

April 9, 2024, Town of Twin Bridges Regular Council Meeting (104 E. 6th Ave)

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

Guests: Alex Edward and Jana Cooper (TD&H Engineering), Dan McCauley (Great West Engineering), Jamie Wood, Jennifer Meacham, April Huss (Library Board), Steve Janzen (Madison County Planning Board), Silvia Schwartz (Library Board), William Kinoshita, Duncan Hedges (Madison County Sheriffs Office), Tanner and Ericka Eggers

Mayor Hayes opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items): No comments

Great West Engineering: Dan McCauley gave a brief update on the project for the Water Storage tank. MCEP deadline is in May, and they are working on that application. There will be a public hearing in Twin on April 23rd which will need a quorum as there are a couple of items the council need to approve for the grant application.

Sewer PER – Great West is wrapping the sewer preliminary engineering report up. Looking at a public hearing in June to see if that works best for everyone. Date and time can be discussed at the next meeting.

McCallie School: The engineers from TD&H that are working with McCallie School infrastructure were present at the meeting. They presented the council with a couple of ideas for the water and sewer. Water was discussed first. They wanted to know if they could rehab the exiting well over at the site and stated there were two wells and one of them has substantial water rights or if the well was not a viable option after testing if they could drill a new well. Scott commented that it has always been the Town's stance that any new development would need to attach on to the Town system. Matt also commented that the Town also has a wellhead protection policy that would need to be looked at before anything could be determined.

The sewer was discussed second and was there any option for a septic system over at the site. Dan asked if they were looking at a large drainage field. That could be an issue because of the floodplain. Scott stated that it is also the Towns stance that the sewer should be attached on to the Town line.

Matt commented that the Town needs to do some research and have some meetings with their engineer to discuss these items before anything can be decided upon.

Montana Department of Transportation: At 7:30 the Town took a call from Gino with Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) regarding the closure of the bridge on 4th Avenue (Highway 41). The bridge is failing. The bridge deck is dropping, and the main pier is failing. Their main concern at this time is public safety, so they took immediate action to close the bridge. They will be out this week with a snooper truck to get under bridge. They do have a concern about the water level as it is making it difficult to see what is happening under the bridge. There is not a lot of room to get under the bridge right now. . MDT wants to get one lane of traffic going. Hoping to get the crew there this week and maintenance crew next week. Scott the fire chief asked if they could access the bridge via foot traffic so they can stage fire trucks at the fairgrounds. Pedestrian traffic is being looked at and hopefully there will be an answer this week.

Duncan asked if there will be a stakeholder meeting with all parties involved, Town, County, highway, etc. Yes, there will be a stakeholder meeting.

Steve Janzen asked if they did a traffic count when the Iron Rod Bridge was replaced. Gino was not sure and would have to investigate it. They usually do traffic studies with these projects. Steve is on the school board and is concerned about the buses getting stuck in the semi traffic with one lane traffic. MDT would use the stop sign signals for the flow of traffic. Going to encourage semis to use I-15.

Gino has Matt Greemore's number and will keep him updated with any current information. Matt also gave him the Town office number.

Resolution 2024-04 (Adoption of the Growth Policy): Scott made a motion to approve resolution 2024-04 adoption of the growth policy. Matt seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Fence Application for David Banks (continuous from previous meeting): Matt Greemore explained to the council that the survey that David Banks received was correct. He went over and reviewed the pins and markers with Rick Zahn. The markers that were there were for the sidewalks and Great West is the company that put the sidewalk markers in. The sidewalk was moved out from the property line as if there was a valley gutter put in for water flow. The fences at Day's property and Powells are not on the property line. They are sitting outside the property line on Town property. If the sidewalk was put in with the valley gutter the sidewalk would be right on David Banks property line per the property survey, he had done. Matt made a motion to approve the fence on the property line per the survey. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Building Application: Tanner and Ericka Eggers (309 S. Madison St) – Tanner and Ericka are wanting to put an addition on to their house for additional space. The front deck will be moved around to the back of the house. No additional utilities are needed for the addition. JB made a motion to approve the building application for Tanner and Ericka Eggers. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Andrew and Shirley Braach (5 White Swan Lane) - Discussion occurred regarding the water and sewer for the structure. Scott commented that this could be considered grandfathered in, but we are not allowing additional homes to go in without a separate connection. Rick commented that there are flow issues on that property. The new structure is moving to a new location and is already out of compliance. Would need to add a grinder and a tank to help with the flow of the sewer. It is very shallow back behind the house. They cannot tie on to the Towns line without the flow issue being addressed. No rental of any kind unless separate meter. Jordan made a motion that they allow the new structure on the property tying into the existing lines that currently run under his mother's house and if it ever becomes a rental or business then it needs a new connection to the Town water and sewer lines. JB seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Employee fire training for the fire department: Mayor Hayes reported that maintenance employee Dave Beller wants to go to a four- or five-day training and get paid his wages by the Town. Scott commented that it is a DNRC training that is mostly focused on wildland fires. Scott did not feel that the Town should pay employee wages for the training. Patty commented that the wages cannot come out of water/sewer or highway and streets. Nolan commented that it is a "volunteer" fire department and if he went, he would not get paid. The Fire department would maybe help with gas and food, but nobody else would get paid. Patty also commented that it is not fair to other employees and the Town would need to allow other employees to go to training and pay their wages. The council agreed that this was not something the Town would pay employee wages for.

