

FEBRUARY 9TH, 2022

MINUTES- EMERY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Members Present:

Mayor Jack Funk, Councilpersons: Lindsay Edwards, Kim Hansen, Mike Christensen. Excused: Patrick Sundstrom

Others in Attendance:

Municipal Clerk Amy Sundstrom, Ben Staley, Todd Minchey, Mark Minchey, Fire Chief McClaughry

1. Meeting called to order at 7pm. Mayor Jack Funk led the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review/ Approve January 12th 2022 minutes.

Councilperson Wilson-Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes; Councilperson Christensen seconded the motion. Ayes: Unanimous

3. Open Invoice Report: Councilperson Wilson-Edwards made a motion to pay the invoices, Councilperson Christensen seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Wilson-Edwards; Aye: Christensen; Aye: Hansen; Aye: Mayor Funk; Aye. Motion passed.

4. Councilperson Kim Hansen: Budget review. Nothing to report at the moment, had just received the budget. Will be getting together with the clerk/recorder to review it before next meeting.

5. Councilperson Pat Sundstrom: Excused due to his wife having Covid and is currently in quarantine. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards asked if there was an explanation of the numbers on the water usage chart. Clerk explained that she was informed by Councilperson Sundstrom that the town ranked as the third lowest water usage in the county.

6. Councilperson Lindsay Wilson-Edwards: The town was awarded the CIB grant for \$420 thousand, and the contractors will be meeting with Mary Ann and the Mayor. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards will be unavailable as she will be going out of town. Construction should be starting the second week of March. Councilperson Edwards would like to have something to announce the start of the construction by having the newspaper come and report on it. Mayor Funk asked the clerk if she had checked on the building permit. She indicated that she had and the county required that the town needs to submit plans. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards stated that she had found someone to donate two sets of the full sized plans, one for Mary Ann to have one hand for contractors, one for the town office. She also noted that there is a PDF form of the plans for emailing.

Councilperson Wilson-Edwards asked who the Mayor would like to head up the committee for the 24th of July. Mayor indicated he would like Councilperson Hansen to head up the committee. People have contacted him expressing that they would like to help with that as well. He will give them Councilperson Hansen's number so that they can contact her directly.

7. Councilperson Mike Christensen: Stated that there was currently about 10-11 people that would like to be on the Planning and Zoning Committee. His opinion was that is too many to have on a committee as it would cause scheduling conflicts as well as coming to a consensus. He wanted guidance from the council in how to go about appointing people to be on the committee. He thought that four people plus himself would be adequate. Councilperson Hansen stated that making sure the committee is diverse is important. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards agreed. The Mayor stated that he thinks that the committee should be rotated every year, using the people who have expressed interest. Councilperson Christensen would like the committee to meet at least once a month and report to the council their decisions at the regular council meeting.

Councilperson Christensen gave the list of names; Liberty Mason, Susan Ayers Matonis, Melissa Durfey, Corrine Dalton, Glenys Sitterud, Ross Christiansen, Slate Stewart, Josh Gardner, and Dave Boerner. The council came to the conclusion the committee would consist of: Liberty Mason, Corrine Dalton, Ross Christiansen, and Josh Gardner. The clerk was instructed to send letters informing candidates if they were/were not selected; that their names will remain on a list and that the committee will operate on a rotational basis. They will have an opportunity to serve on the committee at a later date and in the meantime welcome to help on the Pioneer Days Planning Committee.

Councilperson Christensen stated that one of the biggest challenges of the committee is that everyone has big ideas. He feels that it is a sore subject saying that the town is going to expand its boundaries and most of it is private farm acres. There is the opinion that they will then be forced into the town limits which will affect things like taxes and value. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards stated that that is not the point of the Expansion plan and Councilperson Christensen

stated that he thinks it is. Councilperson Christensen thinks that the town should be looking at subdividing the 40 acres above town. He's spoken to Garrett Hansen about how water services could be ran to that area. The main challenge is that 8 in. pipe is now required and all of Emery is on 4-6 in. Water could be ran in a way that would cause it to loop and circulate so that water does not go stagnant in the system. Mayor Funk expressed it needs to be explained to the farmers in the area that the purpose of this plan is not to force annexation on them and at the same time we should be looking into subdividing and dividing the area to the west of town.

8. Mayor Jack Funk

8.1 Ben Staley-Fence line Agreement: Ben Staley spoke about the fence lines that go up by the water treatment plant. The surveyor informed him that everyone can agree on where the fence line currently is, sign the notarized paper, that is all they would need to do to adopt it into the county's (unintelligible). Ben was wondering if the town was willing to agree and accept where the fence lines currently are. This is all for the purpose of dividing his deceased father's property among the family. Councilperson Hansen made a motion to approve, Councilperson Wilson-Edwards seconded the motion. Ayes: Unanimous. Surveyor will draw up the papers and Ben will bring them into the office to be signed.

Chief's Report: No calls since last month. UFRA will be coming down starting February 26th once a month on Saturdays for training. They are working on getting most of the members of the department Red Carded for Wildland fires. Himself, Ben, and Jordan will be going to Wellington twice a week for classes starting on the 22nd. Kyla will do most online but will finish up with in-person classes. The Mayor expressed that he would like to move the gym equipment from its current space to the Rec Center to create a gym and obtain grants to purchase better gym equipment. Mayor also indicated he would like to create gym memberships to use it for a decent fee. The Fire Chief informed him that the department would be willing to help keep it clean. Mayor may install a key fob system and cameras for security purposes depending on how much interest is expressed. Ben Staley stated that he has a cargo container full of gym equipment that is available. The Mayor would like anyone with ideas for this project, to let him or the Fire Chief know.

Mayor reported that he attended the CIB meeting with Mary Ann Wright. He learned a lot about getting grants and the process. He knows now that moving forward with his plans for planning and zoning in expanding that the town needs a reservoir.

The next item was that the town needs stop and yield signs on every corner. For safety, liability, and all kinds things. His daughter was in an accident; nobody could give a ticket because it was an uncontrolled intersection and an accident has happened again. People have sped past his house and have almost been hit. Tradition has been that we don't need stop signs in the town. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards asked where he would put the stop signs placed or would it be all yield signs. Mayor responded he would like to follow state law. That there would have to be recommendations from the state or county we could follow. In talking with the Sheriff, it would be a very smart thing to do. So far we haven't had anyone sue the town, because when an accident happens in an uncontrolled intersection, the town is liable for both parties. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards noted that it would be a large expense. Mayor responded that we have a road budget that hasn't been used that can go towards the project. Mayor then put Councilperson Wilson-Edwards over roads and she accepted the position. She will find the information regarding signage and inform the council at the next meeting. He expects that there will be push back on the matter but it's important for the integrity for the town. Mayor will work directly with the Fire Department and EMS here, he is becoming an EMT. And so any questions and everything, he'll be over that.

Mayor then asked Councilperson Wilson-Edwards if she brought a list that the maintenance man responsible for. There was a discussion on how detailed this list should be. Mayor stated that having a giant list is fine because he is asked the giant questions. He wants a through list so that he can have his back because everyone in town is going to hold the Mayor accountable for what goes on in this town. He then went on to state that if the council wanted to discuss it after the meeting he would be fine with that because he doesn't want to point fingers and make anything go wrong. We just need to make people accountable, and if they are not accountable we need to make them aware of that and what we need to do to satisfy that. Mayor asked if Councilperson Wilson-Edwards would like to talk about it after the meeting. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards stated they can't, they have to talk about it during the meeting. She will email the Mayor the list. She then went on to state that she thinks it's going to be between the Mayor and the Maintenance Man to go through his day and list everything he does everywhere. That she thinks the actual job description should be simplified. The clerk noted it would be a job description vs. an SOP. Councilperson Hansen asked if the maintenance person keeps a work log or anything similar such as work orders. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards stated she believed that he tracked the larger projects but not the day to day small things. Councilperson Christensen stated he work orders would be a good idea. Councilperson Hansen explained that work orders would be the maintenance man's back-up should someone question why something is not done as it would show what he is currently working on, why something may not be being worked on at the time, etc. That they are just as much for the employee as for the employer. It is for their benefit because it documents what they are doing should someone call it into question. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards stated it would be fine if it was about big ticket items but the small day to day stuff would be getting nit-picky. Councilperson Hansen explained that she uses a book of "random

stuff" to track her smaller tasks at work. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards stated it has always been a self-motivated position and doesn't need to be micro-managed.

Citizen Todd Minchey asked the council if the maintenance man was the caretaker of the cemetery. They replied yes. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards told him that if he notices anything that needs to be done to let Amy know. Mr. Minchey stated that he noticed that branches fall frequently. It was explained that they are quickly removed after every wind storm and stones have been known to knocked over in the winds but if he sees anything to just let the office know. Mr. Minchey went on to ask about how many people have been buried. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards stated that the maintenance man has buried more people in the last two years than the previous one did in ten.

Mayor addressed the council that he appreciates what everybody does and their willingness to be here. And to bare with him as he learns this new position as his ideas are expressed. He's not going to say that he's always right, that conflict is inevitable but contention is a choice. On his end he's not going to get upset, we can approach things and do whatever this town needs. With that in mind, still be able to maintain integrity on both side with respect with everything no matter what it is, point being to just try and do the right thing. He appreciates everybody involved, the town, he loves being here and the opportunity to serve. He then asked if there were any questions from the public. There were no questions.

New Business: Councilperson Wilson-Edwards stated that she would like to look into new software for the cemetery. The software currently being used is archaic. She has contacted a couple of companies but does not have a price yet. The clerk informed the councilperson that Pelorus, the system they use for accounting, does have sections for recording cemetery information including the items she listed. It would be a matter of transferring information. However, the mapping of the cemetery may require something different. The Mayor is we had anyone in town that would be capable of creating an app for the cemetery. That we have people in town that would like to volunteer to do some research on tracking who has been buried in the cemetery and where they used to live here in town. That would be fun to have access to that information. Councilperson Wilson-Edwards asked if Tammy would like to do that; Mayor replied yes, as well as some other people. The Historical Society, Ed Geary and some others are willing to help, including with the Rochester plots and the old cemetery.

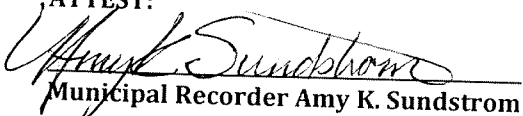
Mayor asked if there was any other business. There was none.

Adjournment: Councilperson Edwards made a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Hansen seconded. Ayes: Unanimous

 APPROVED:
Mayor B. Jack Funk

Date: 3-9-22

ATTEST:


Municipal Recorder Amy K. Sundstrom

Date: 3.9.2022