

Minutes of January 2, 2025, Bearcreek Council Meeting

Mayor Surwill called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 2, 2025, in the Town Hall. Council members Cristan, Hogan, Boos, and Jenkins were present. Rob Surwill, animal control officer; Loni Hanson, zoning administrator; and Dean Webb, public works director were in attendance. Atty Lore was present through Zoom.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Harold moved to accept the minutes, the financial report, and the budget vs. actual report. Betty seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Claims were presented for payment and approved with a motion by Betty, seconded by Harold, passing 4-0.

There was no correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Dept. Head Reports were started by Dean, who advised everything was going well with the water, sewer and streets. As the Town's appointed project manager of SLIPA Dean presented the council with a review of the project, which is 100% completed. He showed the council the trap door where the lifts had been installed. Due to the numerous power outages in our area, some for lengthy periods, and after visiting with the contractor it was decided to eliminate the remote. If someone was in the basement and the power went out there would be no way to allow that person to get out as the whole system would be dead and the door wouldn't open. The liability would be too great for the Town. This way that person could push on the door from the bottom, and it would open easily as the clerk tested it. The council remarked they appreciated Dean's fore thought. The installation of the heating and cooling system is also complete. Cool and Moore Heating, T Swanson Construction and Bridger Electric had coordinated to get the furnace and air conditioning installed and the electricity completed without any heat down time. Prep work needed to be done for the electrical as a hole needed to be drilled through the rock wall, a trench for the conduit and conduit laid and wire ran through it. The 10' of conduit needed to be cemented, so it wasn't simply running a wire from point A to point B. He commended all three of them on a job well done and under budget. Loni reported that the pit privy owner had removed said building after she had written him about his 2 options (1) move the building, (2) get an application for a zoning permit and request variances after paying the water/sewer connection fee. On her way home from Red Lodge, she passed him moving the building. For animal control Rob informed the council that the application letters had been sent out and responses have been coming in and all was going well.

There were no council concerns.

There was no unfinished business.

Under new business (1) Harold moved to appoint Paul as the council chair for the year 2025. Danell seconded the motion which passed 4-0. (2) Betty made a motion to accept Resolution 2025-1, effective January 2, 2025, eliminating the non-user fees; and keeping all the other listed fees in 2022-05 Amended the same going forward. Harold seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Clerk's items: (1) The clerk advised the council that Judge Kevin Nichols retired, therefore on January 1, 2025, the Town had a new Judge, Jeff Schmalz. (2) the clerk reported that she had received a check for the damaged blind, but she hadn't heard from the Blind Guy concerning installation.

With no further business Harold moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Danell passed unanimously.



Debbie Surwill, Mayor



Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk