

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BEARCREEK

Mayor Surwill called the Bearcreek council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Council members Boos, Cristan, Hogan, and Jenkins were present. Loni Hanson, Zoning Administrator; Rob Surwill, Animal Control Officer; Juliane Lore, Town Attorney; and Dean Webb, Public Works Director were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council member Jenkins moved to accept the minutes, financial reports, and budget vs actual reports as presented.

Council member Cristan seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

Under correspondence an email from Cyrina Allen was read in relation to the Bearcreek water system grant. She had advised that the State DES had a few items they had passed down from FEMA regarding more information which she had supplied. She felt it was a good sign that the application hadn't been denied during the first round of reviews. She reminded all that it is very common for several months to go by before hearing about the grant awards.

There were no public comments.

Under department reports: Water/Sewer/Streets –Dean advised the council that when we had the terrible downpour last Thursday it washed out the springs. The best spring (the lower one) was damaged the worst. We definitely will need to do extensive work to get both of them back operating at full capacity. Now we have only 40 gallons a minute being produced when we usually have 120-130 gallons a minute. If the repair isn't done in a timely manner, we will be rationing water. This could start as early as July. Dean wasn't sure exactly what would need to be done but he will have to do prep work to allow equipment to get to the spring boxes for repair. He felt that the fire had burned off all the vegetation and trees, so there wasn't anything to hold off the excess water from flowing down upon them, causing the damage. He was hopeful that DES could contact FEMA and see if there would be a grant for emergencies such as these. Cyrina had felt that maybe some of the grant money already applied for could be diverted to the springs, but she would need to check. The consensus of the Mayor and council were to seek any and all assistance to get grants and anything else, making this a top priority project. Dean will visit more with Interstate engineers for their input and proceed as best he can. Dean reported that everything else was going well. Loni reported that she may have 2 variances that will need to go to the Board of Adjustments if the residents go forth with their plans. Rob reported that only one person hadn't complied with the animal licensing, and they had promised to send it in the mail in the next week so we will wait and see. Everything else was going well.


There were no council concerns.

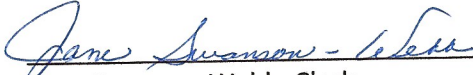
Under unfinished business the clerk advised that she needed council input on the '23-'24 budget, especially raises for the employees. The general consensus was that with the cost of the spring box repairs no raise would be given again this year.

New business was started with the clerk reading Resolution 2023-3 to adopt a fee schedule for the flood plain application. Council member Cristan moved to approve the Resolution. Council member Hogan seconded said motion, which passed unanimously. (2) The clerk read the names of the 5 persons interested in the board of adjustment positions, John Coutu, Jennifer Jessen, Sharon Cassell, Threse Fuchs, and Barbara Downing. The clerk asked if any of the council or Mayor had anyone express an interest. There were none. Paul moved to appoint all 5 interested persons to the Board. Harold seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. The terms run from 1-3 years; therefore, the clerk had put the number for the term years in a bowl and Danell drew a number when the clerk read the name to determine the length of each person's term. The clerk will notify the members. (3) The amendment to Resolution 2022-05 was withheld. (4) Betty requested permission to leave the state from June 10th to June 13th. Paul moved to give Betty permission. Harold seconded the motion which passed 4-0. (5) Paul requested permission to leave the state starting next week and returning the end of June. Betty moved to grant Paul permission. Harold seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Under clerk's items the clerk advised that after meeting with Forrest Mandeville, county planner; and Julianne, we have some different ideas to collect money for the water system. Triple Tree Engineering is an excellent resource for small towns writing and managing grants, etc., therefore they would be willing to attend a workshop with the Town between June 12-14 to brainstorm. It was decided that the best time for the workshop would be Monday, June 12th in the evening & would be available to zoom.

With no further business Harold moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by Paul passed unanimously.


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk