

**DECEMBER 17, 2018**

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 5:30 P.M. in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Dave Enke, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper, First Responders Chuck DeBates, Gary Serie, Shirl Serie, Todd Dykstra and Rich Riley, and Shelly Finzen from the Lake Benton Valley Journal were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mayor Bob Worth then asked if anyone in attendance had an item, not on the agenda, to bring up during the Open Forum part of the meeting. If so they had two minutes to state their concern. No items were brought forward at this time.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2018 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 3, 2018. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:**

LB GROCERY	\$ 18.18	ITC	\$ 244.12
USTI	\$ 1.28	QUARNSTROM/DOERING	\$ 419.70
L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 4,063.61	RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 632.88
EXPRESSWAY-LB	\$ 509.28	RICK'S WELDING	\$ 300.00
GOPHER STATE	\$ 2.70	CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 176.03
POSTMASTER	\$ 118.30	LINCOLN CTY TREASURE	\$ 3,613.35
CITY OF TYLER	\$ 1,877.84	TODD DRAPER	\$ 236.35
MN POLLUTION CONTROL	\$ 1,240.00	CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 513.27
FIRST SECURITY BANK	\$ 40,500.00	LAKE BENTON CHAMBER	\$ 87.10
SW SANITATION	\$ 3,593.38	BANNER ASSOCIATES	\$ 350.00
CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 745.55	ALEX AIR APPARATUS	\$ 5,495.00
CROCHET WORLD	\$ 19.97	VERIZON	\$ 35.01
ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	\$ 202.78	MIDWAY FORD	\$ 27,939.92
BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 6.75	BIRDS AND BLOOMS	\$ 12.99
NORTHLAND TRUST	\$ 110,608.75	NOBLES COUNTY IT	\$ 150.00

**MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve payment of the claims presented against the City of Lake Benton. Motion carried and the Mayor authorized the City Administrator/Clerk to make payment.

The next item of business was to meet with the First Responders and discuss the future of the organization. Chuck DeBates gave the Council an overview of the First Responders that were formed in 1988 and have serviced the community for more than 30 years. Several members have come and gone over that time period but the numbers have decreased to the point they may no longer be able to provide the dependable service that the community has come to expect.

The First Responders provide emergency patient care until an ambulance arrives and then they assist the ambulance crew. Without this service, the patient would need to wait for an ambulance from Tyler, Hendricks or Pipestone. The impact of that extra wait of 5 to 15 minutes could vary from inconvenient to life threatening.

One member of the First Responders retired in October and two more members are looking at retirement in the near future. From January through March of next year, they expect to have one to three licensed members available to respond to a 911 call. This means that in the next few

months, they may not be able to respond to all emergency calls. They have had excellent support from the community and surrounding area ever since they began, and they would not have been able to continue as long as they have without that support.

They have been recruiting new members for the past few years through advertising and word of mouth, but have received little response. First Responder training takes about four months to complete for new volunteers and the classes are not always easily available. The remaining First Responders may not be able to continue long enough for potential volunteers to complete the necessary training.

Apart from an immediate infusion of volunteers, the Lake Benton First Responders must consider discontinuing service in the near future, or at the very least inform the community of the potential inconsistent service. The First Responders welcome suggestions and volunteers, and wanted to make the Council aware the First Responders Department is in tough shape. They have had a lot of dedicated members over the years and it would be really sad to lose this service.

Chuck continued on that training and continuing education is paid for by the First Responders. The cost of the training for an interested volunteer costs between \$500.00 and \$600.00. The volunteers must commit to 130 hours of training which is two nights a week, four hours a night for four months. The First Responders are funded through the State's seat belt fines, recycled aluminum cans and donations. They do not receive any other monetary funding from the State and cannot charge for their runs. The First Responders have been working on incentives to get more members, but most people are not physically fit or able bodied to serve.

The First Responders felt an obligation to let the community know the service may not be here any longer. Recruitment and retention in this field is difficult if they are paid or volunteer. Currently the First Responders have six active members and would like to add three to four more members. The more members, the better. The First Responders average 65 to 75 calls a year and they are already over 90 calls for 2018. The First Responders have also encouraged the Fire Department members to become members, but no one has come forward.

