

Minutes of the July 11 2024 Public Hearing and Bearcreek Council Meeting

The public hearing on the preliminary '24-'25 budget was called to order by Mayor Surwill at 7:30 p.m. Council members present were Paul Hogan, Harold Jenkins and Betty Cristan, as was Loni Hanson, zoning administrator; Rob Surwill, animal control officer; and Dean Webb, public works director. Public in attendance was Lowell Cutshaw, Interstate Engineering. The clerk addressed the changes in both the revenue and expenditures, but the majority of the budget stayed the same as '24-'25. There were no public comments verbally or written received. With no further discussion, the public hearing was closed.

The regular meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All persons present at the hearing joined the regular meeting.

Harold moved to accept the minutes, the financial report, and the budge vs. actual report. Betty seconded said motion which passed 3-0.

Claims were presented for payment and approved with a motion by Betty, seconded by Paul which passed 3-0.

The clerk read a letter from the Montana Department of Commerce notifying the Town of the Grant Award for the State Local Infrastructure Partnership Act of 2023 for the replacement of the heating/cooling system and attaching a remote control opening to the trap door. A letter was also read advising that the Montana Coal Endowment Program had received the grant application for the 2027 Biennium for the Town's water project. The project had been determined to be eligible for ranking and review.

There were no public comments.

Dept. Head Reports – Dean reported that the water flow was good, sewer was doing well and all else was good. Loni advised that she didn't have anything to report. Rob reported that he had a call about a dog that had gotten loose and jumped into another person's yard and attacked her dogs resulting in injury to her dogs. Debbie had contacted the owner of the dog that attacked the enclosed dogs and the owner advised she would go visit with the owner of the dogs that had been injured and if there was a vet bill she would reimburse the owner. Rob also reported that he had 4 stragglers for animal control license, and he would contact them.

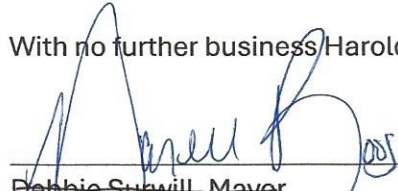
There were no council concerns.

Under unfinished business (1) Lowell updated the council on the spring repair. Rural Development who was granting the Town \$928,000.00, was requesting a current professional contract between the Town and Interstate for the spring repair. The clerk had passed out a contract for the council to review. Betty moved to accept the contract with Interstate Engineering for the water springs repair. Harold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Lowell stated it would be a project with a start date in 2025 with all the permitting, etc. needed prior to start up. Dean ran some of his ideas by Lowell, making sure they were both on the same page. Lowell agreed with Dean. Once again, the challenge of getting equipment to the location was discussed. (2) The second reading of Ordinance 24-1 accepting the Town's code with revisions, amendments, restating, codifying, recodifying and compiling existing general ordinances of the Town of Bearcreek as compiled, edited and published by the American Legal Publishing. Betty moved to accept the Ordinance. Harold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (3) Resolution 2024-6 allowing for line item transfers, establishing a street capital fund and to consolidate the water grants into one fund and account, closing various existing funds and accounts, containing all monies into one fund, but keeping the accounting separate for grant reporting. Paul moved to accept Resolution 2024-6. Harold seconded the motion which passed 3-0. (4) The Mayor and council didn't have any input on the preliminary budget. A public hearing on the budget will be held again at the August meeting.

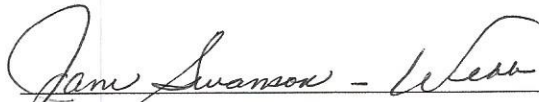
The Mayor asked if all subcontractors were willing to renew their contracts that expired June 30, 2024 All were agreeable, therefore Paul moved to renew the following contracts: Animal control, clerk, public works director, janitorial, and zoning administrator. Harold seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Under clerks items: (1) The clerk advised that Interstate had submitted an application for the Water Smart grant and if the Town should receive the grant that would lessen the loan with Rural Development \$100,000.00 (2) The clerk asked who had paid for the cemetery volunteers' luncheon. Paul said he had, and it wasn't that much, therefore it was his treat. The clerk thanked him and apologized that she hadn't asked prior. (3) The clerk advised the council that Denniston Butler, atty-at-law had reviewed the plat map of the Town of Bearcreek that everyone had been using. His determination was that it was composite made of the O.P. of Bearcreek, 1st Addition, 2nd Addition and 3rd Addition, therefore it was legal, but didn't need to be recorded to verify that the streets, alleys and roadways were the Town's and in location to the plat map. (4) The clerk advised that there would be a Board of Adjustment meeting. Loni then reported that the Kotars would be requesting a variance for their home set back to 5' to match the garage. Paul questioned if that would be the back side and Loni responded it would. (5) The clerk advised that there would be a Resolution to rescind the contract with the Red Lodge/Roberts Ambulance board since the 95 mills would be abolished and a mill levy for each Carbon County taxpayer would be assessed as approved by the voters in the Preliminary election there is no need for a contract. (6) The clerk advised since the grant for the furnace/cooling system replacement and trap door improvement had been awarded she would be advertising for bids, etc, so that project could be started.

With no further business Harold moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Paul, passed 3-0.


~~Debbie Surwill, Mayor~~

DANELL BOOS-BADER, CHAIR PERSON


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk