**Town Council Meeting**

**May 11, 2022 7:00 pm**

**Zoom meeting for the public**

**Meeting Minutes**

**ROLL CALL**

Wanda Gofforth Gill Saunders

John Paton Jessica Hart

Tim Pobirk ~~Jeff Peed~~

Chris Johnson Bruce Bair

Cally Gallegos

1. **CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER 7:00**
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA John Paton makes motion to approve the agenda, Chris Johnson seconds the motion. Motion passed**
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes – John Paton makes a motion to approve the minutes from April 13. 2022. Tim Pobirk seconds the motion. Motion passes.**

**Disbursements- None**

1. **NON-AGENDA ITEMS – May 22 Music in the park 2-5**

**Co parks and Wildlife are working on a grant for Bear Proof containers, these containers will be used for Double J customers.**

**May 16th the work begins in Hotchkiss on Hwy 92, then will begin between Hotchkiss and Crawford after July 4th. Traffic will be backed up so Wanda suggest that you leave early if going out of town. The Hwy 50 traffic will still be detoured this way, the bridge replacement in Delta so traffic will be slow moving.**

1. **ANNOUNCEMENTS –**
2. **OLD BUSINESS\***

**NEW BUSINESS\* Water/Wastewater rates -** Cally presented the spreadsheet of the rates with the increases. Bruce stated that reserves will be used to replace water tank for storage refurbishing old water tank

Wastewater needs - Dredging, replace liners that are 15 years old.  That is what Enterprise funds water and sewer, must be self-sustaining.

Bruce Bair is frugal, and he has tried to keep the town running on minimum and it isn’t working, and we are short on funding.  We are severely under revenue.  Replace telemetry that monitors flow, things have not gotten cheaper.  Bruce stated that he pushed for a raise for his assistant.  If we don’t pay well, we will lose the employees.  Everyone is having issues with staffing and balancing budgets.

The wastewater is based on household use and not consumption.  We can’t count on overages in the water.  We can’t guarantee the revenue.  Water dispenser was shut down last year to protect the town users water.

Looked at budget and we are dipping into reserves.

Tim Pobirk asked why wants to know why we must be an enterprise fund.  BB if we lump it together it will mess with grants and outside funding.

Self-sustaining entity.   What are the pros of not having an enterprise zone.  The people will say they don’t that want they could stop us from Enterprse is a non tax based.  Want to keep private enterprise .

Chris - engineer said that they look at rates for funding town must be above break even for funding and that works for principal forgiveness.  They want to make sure that the town and the trustee can run the water.

Bruce said this is a good start we are going to see overages and there will be people that use more water.  If we revisit this at the end of the year we can re-evaluate then. This is the first increase in 4 years. The rates have increase $5 in 10 years.

Prices have increased on everything, energy fuel and etc.

Gill asked what the average usage is, Bruce responded that most people don’t go over 6000 gallons.

$35 per month, see attached rate suggestions.

We have a limited amount of water.  A majority of water user don’t use a lot of water.

Chris Johnson asked about the current rates, emergency drought rate? Bruce told him that the drought rate is the current rate because that was never lifted by the council. Chris asked about the public hearing and how does that work. Wanda explained to him that the public gets time to ask questions and then the regular meeting goes in to session, and the board can vote on it then if they want.

If we filed on more water at the springs it would change our statis of ground water to surface water and we would have to put in a treatment plant and the Town would incur a lot more expense.

Spring output 110 - 115 gpm. 83 GPM being consumed at this time but that will change as people start using more water now.

Jim Crock had concerns about limiting water usage for fear it would kill off trees and plants. They are important.

It is hard to anticipate usage and overage. Bruce suggests that this rate change is equitable for all users by implementing at tiered rate so the people using the water are paying for the water they use.

I think the state park to not use.

Taking care of the equality by the tiered rate.

Jim Crook states that for people that use a lot of water the price will double.

Gill Saunders states, we are here and if we are responsible with the water most people will see the necessity. They will know that they can get water from the faucet, and they won’t have to use an outhouse.

Tim Pobirk wants to see more businesses in town, and we need to do something about that and trustees responded that the Chamber of Commerce is working on that.

We have made it easier for business, they are allowed more water and pay the same.

Inflation is going up we are not raising money for decades we have had a benefit.  Gill is willing to increase.  Chris Johnson said that we have been very fortunate for years. Bruce shared info with him. Paonia $37 for 1000 gallon

Hotchkiss $19 no water if you use 6000 gallons it would be Average consumption would be 5000 would be high.

Gill Saunders asked about spillage. Bruce responded, the new tank will help with that but, that is water that could be used for fires especially when we don’t really have extra water.

Wanda is asking what people think, Tim Pobirk states we are in this together and tonight was a great discussion.  If we are going to have water and sewer, you pay for what you use.  He likes the rate structure

Chris we have enjoyed some great benefits over the years by having the water but times change.

John Paton agrees but high usage users should pay for the water that they use. Bruce also proposed bumping up dispenser from $10 per 1000 to $15 per 1000 gallons

Water and Sewer taps will get bumped to $5000 per each.

Spring that 20 years of low precipitation.  Aqua fir is lower.  Sewer

$8.90 increase for residential $38

Rural $47.  Some rates determined by an engineer.  The school and CSP have their own rate.

School has more impact on the wastewater plant.  IF State Park is expanding the demand will change. They have an office, bath house and showers.  Most RV’s have their own facility.  Their bill will also increase.

Subcategories - Hitching post pays more room with a kitchen

Sudz has its own rate.

Bars and restaurants

School 9.40

State Park $9 increase

Commercial rate, not to increase rates so the business doesn’t bare the weight≥. Keep the commercial at 10000 gallons.

John Gill Jessica Chris and TP

Public Hearing

Cally mentioned the inactive taps and does the council think that they pay the base rate. The council agreed that everyone should pay. So we will also look at raising those rates.

1. **PUBLIC NON - AGENDA ITEMS –** Needle Rock Mountain Realty discussed the purchase of the property near the water dispenser. It was decided that a survey was not necessary and that the mayor would sign the contract.

Bruce Bair’s Report - May 16 Hotchkiss project starts after July 4 from Hotchkiss thru Crawford

One water valve that doesn’t work wants to dig it up before the project.  Not out in hwy.  Gill asked about digging after the new asphalt is in that he thought that was a standard practice, he was joking of course.

Engineer is writing proposal for the planning project/water tank. We will present it to council.  Spring cleanup went well.  It puts Bruce and Alan behind each year with their regular schedule. Bruce will propose a couple changes for next year.  Gill asked, how do people get billed for the items It goes on their water bill. that the town charges for. how do we bill them and where does the money go? It goes into the general fund.   Tim Pobirk states that Cally and Bruce do a lot of work and it is important that we listen to them.  He will speak his mind he wants to help Crawford; LETS MAKE CRAWFORD GREAT AGAIN. Chris Johnson states that there should be a $100 fine, if we anyone says we are in this together, haha

Jessica Hart nothing.

Gill clarify his job that the mayor assigned to him after the election, he is County planning.

Mayor, Public hearing June 8th 6:45

If you are going to be absent or you have an issue, call the mayor, not Cally or Bruce , and leave a message on Mayors home phone or cell phone.

1. **POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING Public hearing.**
2. **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*POSSIBLE ACTION ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED\***