

January 9, 2024, Town of Twin Bridges Regular Council Meeting

Council members in attendance were Matt Greemore, Scott Holbrook, Jordan High, and Nolan Frandsen. Council member JB Klyap and Mayor Patricia Hayes were absent. Also in attendance were Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse and Maintenance Workers Richard Zahn and David Beller.

Council President Matt Greemore opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment: No comment on non-agenda items.

Resolution 2024-01 Calling for election of Conducting to local government review: Scott made a motion to approve resolution 2024-01. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Great West Engineering: Dan McCauley gave council an update on the water project. The first phase of the project is on the way to DEQ for approval. The storage tank spraying will be heading to DEQ shortly. The Well Casing is taking a little longer to prepare for DEQ. They are trying to figure out how best to clean the well. They wanted to use an acid to clean it, but the question is where to put the wastewater from it. Nolan asked about checking the casing for cracks and other issues. Dan stated that they would be sending a tv down to make sure there are no issues. Matt asked if there are issues, is there the ability to fix them at the time things are pulled apart. There are fixes for that. Phase I of the water project is moving along.

The wastewater PER is still being worked on.

Dan also discussed the upcoming project for the Town water system as the next financing cycle is opening. Applications are due in May. One idea Dan had was looking at doing Main Street. The cost is approximately \$4,000,000 for the mainline on Main Street. Dan has talked to Kristina Kilt of DOT about upcoming projects for the Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT). She did not see anything coming up for Twin Bridges but provided Dan with a name to contact. Discussion occurred regarding the main line. The council would like to wait on the main line to have it coincide with the State repairing the highway. Dan stated that when Townsend did their project, they had to have it done before the State would do their project. Dan will talk to DOT and see if he can get a better idea. Matt has also talked to Eric our local MDOT Supervisor and he said there is stuff being discussed but nothing on paper yet. Dan also told the council that any money for lead is going only to service replacement and not main lines.

Kristi mentioned there were other items in the PER that they could look at. One of those being an additional water storage tank. Discussion occurred and the council felt that would be a direction they would like to go in.

TSEP is due in May. If the Town is going to do a project the PER done 2022 needs to be updated. Kristi asked what that would entail and what would the approximate cost be. Is it just updating numbers or a whole new PER? Dan will talk to Jessica and Kerry to find out what needs to be done. Will be funded the typical ways such as CDBG and Rural Development. Great West can do a mini-funding scenario as to what it would do the rates if we did this project next.

Rick Zahn mentioned the sidewalks and what is happening to them being pushed up because of the trucks going through the Town. Dan commented that if the State redoes the highway, then they would fix the sidewalks. Discussion occurred.

Water Meters (Core and Main): Discussion occurred. Nolan made a motion to approve the water meter purchase from Core and Main. With the funding coming from the HB355 resource and the remainder split equally between Water, Sewer, and Capital improvements and HB355. Jordan seconded motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report: Written report present. The sheriff was unable to attend because of the weather.

Madison County Planning Board: Matt Greemore commented that Pat Bradley has resigned her position on the planning board. Steve Janzen was recommended to be approved as Pat's replacement for Twin Bridges. Discussion occurred. Nolan made a motion to approve Steve Janzen as the representative for Twin Bridges on the Madison County Planning Board committee. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Library Director's Report: Written report received. Kristi commented that they have an interim director right now that is doing fabulous.

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Scott Holbrook reported that they had training the other night on electrical vehicle emergencies. The fire department has a pdf file that tells them how to cut on the vehicle. They will have to get a tablet for the fire department to keep in the QRU vehicle.

Matt asked Scott about the radios they wanted to purchase. Scott stated that they have ordered the system as it is something that they need to communicate during fires. They had the funds from Bicentennial and applied for a grant from the Elks Club. Kristi commented that the Town could pay the difference. Discussion occurred regarding the radio for communication and the Town helping the fire department. Scott will let Kristi know what they get from the Elks grant and the communication system will be put on the agenda for approval with the remaining balance due.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Lori Harshbarger was unable to attend because of the weather. A discussion occurred regarding a building application/email that Lori received from Leslie Adams. Matt will talk to Lori about the building application.

Mayor's Report: Matt talked to the Council about the Open Meeting Law and that an agenda needs to be posted. Discussion occurred.

Maintenance Report: Rick Zahn reported on behalf of the Maintenance Department. Getting ready to clean out the water tower shop next week. Rick asked Scott if the fire department was still leasing the tin building at the fairgrounds. The Fire Department is still leasing it because they have a contract in place. Scott is ok with the Town putting the jetter over there if it is ok with Dana.

Rick talked to Shane Escott about the material that Sam had crushed up last year. Shane commented that the material is not any good. There is a lot of sand in the material. Rick would like to figure out if there is somewhere else, they can get road material. The 300 yards is out at Lasich's.

Discussion occurred regarding the of the road on Madison and the storm drain trenches. The road is rising, and the storm drain trenches are sunken down. There is a cover at one of the drains that is sticking up and someone will end up scraping the bottom of their car on it. Is there a lower cover to go over drain? Rick will call Jeffries Contracting and see if there is a different cover that can be used.

Safety Report: Defensive Drivers Class on the 24th at 8:00 am.

Clerk's Report: Kristi reported that all the end of the year items were completed (1099's, W-2's, WC). David is registered for Rural Water training in March for his water test. If he does not feel ready for the test, he can set up a different test time to take it up in Helena. Kristi is also sending in the water license application into DEQ for David.

Dan Clark from MSU Local Government Services is scheduled to come and do training on March 19th from 6:00 pm to 900 pm.

Scott made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

ATTEST:

Kristi Millhouse, Clerk/Treasurer

Patricia Hayes, Mayor