

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SARATOGA TOWN COUNCIL
HELD MAY 21, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
SARATOGA TOWN HALL

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, Councilman Keel seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2019 meeting as presented, Councilwoman Welton seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Treasurer Samuel Flohr read the following bills for approval: Accounts Payable: \$54,496.52; Payroll and FICA for 5/14/2019 in the amount of \$53,160.46; and manual checks in the amount of \$30,133.78, for a total of \$138,192.58.

Councilman Keel made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$138,192.58, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None noted

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Zeiger noted that he had invited the Carbon County Memorial Hospital to address the council on services that they could offer if at some point the town would need a back-up plan for clinic services. Mayor Zeiger added that a CCMH board member, Jason Campbell, had attended an earlier council meeting to give a proposal (October 7, 2018) but was not given a chance to do so before the former council approved a lease agreement for HMS.

Carbon County Memorial Hospital CEO Bob Quist introduced CCMH Board Chairman Sherrod France and Board Member Mark Kostovny. Mr. Quist addressed what they believe is a critical issue for the Platte Valley which is the provision of primary care and provided a background of CCMH:

- It is a 25 bed Critical Access Facility that provides services not normally found in a small community
- An intensive care unit
- A full OB program
- With a fulltime Obstetrician and Gynecologist
- Excellent Ancillary Services including fulltime CT and MRI

Recently received a grant for a little over \$800,000 to upgrade Radiology Services including 3D Mammography System

Recently completed their first Robotic Knee Surgery

- A 24/7 Emergency Department with all board certified physicians
- A Hospitalist Program with all trained, board certified physicians trained in either general practice or Internal medicine that provides specialist care to hospitalized patients which allows other providers to stay in their offices or work within their clinics
- Operate family clinics in Hanna and Rawlins
- Have an OB Clinic and a Surgery Clinic in Rawlins
- In the process of getting ready to open a 7500 sq. ft. clinic in Rawlins
- Records indicate that they see approximately 2,000 patients from either Saratoga or the Platte Valley
- Totally debt free with strong cash reserves

What they would bring to the table would be:

- A Critical Access Hospital as long as it meets critical state requirements
- The CCMH clinics provide a higher income to them through the Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements which are higher, not more costly to the patient, but the reimbursement is higher
- Would not expect any type of subsidy from the community or any private foundation
- Recruit a physician to cover a portion of the time here and a portion of the time in the Rawlins clinic
- Evaluate the volume of patients and adjust the time spent here as necessary
- Visiting Specialists – provide clinics for them to provide specialty services
- Resources at the hospital would make it possible to establish tele-med services for the clinic, day time or after hours
- Would be a great partnership between the hospital and the clinic

Questions asked and answered:

The hospital is non-profit owned by the county, the Commissioners appoint a board (5 year terms). The CEO reports to the board and they meet on a monthly basis.

A time frame would begin with recruitment of a physician that would be appropriate for the clinic and making sure that the clinic itself will meet state guidelines.

Their clinics need to meet a higher standard because they are considered a department of the hospital and they must meet state licensure and meet state ADA standards.

Finding the proper physicians – easy to find physicians - harder to find a physician that will fit into the life style here.

Their intent would be to bring on the existing staff currently here as they are believed to be excellent and provide excellent care.

Temporary physicians would be considered while going through the recruitment process.

Discussion continued with additional questions

Councilman Nelson felt unprepared because he was unaware that it would be discussed at this time, however, he asked if they had attempted to partner with the current providers.

Mr. Quist stated no, they had not, however they only wanted to come at this time to let the council know that if changes were necessary, and not wanting to interfere with the current providers, they would be very interested in proposing an opportunity to step in.

When asked if they were interested in the nursing home, Mr. Quist stated no, however, if that issue came up and the town felt changes needed to be addressed, they would work with organizations to partner in that. Most hospitals have shied away from nursing homes because they are very difficult to operate and regulations are even worse.

Mark Pesognelli noted that they have stated that it will always take time to recruit providers and he believes that if the town decides to change to the hospital, they will be back to starting over with all of the credentialing. HMS is proposing a Critical Care Hospital for the same reason as stated by the CEO of the hospital.

The Critical Access Hospital would provide for times that the roads are closed and no one can make the trip to Rawlins then patients can be treated here. HMS will be able to offer many of the things that the hospital is indicating they can provide. They currently have tele-med, a doctor that is available 2 or 3 times a month, are also talking to Dr. Connelly, and are working to provide the same thing as that is being proposed by the hospital.

What the town would not get is a nursing home that can move into an extended care bed as a critical access hospital, unless you build one, and if you do that you have the opportunity to save the nursing home. The study indicates that 95% of the people think the nursing home is important and they would like to see the nursing home remain here and they feel that the critical access hospital is the answer.

Will Faust reported on the Health Care Sustainability Project, noting that as it rates to the feasibility analysis, they are complete with Phase I (the demographics portion) of the feasibility project and it came back positive. Phase II (the financial feasibility) is underway and they are using the survey numbers that were gathered with metrics from other small rural hospitals in Wyoming.

They are working on a site selection analysis and have hired Engineering Associates to look at all available properties within the municipality. They have narrowed it down to 5 or 7 different properties, some municipal and some are private, they will look at access and infrastructure for those locations. The survey is done with 467 responses from both ends of the valley, creating a “frequently asked questions” section on the website to help with common questions.

Karen Bedwell has been recruited to fill a board seat and they will be meeting on Thursday to start working on By-Laws.

Mr. Faust discussed information that they have been reviewing on critical access hospital in like communities in Wyoming and Montana.

Mr. Faust indicated that a former CEO from CCMH had been in a meeting to discuss the issues confronting the clinic prior to the formation of HMS and he was not interested in assisting if there were problems as did individuals from Iverson Memorial Hospital, then they talked to HMS about helping with problems with the nursing home.

Mr. Faust finished by inviting everyone to the next meeting on June 12th at the Community Center at 5:30 p.m.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC: None noted

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

Town Hall:

Mayor Zeiger read **Ordinance No. 853**, an Ordinance amending the 2018/2019 Budget on first reading. Ordinance 853 is an ordinance to amend the 2018/2019 fiscal year budget Ordinance No. 844.

Discussion followed with Councilman Nelson asking where the funds would come from to cover the adjustments of revenues and expenditures of the 911 assessment funds.

Clerk Suzie Cox noted that the amount of the adjustment can change prior to the third reading as a more accurate amount is noted after all invoices prior to June 30th are paid. Unfortunately the funds to cover the expenditures of the 911 system will come from the general fund as there are not enough funds in the 911

assessment funds or 911 investment funds to cover the overage. Said adjustments will be noted for the auditors.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 853 on first reading, Councilwoman Welton seconded the motion. Mayor Zeiger asked for a vote count. Councilman Nelson voted yes, Councilman Wilcoxson voted yes, Councilwoman Welton voted yes, Councilman Keel voted yes and Mayor Zeiger voted yes, the motion carried.

Mayor Zeiger read **Ordinance No. 854**, an Ordinance to Provide Income Necessary to Finance the 2019-2020 Fiscal Budget of The Town of Saratoga on 1st Reading.

Councilman Nelson reviewed changes that were made to the figures discussed at the budget meeting held the night prior the council meeting.

Councilman Keel made a motion to approve Ordinance 854 on first reading as reviewed, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried.

Fire Department: Pat Vining addressed the council and reported on the following:

- Sent two volunteers to the Cody Fire School – came back with the ability to do some training on extrication and will provide some training with EMS services
- All equipment and supplies have been received and they have been trying out all of the swift water gear
- Received a donated generator from Hanna
- Firehouse Subs grant will be submitted for extrication tools
Reviewed the cost of new extrication equipment including cutter, spreader and splitter which will run somewhere around \$26,000
- Gathering bunker gear specifications
- New gun raffle planned for around the 4th of July

Police Department:

Chief Lehr reported that one pickup is down with transmission issues that they will be getting looked at.

Chief Lehr requested permission to hire Robert Pfeiffer as a part-time officer to help offset overtime issues. Mr. Pfeiffer is post certified and currently enrolled at UW law school and he would like part-time work through the summer.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to allow Chief Lehr to hire Robert Pfeiffer as a part-time officer, seconded by Councilman Keel, the motion carried.

Discussion of the 911 system and the 911 calls that are dropped or transferred continued with Chief Lehr noting that those issues make response time unacceptable. Chief Lehr indicated that he had been in contact with Venture Technologies, Century Link and Union Telephone and they just continue to blame each other.

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to allow Tom Thompson to contact Venture Tec to see what can be done to correct the problems with the 911 System, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried.

Chief Lehr was directed to set up a conference call between Venture Tec, Century Link and Union Telephone to address the issues of dropped 911 calls.

Recreation Department/Commission Report:

Mayor Zeiger read a letter of interest submitted by Ben Spaulding requesting to be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Recreation Commission.

Councilman Nelson made a motion to appoint Ben Spaulding to the Recreation Commission, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried.

Recreation Director Lisa Burton requested permission to hire the following as life guards, water safety instructors, and cashiers.

- Sarah Lincoln – 8th year \$11.75 (Cashier, LG, WSI part-time)

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve, Councilman Keel seconded, the motion carried.

- Sarah Burton – 5th year \$11.00 (Cashier, LG, WSI full-time)

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve, Councilman Keel seconded, the motion carried.

