

Minutes of October 2025, Bearcreek Council Meeting

Mayor Surwill called the regular meeting of the Bearcreek Council to order at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 2, 2025. Council members present were Betty Cristan, Bobbie Peterson, and Paul Hogan. Rob Surwill, animal control officer; Loni Hanson, zoning administrator; Dean Webb, public works director; and the clerk were in attendance. Public in attendance was Tyler Lindbloom of Interstate Engineering. LaNette Diaz, funding specialist from Interstate Engineering called in.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The clerk requested an addition to the agenda, adding the renewal of the janitorial contract.

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

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

There was no correspondence nor public comments.

Dept. Head Reports – Started by public works, Dean advised all was going well with water and sewer and that Tyler would fill the council in on the progress of the spring box repairs. Loni reported that she had nothing at present but would, moving forward. Rob reported all was good with animal control although the Surwills' cat, who is gray and white, has been missing for 48 hours.

There were no council concerns.

Under unfinished business. (1) Tyler Linbloom, Interstate Engineering, took the floor advising that Interstate Engineering had prepared a PERS in 11-2023 identifying the repair phases of the system improvements. Currently there is work being done on the spring box repair and last year a new transmission line on the Meeteetse Trail was completed. The next repair, stage 1, is planned, working into Town by upsizing the west side of Town by replacing the 4" asbestos main line with redundant 6" PVC starting west of the Webbs and tying in at the Bearcreek Saloon. This would also improve the valving. The town had a bad leak in that 4" asbestos pipe last year that was costly to repair. So, the problem with that 4" pipe is (1) Age, and (2) doesn't allow for fire suppression. The improvement would double the intake. If fire suppression was tried now with the existing system, it would vacuum the line leaving the north side without water. DEQ's aspect on a vacuumed line is that it brings in bad organics. This improvement would meet DEQ requirements, bringing the system into compliance. The engineer's cost of the whole project is \$1,034,000.00 which includes construction, engineering, and administration, putting that section of Town into DEQ compliance. With the funding cycles, it will take 4-6 years to finish more phases moving across the town bringing the system into compliance. When the PER was completed in 2023 the state had the MIH at \$62,000.00, but then it was raised to \$111,000.00. With the income survey being completed with a MHI of \$55,000.00 it allows the town to qualify for SRF loan forgiveness. Interstate estimates 56% loan forgiveness resulting with a 44% loan financing for the project. The new user rate increase for the Phase 1 project is now \$19.06 instead of \$56.18.

The next step for the Town would elect to move forward with Phase 1. Then Interstate would work with Dean for a task order for design. The Mayor questioned the time frame of the whole project. Tyler responded Interstate would do the design over the winter, do the bidding process in March and construction in the summer, but of course that depends on the availability of contractors. Loni questioned if there was a water rate increase, did there need to be public hearings? The clerk responded yes, and the Public Service Commission would need to be advised. Paul moved that the Town continued moving on Phase 1, asking the water consumers for a rate increase. Betty seconded the motion, which passed 3-0. Paul commented that when people see that the survey helped us out a lot they will realize that participation is key to everything around here. More participation in such a small community is what makes it work. The Mayor questioned if we should have the rates always going up 1%-2% instead of a big raise when financing is needed. The clerk advised that some of the towns do that, and we could approach that. The clerk questioned how often the MHI survey is done. LaNette said the Dept of Commerce does

it in 5-year cycles, and that is the one used for loan forgiveness and grants and if we need to do our own survey in 5 years, we will. Paul agreed that small increases every year would be a good way to go and maybe we will catch up and not come back for such a big increase. (2) Tyler reported on the progress of the spring box repair and armoring. He advised that the contractor had moved equipment and materials this week and started on a change order to improve the accessibility route. The change order couldn't be approved by Rural Development, who is financing the project 100% as they are part of the government shutdown. This doesn't affect the money that has been already allocated to the project, and the contractor can complete the access improvement on his way out and has plenty of work to do at the actual site. Tyler will be on site next week and then a senior engineer of the firm will be on site until they are finished. (3) Dean advised that the hydrologist, Gina Barry, Interstate Engineering, himself, and Kevin Rose of Sunlight Ranch had met and visited a site below the existing water tank for the test well. The hydrologist and the ranch representative were acceptable to that site. Tyler reported that Gina Barry, of Interstate, was the engineer in charge of the project and a contract with the well driller has been executed to drill at that test site. (4) Paul moved to renew Lacy Hanson's contract for janitorial service for another year. Bobbie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Under new business Dean informed the council that he had been working with the former Ranch representatives about the Town obtaining the Railroad right of way that the Ranch owns that runs through the Town from Skip Boyer's past Dave Schneider, referred to as Railroad Alley. They weren't agreeable, but when he discussed it with the present representative, Kevin Rose, he advised Dean to get a proposal together to take to the owner. Dean felt the Town needs this property as at present there is only an 20' access for homeowners there and that isn't in compliance with the State or Carbon County regulations for safety and fire trucks. This would entail an appraisal and a survey of the property, which includes 1.3 acres, therefore Dean requested approval from the council before proceeding. Paul moved to allow Dean to proceed. Betty seconded the motion, which passed 3-0.

Clerks Items (1) The clerk asked permission of the council to have the Women's club buy handles for the cupboard doors and drawers and have them installed. Permission was granted. (2) The clerk advised that a special meeting may be needed to approve claims for the contractor working on the spring box repair. The council was fine with that. (3) The clerk reminded the council that public hearings would be needed for the water rate increase. She questioned when they would want to hold them. It was decided that one should be held at the next council meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

Paul requested permission to leave the state for a week. Betty moved to grant Paul permission. Bobbie seconded the motion, which carried 3-0. Bobbie requested permission to leave the state for a week. Paul moved to grant Bobbie permission, with Betty seconding said motion, which passed unanimously.

With no further business Betty moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Bobbie, passed unanimously.


Debbie Surwill, Mayor


Jane Swanson-Webb, Clerk