

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2024 TOWN OF BEARCREEK COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Surwill called the Bearcreek council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. April 4, 2024, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Hogan, Boos-Bader, and Jenkins were present. Rob Surwill, Animal Control Officer; Loni Hanson, Zoning Director; Julianne Lore, Town Attorney; and Dean Webb, Public Works Director were in attendance. Torsten Prah, a representative for Carbon County EMS, his wife Wendy, and Kim Bader were public present.

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 carried 4-0.

Council member Hogan moved to approve the claims as presented. Council member Jenkins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Dean started dept. head reports. He advised that all was going well. He had tried to go to the springs to check them but could only get to the Meeteetse Trail and it was too wet to go further. He didn't have concerns about them, but just wanted to do a check. The sewer is fine. He reported that he had All Seasons Construction installing a culvert between Bearcreek Alley and S First Street to prevent run off and flooding for the new modular home. Loni advised that she had issued a permit to Agnew on 1st Street for a home and shed; Mark Bridges was starting on his garage/shop, which had been designated on his original permit; and Karl Hanson is continuing work on his home on Hillside Alley. Rob reported that the 2nd animal letters had gone out and he was waiting for about 15 townspeople to send in their renewal applications. If he doesn't receive them soon, he will issue warnings.

There were no council concerns.

Under unfinished business Resolution 2024-4 on the street and alley maintenance was read. Harold moved to accept the Resolution as presented. Paul seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

The clerk gave an update on the springs repair stating that Interstate Engineering was working with Rural Development for an emergency grant and bundled two DNRC grants for matching funds.

New Business started with Torsten Prah, Assistant Fire Chief from the Red Lodge Fire Dept/EMS presenting information on the proposed tax structure for the EMS service in Carbon County that is to be on the primary ballot in June. He went through the history of the Red Lodge/Roberts/Bearcreek ambulance charges that were established in 2010 and how the

\$69.00 value has decreased over 14 years. Joliet and Bridger haven't been funded as districts by tax dollars and need revenue as well. Because of this the County Commissioners heard and approved a Resolution placing a referendum on the primary election to allow Carbon County voters to consider imposing a county wide 18 mill levy to fund the provision of both emergency-and-non emergency ambulance response; emergency medical services; and other emergency services beneficial to all the citizens of Carbon County. The clerk questioned if this would be done by districts in the county, but when it is collected, a committee will distribute the funding by population and call volumes to the three areas – Red Lodge, Joliet, and the Clarks Fork Valley. The example given was 50% to Red Lodge, 25% to Joliet and 25% to the Clarks Fork Valley. Mr. Prah stressed several times the need for the mill levy so that each agency could provide adequate service to the people. He also advised the people to go to the website and calculate your tax with the 18 mills. The clerk advised she had gone to the website and her taxes would drop. Mr. Prah also stressed that Red Lodge was not trying to take over the other agencies but would provide assistance to them in any capacity. He mentioned that there would be upcoming meetings with the 1st one at Roosevelt Center in Red Lodge on April 11th at 6:30 p.m. He requested anyone having any questions, please contact them.

The yearly cemetery clean up was discussed. It was decided that volunteers could do it again with Dean as organizer and he would pick the date for cleanup according to the weather.

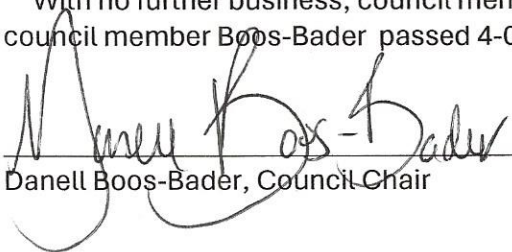
Under clerk's items: (1) The clerk advised that John Coutu's term is up on the Board of Adjustments as he had been elected to the one year term. She had visited with him, and he was willing to serve another term. The council will appoint him at the next council meeting to another term. (2) She reported that the HB355 grant application was completed and had been submitted by the March 31st deadline. She hadn't heard anything about the award as yet. (3) Emelie Eaton, grant writer had mentioned that there historic grants for application if the council would like her to apply for one. The clerk questioned if we should think about doing maintenance to the roof (applying sealant on the flat roof if that qualifies). It was suggested we have a roofing contractor check it and go from there. (3) The

clerk advised that a representative from the State DEQ had called her and Dean to clarify our position for the lead and copper survey. She offered any assistance that we may need. She advised that we should leave the money assistance open if, for some reason, we may need it later, it is available. She also said that because Dean is a contractor hired by the town that we would qualify for the \$5,000.00 reimbursement. There would also be money available later for the replacement of the lines found in private homes, but it will need to be granted to the Town with a required match. The required match can't be passed back to those replacing the lines but absorbed by the Town. (4) The clerk mentioned that Dean and Loni had gone to the water training class in Roberts on the 3rd. (5) A discussion was held on residents living in travel trailers. They have been there for several years; therefore, the clerk asked the council for direction on how this should be handled. It is against the zoning ordinance as it is allowed only if you are building and also the water ordinance. The zoning administrator will write both parties a letter stating the infractions.


Kim Bader, as the Town's Ambulance Board representative, reiterated that the mill levy for the emergency services really needs to pass or there will be layoffs and services cut. He requested that everyone talk to their neighbors and friends and stress how important it is that it passes.

Attorney Lore presented the council with the idea of forming a non-profit and sponsoring an organizational plate for the Town of Bearcreek to bring in revenue for parks, etc. She advised that the City of Laurel had done so and was quite successful. The clerk questioned if she knew the cost of the application for an organizational plate. Attorney Lore felt that maybe a grant could cover that cost. Attorney Lore advised she would check it out further.

With no further business, council member Jenkins moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion seconded by council member Boos-Bader passed 4-0.



Danell Boos-Bader, Council Chair



Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk