

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council

June 24, 2021

I. The meeting was called to order by Chuck Briede at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:

Kyle Taylor-Present
Matt Stewart—Present
Travis LeMaster—Present
Dave Fox—Absent
Chuck Briede-Present

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer offered by Matt Stewart.

II. Minutes

Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021, meeting as written. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Kyle Taylor-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

III. Bills

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the paying of the bills as written. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Absent
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. Public Forum

No comments

V. Department Reports

Maintenance Department — Superintendent Devin Cole was in attendance.

- Devin introduced Jay Wyss of Fleis & Vandenbrink. Jay is the new lead engineer for our CCMG project. Former lead engineer Mitch Hansel has accepted a position with another firm.
- Devin reported that the town had received a letter from Genessee & Wyoming Railroad Service, Inc. ("Railroad"), recommending that the town upgrade the railroad crossing to include crossing gates and related safety measures. The Town has previously entered into a "Pedestrian Crossing License Agreement" ("Contract") with the Railroad, dated November 20, 2020. A discussion ensued in which the counsel attempted to determine if the town is obligated to install the recommended equipment, or if the town could decide not to do so and still be in compliance with the Contract. Engineering, procurement, installation, and maintenance costs of the crossing gates would be the Town's responsibility. Such costs are not covered in the current CCMG project and are estimated to be in the range of \$100,000 or more. Devin mentioned that there are grants that may be available to cover some portion of such a project. There was discussion of the possibility of installing infrastructure under the railroad, during the construction of the of the pedestrian crossing, so that if crossing gates were determined to be a necessity at some time in the future, disruption from that potential future installation would be minimized. The consensus of the council is that the crossing gates are not a current necessity from a safety standpoint because the volume of train traffic is very low. It was decided

the council will consult with town counsel Michael Hotz and have him draft a response to the letter from the Railroad.

- Regarding the sidewalk project, Kyle Taylor relayed some concerns from citizens about grass not growing along the new sidewalks. Devin said the seed that had been planted may to be inferior to what people generally use for their yards. Devin also said the project is not completed yet: there is still some seeding to be done and driveway culverts and approaches to be installed. Devin said they did locates this week and expects the sidewalk project to be done in the next couple of weeks.
- Regarding the CCMG project, Devin reported that all the catch basins have been installed. The next phase of the project will be replacing some curbs. After that, the paving will commence, sometime in early to mid-July.

Police Department — Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance.

- Regarding security for the town clean-up, Ryan attempted to secure two deputies from the Grant County Sheriff to cover the 15-hour shift in two 7.5-hour increments. There was no interest from the deputies, so Ryan secured Brad Moore to cover the entire shift at \$30 per hour. The purpose of the security is to try and make sure that it is Sweetser residents who are utilizing the service, and not people from out-of-town.
- Ryan expressed modest concern about being able to find 4 security personnel for the 150th. He is trying to cover the 12-hour event with 2 security personnel for 6 hours each and another 2 personnel for 6 hours each. He is requesting the personnel through FEMA.
- Ryan summarized the department case load over the last two weeks and responded to questions from the council about case particulars.
- Chuck asked for an update on the nuisance and abandoned vehicle ordinances violation notifications and asked if there was a need to proceed to the next steps. Ryan said there had been some progress and Travis and Kyle reported the same. Ryan said he would continue to monitor the situations but didn't think additional action was warranted at this time.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve thanked the council for the purchase of the John Deere 3038 E Compact Utility Tractor. He said they were already putting it to good use and described some of the things they had thus far accomplished. Kyle asked if the lease/purchase agreement limited the number of hours we could utilize the tractor without penalty. Steve said there was no limit. Clerk inquired if, for budgeting purposes, we had an expected annual maintenance cost for the new tractor. Clerk will ask TTG Equipment if they have an estimate. Chuck reminded the clerk that the tractor will need to be added to our insurance policy. Since the tractor comes with a bucket, post hole digger, auger, and a rotary mower, there was discussion of the need to retain the skid steer. That matter was tabled.
- Steve presented the "Golden Spike" award to volunteer Tom Walters for taking care of the Dog Park.
- Kyle procured and presented to Steve a tablet for asset tracking.
- Matt asked if the contractor using the dog park had seeded the area. Devin said they had not and it would be up to the town to do so. Devin said when it was seeded that he could use a fire truck to water the area to get the seed started.
- Kyle said that the town compost area frequently has standing water that makes it difficult to access the area. There was consensus that a gravel path to the area would be ideal. Devin estimated it would take approximately 7 tri-axle loads. Matter tabled.

VI. Continuing Business

- Chuck said he had not yet heard back from Mr. Newhouse regarding the proposed agreement to use his lot during the Sesquicentennial.
- Travis reported the next Sesquicentennial committee is Monday (June 28).
- Jay Wyss of Fleis & Vandenbrink reported the CCMG call for applications for projects for next year opens July 5 and closes July 30. Jay distributed an updated street and road map of Sweetser and a proposed list of street and storm water projects, with cost estimates, for the councils' consideration. Matt asked what the estimated allocation was between streets and storm water projects. Devin responded it was

approximately 60/40 streets/storm water. The proposed project cost as presented is about \$308,000. The CCMG project town share is 25%, which would make the town commitment about \$77,000 plus engineering fees. Devin said the pricing was a little different than prior projects as the estimate contemplates "mill-and-fill" as contrasted with an overlay. The result should be a better product with a longer life. Chuck asked Jay for an estimate of engineering fees. Jay said he could provide that at the next meeting. A discussion ensued among Devin and the council members about how much of the proposed project to attempt, if we could add some streets to the project, and how to fund the towns' share. Jay explained the rationale for the streets chosen and why certain storm water issues of some streets need to be addressed (standing water; drainage flow) prior to the actual work on some of the other streets. Matt asked the clerk what the expected ending cash balance for the storm water fund was for 2021. Clerk estimated about \$35,000. The project proposal contemplates doing part of Laura Lane. Matt suggested taking the work on Burge Street out of the project proposal and allocating it to Laura Lane so all of Laura Lane could be repaired at once. Jay said he would rework the project estimate, taking out Burge and adding the entirety of Laura Lane, and present the new estimate at the next meeting along with the engineering estimate.

- Travis asked if the change orders on the CCMG project had been submitted. Devin said they had not, and when they were, he anticipated them to be somewhat less than originally estimated as they had to go back to 6" pipe rather than 12" pipe on Washington and on Main due to some existing natural gas lines.
- Matt asked if the trenching to extend electrical in the Dog Park to establish trailer/rv hookups could be accomplished before September. Travis asked if we had a cost estimate for that work. Matt said we did not. Matter tabled pending receiving an estimate.
- Matt said that on the Sunday after the Sesquicentennial there was still going to be a Sunday morning community worship service, but the evening concert would not take place.
- Matt said he did see that there had been positive movement on acquiring the Bragg Street property.
- Travis reported that the town had received an offer for the Church Street property. As an initial step, there will have to be a special meeting to consider the proposal, though no formal action could be taken at that meeting. A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 29, at 6 pm.
- Clerk reported he had spoken with attorney Joe Certain regarding the Ethanol Racing Fuels outstanding fine and would have more information at a future meeting.
- Chuck asked what was going on with the disposition of the old Jeep. Kyle said the original party that was going to receive the jeep as a donation backed out. Kyle said he is working with another organization who has some interest in obtaining the vehicle.

VII. New Business

- Travis initiated a discussion of about obtaining quotes for a bucket truck for the town. Matter tabled.
- Clerk announced August 26 as the tentative date for the first reading of the 2022 budget.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
