reported that the

- Missoula Children's Theater auditions will be Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. the show is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Information has been put out to the elementary and middle/high school and an additional flyer will be put out next week
- Donkey Basketball is scheduled for Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and there is one team signed up at this time
- Members of the Rec Commission will be out asking for support through sponsorships

Councilman Keel stated that he is participating in the youth basketball program as a coach, and as a parent, and believes it is going well and the program is very successful.

While taking public feedback on the recreation programs, with what is being done good and what is not being done good, they will be addressing the following issues

- Communication has been lacking
- Develop a plan to get the calendar out earlier
- Develop an annual calendar
- Include board members in creating the annual plan
- Advertising and using social media
- Work on smoother registrations

Councilman Keel added that there are two vacancies on the recreation commission and encourage anyone interested in the recreation programs to send in letters of interest, regardless if they live within the town limits or outside of the town limits.

The next meeting will be April 13, 2020 at 5 p.m.

#### **Department of Public Works:**

DPW Director Jon Winter provided the council with a written report for the department of public works.

Streets:

- Met with Black Hills Energy – they will start next week to complete the tie overs on approximately 150 residences to move meters and tie into the new mains
- Plowed and sanded streets and sidewalks and maintained snow wind breaks
- Received the additional ice slicer on February 27<sup>th</sup>

Water/Sewer

- Met with Sensus and Dana Kepner to discuss the Town's flex net software issues and software updates
- Dana Kepner will provide a quote with options on software upgrades and server hosting options as well as a quote for a handheld programmer

Hot Pool:

- Provided pictures of the hot pool changing rooms painting project
- The crew will clean the hot pool on March 12<sup>th</sup>

Community Center Joint Powers Board: The next meeting will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board: The next JPB meeting will be on March 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Landfill Board: The next Landfill Board meeting is March 4<sup>th</sup> in Riverside at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission: Councilman Keel reported that there was not a quorum present at the last meeting. The next planning commission meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Saratoga Airport: The non-functioning camera at the airport was discussed and Councilman Nelson noted that he has a ticket in with Pine Cove to determine the reason that the camera has malfunctioned.

Councilman Nelson provided an update on the special meeting for the airport apron project including developing a “needs” list for the next ten to twenty years, directing the airport engineer to work with an alternate for the apron project and noting that the board will work with the joint powers board for a water line relocation that will need to be addressed in that project.

The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

South Central Wyoming Emergency Services Board: No report

New Business: Budget Workshop scheduling was discussed, and the first budget workshop will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment: There being no additional business to come before the meeting, Councilwoman Welton made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 p.m., Councilman Keel seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Saratoga Town Council will be held on March 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Saratoga Town Hall.

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John Zeiger, Mayor

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Suzie Cox, Clerk