

Minutes of the August 7, 2025 Public Hearing and Bearcreek Council Meeting

The public hearing on the preliminary '25-'26 budget was called to order by Mayor Surwill at 7:30 p.m. Council members present were Paul Hogan, Bobby Petersen, and Betty Cristan. Dean Webb, public works director; Loni Hanson, zoning administrator; and Rob Surwill, animal control officer were in attendance. There were no public present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There were no public comments verbally or written received. The clerk discussed the new assessed value percentage that the Governor put into effect. She explained that the general mills stayed the same, but the insurance had to rise as the insurance premiums had gone up. There had been a typo on the amount projected to receive on the co-opt. Instead of \$39,000.00 it should have read \$3,900.00 Bobby questioned what co-opt was. The clerk explained it was paid when licensing your motor vehicles. The state gets some, then distributes it down to the county and cities and towns. It is based on population. With no further discussion, the public hearing was closed.

The regular meeting was opened. All persons present at the hearing joined the regular meeting.

The mayor introduced our new council member, Bobby Petersen.

Paul moved to accept the minutes, the financial report, and the budget 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.

There was no correspondence.

There were no public comments.

Dept. Head Reports – Dean reported that everything was going well. One of the fire hydrants was checked for fire fighting pressure and when it was opened it started to collapse the line causing some residents to lose water. Loni had nothing to do report for zoning. Rob stated all was good with animal control.

There were no council concerns.

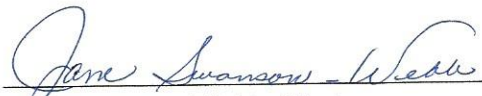
Under unfinished business the Resolution setting the '25-'26 budget was presented. Betty moved to accept the budget resolution as presented with Paul seconding the motion which passed unanimously. (2) Dean reported on the spring box repair. The ROW easement had been received from BLM finally, therefore the advertising for bids had gone out. A pre-bid meeting was held the 30th of July, and the bid meeting will be on Tuesday, August 12th. Dean had taken one contractor to the site today and the engineer had advised he had had several inquiries concerning the job. The council questioned if, after looking at the job site, was the contractor still interested? Dean responded he hadn't said. The mayor inquired where he was from. Dean advised Columbus, Mt.

The upcoming income survey was discussed under new business. The clerk had handed out sheets showing the council how the department of commerce had come up with the amount they felt the town should be charging if the median household income is \$110, 500.00, which is approximately \$44.00 more a month. She had passed out the proposed survey that Midwest would be sending out. She explained that it was imperative that 38 of the surveys were returned. They will not be returned to the Town, but Midwest Assistance in Laurel. The town will not see them. She questioned the council if they thought mailing or hand delivery was the best way to go. They felt mailing them with a returned self-addressed stamped envelope would be the best method. The clerk would double check to see if they need to be signed or if they could correspond the assigned number with the list of water users she had provided. The clerk had questioned the representative of Midwest how they could provide the service for free, and they responded that they receive money from the federal and state governments to help small towns. She will also check for the date the survey must be returned.

The clerk advised that the public works director had been with the Town for 30 years. The council thanked him for his years of service.

With no further business Betty moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Bobby passed 3-0.


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk