

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF PLEVNA — MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Town of Plevna Office

Mayor Benner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmen present were Gary Thielen, Kyle Vennes, Alba Higgins and Jordan Hoffman.

Also present: Rick Schell, Water Operator Mark Thielen, Container Site Operator
 Jodi Miller, Town Clerk/Treasurer Corrine Sander, Wastewater Operator
 Krista Nemitz, Clerk Intern

Members of the public present: Cliff & Jennifer Tudor

The minutes of the March 11, 2019, meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comment — Cliff and Jennifer Tudor, owners of Happy Camper RV site, brought concerns of their business bringing in too much trash to be deposited at the container dump site. There had been some miscommunication between the container site operator and Happy Camper owners. It was determined that direct communication between the two parties would remedy the issue.

Happy Camper pays a business dump rate and will continue to deposit their trash at the Plevna container site. Comparisons of Baker dump rates vs. Plevna rates were discussed. There was mention of a future discussion for different business rate tiers.

Happy Camper owners also inquired about a town ordinance addressing insulation around RV camper skirting.

Old Business

- **Water Leak** — The ongoing water leak is steady and maintaining a consistent rate.
- **Keystone EXP** — Discussion of Keystone EXP buying water from the town for their pipeline project this summer is still in progress. Photos of the well head and pump house from the old town pool have been forwarded on, as this may be a possible location for them to draw water. A discussion over using “Sand Well” took place and was ultimately determined to not be suitable.

New Business

- Gene Vennes water drainage
- Lois Geving brought a concern to the Council regarding the vacant lot next to her house not being mowed and it is collecting trash and debris. The town clerk will send the owner of the lot a notice and give them two weeks to respond. After that time, if nothing has been done to remedy the situation, the town will make the necessary arrangements to clean up the lot and bill it appropriately.
- The alley behind the water tank needs to be resurfaced and will require 50-60 yards of scoria.
A motion was made by Kyle, seconded by Jordan to purchase the needed scoria and have the alley resurfaced.
Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 Carried: 4-0
- Alba brought up that we need to get our cold mix ordered for patching the streets. Last year we ordered 5 loads. Alba will get a bid on street repair.

- The west end of Railroad Avenue needs to be surfaced as well as the south end of Sanders St. Cliff will check with the railroad about specifications and Gary will get a quote for pit run.

Department Reports

- **Water Operator** — Now that the snow has melted, Rick will follow up with Luke to continue testing of valves for leaks. A discussion was held about removing the temporary blow-off valves throughout town, as these may be a source of water leakage. A plan for shutting off water at the curb stops in order to find the source of the leak was made.
- **Container Site Operator** — Mark requested a load of scoria be dumped by the cattle guard.
- **Wastewater Operator** — Corrine Sander, Wastewater operator, stated that she had received a letter on 8/11/2017 in relation to the wastewater that had been released into cell 3 without approval from the Town. Corrine stated that on 8/14/17 she was directed by Mayor Benner that “No wastewater is to be dumped into cell three as long as I am Mayor without a permit from DEQ.” Corrine requested to see the permit from DEQ as well as learn what the Mayor had learned of the permitting process. Mayor Benner stated that the water that was pumped off the lagoon was about two inches of storm water that was on top of the ice in order to allow the ice to melt and begin evaporation. Corrine questioned if a special meeting was held to authorize the dumping and was a special meeting held regarding the locking device that is on the pipe that dumps from cell two into cell three. Mayor Benner responded there was not a special meeting held for either issue. Corrine asked the Council if they considered it acceptable for the Mayor to hire a contractor to transfer from cell 2 to cell 3 when Corrine was threatened with termination for doing the same thing. Councilman Gary Thielen stated that previous releases from cell 2 to cell 3 by the wastewater operator were not approved by the Mayor or Council. Corrine stated that because of the letter sent in 2017 and the recent pumping into cell 3, proves that this is targeting and is discrimination and is a hostile work environment and that DEQ has stated the wastewater must be managed by the wastewater manager for the Town and no one else. Gary Thielen stated that Corrine is an employee of the Town and her actions need to be cleared by the Council. Mayor Benner stated that if DEQ had come in 2017 and saw the raw sewage, including paper and solids, which had been dumped into cell 3 they would have had a problem with that situation. The pipe that is now locked that goes from cell 2 to cell 3 dumps from the bottom of the cell, including solids, not just the water on top. Corrine stated the Town of Plevna will be getting a letter from DEQ. Gary Thielen asked why Corrine did not contact the council members instead of going behind their backs to the DEQ.

Financial Report — March 2019

- no comments

Approve Claims

A motion was made by Kyle, seconded by Jordan to approve the March claims in the amount of \$5,648.03.


March Claims (\$5,648.03)

2394	Coral Creek Landfill	\$267.50	2395	Corrine Sander	\$754.26
2396	CT Excavation	\$1595.00	2397	Energy Laboratories	\$20.00
2398	Farmers Union Oil	\$26.00	2399	G&G Garbage	\$370.00
2400	Hawkins Inc.	\$574.86	2401	Jodi Miller	\$99.95
2402	Rick Schell	\$602.89	EFT	MT DEQ	\$213.40
EFT	Mont. Dakota Util.	\$981.47	EFT	MidRivers	\$142.70

Having no further business, Mayor Benner adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.



Town Clerk, Jodi Miller



Mayor, William E. Benner