- Cameron Travis – 3rd year \$10.00 (LG, WSI full-time)

Councilman Nelson made a motion to approve, Councilwoman Welton seconded, the motion carried.

- Kylee Conseen – 2nd year \$9.50 (LG, WSI full-time)

Councilman Nelson made a motion to approve, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded, motion carried.

- Ben Fairbanks – new hire to the pool but had worked for the town previously - \$10.00 (LG)

Councilman Nelson made a motion to approve, Councilwoman Welton seconded, the motion carried.

- Jordan Travis – new hire \$9.00 (LG, full-time)

Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded, the motion carried

Director Burton reported that the pool was ready to be opened, however, due to the weather conditions, the temperature is low and may prohibit opening. If the temperature is at a desirable temperature, the pool will open on Saturday, May 25th at noon. Director Burton provided a flier with events, activities and schedules that were also sent to the Saratoga and Encampment schools to be distributed the students. The next meeting will be on June 10th at 5:00 p.m.

Saratoga Airport:

Councilman Nelson reported on a telephone conference call attended by Councilman Nelson, Mayor Zeiger and Clerk Cox discussing the terminal building demolition project. It will be a T&M contract with Sage Engineering and Dave Shultz will be getting the contract proposal sent to back the council.

There was a wrap up meeting with the airport board on May 15th and a meeting for June 12th was discussed.

It was noted that there have been two letters of interest submitted for positions on the airport advisory board. The letters were read with no action being taken.

Department of Public Works:

DPW Director Jon Winter reported the following:

Streets:

- Assisted the water/sewer crew with a valve replacement and new vault at Kathy Glode Park
- Assisted Recreation Director Burton get ready to open the pool for the summer

Water/Sewer:

- Received the Draft WWDC Saratoga Water Level One report completed by Forsgren & Associates. The draft report was presented to the water & sewer JPB and the final report should be received in July
- The DO sensor in Cell #2 was replaced and is now fully functional

Weed/Pest

- Requested permission to approve the Air Time Aerial contract for the 2019 mosquito spraying with permission for Mayor Zeiger to sign
Councilman Nelson made a motion to approve the Air Time Aerial contract for the 2019 mosquito spraying with permission for Mayor Zeiger to sign, Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried.

Parks:

- All irrigation systems have been turned on and maintenance completed on all parks and two primary water valves were installed on the woods field irrigation system

Lake:

Repaired water line leaks at the lake

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Community Center Joint Powers Board: Councilwoman Welton noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board:

Councilman Nelson provided the proposed amendments to Title 13 Public Services – Division I. Water - 13.16.030 Monthly rates including commercial and businesses – Metered and 13.16.035 Suspension of metered water rates and imposition of flat rate for the councils review. The proposed rates will be based on the size of the meters and will be tiered similarly to the current tier rates. The amendments will be presented in ordinance form for the council for first reading.

The next meeting will be on June 12th at 6:00 p.m.

Landfill Board: Councilman Wilcoxson stated that the next Landfill Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on June 5th in Saratoga.

Medical:

Mark Pesognelli reported that Mandy Cooper is now certified to do drug and alcohol testing at the clinic and Ruby Aires will be certified soon to be able to do DOT testing. Mr. Pesognelli reviewed the number of patients seen for the month which has been increasing throughout the month.

Mr. Pesognelli encouraged everyone to attend the next sustainability meeting at the Community Center on June 12th at 5:30. The 501 3c is now looking at developing their by-laws and will soon be an independent body.

Discussion followed and Mr. Pesognelli was asked if the by-laws will include addressing board positions.

(A) That will all be done as they are looking at the by-laws. (Q) Is there a time frame that the health care facility is looking at as far as the critical access designation? (A)The feasibility has to be done first to get any funding from the USDA, there is one more phase (Phase III) which will identify the numbers to be used for funding applications, which will take approximately two years to break ground.

Planning Commission:

Councilman Keel reported that Chris Duke has resigned his position on the Planning Commission due to his many obligations that make it hard for him to be as active on the commission as he would like to be.

Councilman Keel noted that interviews for the planning position are being scheduled, and in answer to Randy Raymer's question about the lack of oversight on remodels, Kent Smith is addressing those along with all other projects that are brought to his attention.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held at 5:30 on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

SCWEMS Board:

Saratoga's Representative to the SCWEMS Board, Marie Christen, addressed the council and distributed the minutes and financial report for their review. Ms. Christen noted that in appreciation of the volunteers, the board will be giving bonuses to the volunteers based upon tabulation of their on-call hours logged. The Board is also going to fill two station manager positions, one on the north end and one on the south end.

Adjournment: Being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilwoman Welton made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Keel seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Saratoga Town Council will be held on June 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Saratoga Town Hall.

John Zeiger, Mayor

Suzie Cox, Clerk