Annual Financial Report and Closing transactions: Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse notified the council that she has been in contact with the League of Cities and Towns regarding the Annual Financial Report and Closing Transactions. The League can do the AFR and Closing for \$50.00 an hour and we are looking at approximately \$5,000 give or take this would be a huge savings for the Town in the future. We do have a contract with Denning and Downey for the AFR that ends after FY24. Scott made a motion to approve MT League of Cities and Towns to complete the Town of Twin Bridges Annual Financial Report and Closing for FY25 and future. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Rate for Employee Benefits: Scott commented that he would like to see other options for the Town's employees for health benefits such as them receiving a stipend for staying on a spouse's insurance to offset that cost. Kristi has done some research on this and has spoken to Scott about it. We need more research and policies in place before we can implement something like this. It would be better to put this place next year. Discussion occurred. Matt made a motion to increase the Town allotment for insurance to \$795. Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

REPORTS

Sheriff's Report: Sheriff Duncan Hedges thanked the fire department for stepping up and helping with the accident a couple of weeks ago. He then notified the council of the previous months activities that included policing community events, a couple medical calls, a disturbance on 8th Ave, a medical assist, a welfare check, and a couple of speeding citations.

Sheriff Hedges also reported that canine officer Tyler Mursch and Sergeant Winn have left Madison County and gone back to other States. They picked up an officer from Dillon. Deputy Cody Plautner. Two more just got out of academy plus two other individuals one from Bozeman and one from Ennis.

The Sheriff's department has increased its presence around the dirt roads because of the bridge issues. Restrictions on Seyler and Lewis Lane are in place and there are no commercial vehicles allowed. The commissioners passed an emergency resolution this afternoon to help with traffic and prevent Seyler Lane Bridge from having issues.

Madison County Planning Board: Steve Janzen with Madison County Planning reported that Cody Marxer is back on the planning board. She is the County Planner. County is going to be working on their County wide growth policy and subdivision regulations.

There was a lawsuit up in Broadwater County regarding water rights issue for a subdivision that MACO has sent a bulletin out on. Subdivision regulations now need to consider water rights of the subdivision.

Library Directors Report: Written Report received. Silvia Schwarts (library board president) reported that they did demo in the backroom and found issues. Wanted to know if the Town wanted to pay for the testing and repairs. Scott stated they need to have the testing of the soil and then bring the results back to the Town. Depending on what it is and the cost it may not be financially feasible to repair.

The library will be doing Shakespeare in the park in September at Riverside Park.

Fire Department's Report: Fire Chief Scott Holbrook reported that they have had several accidents that they have helped with this spring. No fires yet in our district but have had some out of district calls. Twin is becoming the resource for Glen and Melrose. Scott commented that Dillon has offered to help set up a substation for Glen and Melrose, but

they refuse to have one. Twin Bridges is the third closest and should be the last called. They need to set up a district and should be Dillon or Melrose to take control of that district. Melrose has a fire department just for their Town.

Twin Bridges Fire department can refuse those calls as they are an hour away. Steve commented that NFP code is what the Planning Board used to deny a subdivision.

Attorney's Report: Lori commented that she reviewed the bylaws and will be sending them out. She has not heard anything on the storage containers either and the individual was given a timeline, so we are still waiting to see what happens.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Hayes reported that she signed up for the municipal summit that is being held at the end of May in Butte. It will be May 31st.

Is the council interested in taking our ordinances and dividing them up amongst each other to work on? Scott recommended doing a work session to prioritize and then divvy up the items.

Maintenance Report: Rick commented that they are getting ready for spring. Discussion of the opening the rest area occurred. Rick is concerned about opening it because of the bridge. There is no reason to open the rest area at this time with the bridge closed. Kristi asked about the porta potty. Wait until the next meeting to decide what to do about the porta-potty and the rest area.

Rick was getting ready to get gravel for the road. Would have to go to Sheridan and a cross to get gravel, so retrieving the gravel is on hold at this time. Davey can do the repairs on 8th Avenue when we are ready to do the street. Ordered materials for Roger's new house and will do that work whenever those materials get here.

Discussion of road material occurred and using the county roller to do the road repairs on 8th Ave. Nolan commented that Rick just needs to give Ray his dates and he should collaborate with him. If not, we can rent a roller to repair the road.

Safety Report: No accidents.

Clerk's Report: Kristi reported that her items were covered in other areas. She is getting ready to start working on the budget. The cost of living increase this year is 4% so that is what she will use to work with wages. She has also had discussions with Rick already for him to get her numbers on projects that he may need in FY25.

Claims and Minutes: Matt made a motion to approve the consent agenda. JB seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

ATTEST:

Signature on file

Signature on file

Kristi Millhouse/Clerk Treasurer

Patricia Hayes, Mayor