After discussion among the Council, it was decided to have a Community meeting in January 2019 to get input from the residents. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen will check the school schedules in order to set a date for the meeting.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution of Support for County Pedestrian Ramp Reconstruction. It was anticipated Lincoln County Engineer Joe Wilson would be in attendance to speak with the Council but he was not available. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council of the areas of concern which included a section just west of S. Coteau Street, propose something different at the railroad crossing, and putting in a concrete path through the pavers at the intersection of Center Street and Benton Street. The main concern is that the pavers at the intersection of Center Street and Benton Street are not ADA compliant. The County is applying for grants to package together with reconstruction of pedestrian ramps at Tyler, Ivanhoe, Hendricks and Lake Benton in 2021. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen will meet with Joe prior to the January 22, 2019 meeting to further discuss this item.

### **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council they approved the final payment to Banner Associations on the Harrison Street Utility Improvement Project. The projected Administrative Costs were only \$1,228.00 and the City saved approximately \$12,000.00 to \$13,000.00 due to Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper overlooking the project.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen talked with MnDOT regarding the anticipated 2023 Highway 75 reconstruction. MnDOT is requesting a commitment from the City in the next couple months. However, it is dependent on funding for both parties. Todd spoke with Pat Carey with Banner Associates and he will be meeting with Todd and Eileen early next years on what avenues we can explore. Todd and Eileen will also need to meet with Vince Robinson regarding the feasibility reports and the sewer ponds. MnDOT did inform City staff they have people that work on funding for projects to assist the City.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council the new maintenance truck has been delivered. Todd has installed the roll-on bed liner and is waiting for the emergency lighting on the vehicle.

Greg Nelson with Ottertail contacted Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to request Council approval to allow Ottertail to replace current street lights that go out with LED lighting. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve Ottertail to replace current street lights that go out with LED lighting. Motion carried.

### **POLICE REPORT**

The Police Report for November was given by Trustee Dave Enke. Since September 15, 2018 hunters have logged a total of 612 hours of hunting. Hunters are required to log how many deer they have seen as well as how many deer have been harvested. Currently in the 612 hours, hunters have observed 728 deer and harvested 27 deer.

Police Chief Tony Sievert spoke with the dealership regarding the new Lake Benton Squad Car. Tony was informed the squad is not built yet and could be another two months before they deliver it to Lake Benton.

The Police Department was scheduled to complete mandated inclement weather qualifications in October. However, Police Chief Tony Sievert was unable to make the training due to drill and made it up in November in Willmar.

**MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the November Police Report. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to open the sealed bid on the Community Center Parking Lot. Johansen Repair presented a sealed bid and the Council requested City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to open the bid. The Council was reminded the City reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted. The total bid price was \$10,000.00 total for parking lot and actual closing costs. After some discussion on the bid including closing costs, and informing Johansen to resubmit a bid with the bid only, a **MOTION** was made by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to table the acceptance of the bid and clarify to the Johansen's the bid needs to be the bid only and nothing on closing costs. This item will be put on the January 7, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met last Tuesday and they are not going to attend the Sportsman's Show in Sioux Falls because it will be represented by the Lake Benton Sportsman's Club and Lincoln County. The Chamber will provide their flyers and brochures to Glacial Lakes Travel Coop who will be attending eight shows around the state and will display them for the Chamber. 52 people attended the December \$3.00 meal and due to the large attendance, the Chamber is considering getting two sponsors for the \$3.00 meals instead of one. The Chamber membership letters will be mailed early January 2019, and the Kickoff is scheduled for January

19, 2019 at the Country House. The Christmas Lighting Contest was done on December 7, 2018 and the winners are as follows: First Place – Jason Grooters, Second Place – Dave Nordmeyer, and Third Place – Dale Rochel.

Trustee Dave Enke – The EDA met last week and had discussions on improving the marketing of the available lots at the Mork/Giles Addition. A lot has not been sold in a while and a committee has been formed to try incentivizing the lots for the City. The lots are more affordable in Lake Benton than in surrounding towns like Brookings, and the committee will work to entice individuals to live in Lake Benton. The Council asked if the City would consider putting in a spec house or two on the lots. Dave Enke and Mayor Bob Worth said they will inquire with the EDA board on spec houses, and informed the Council the EDA has been considering putting in duplexes and/or four plexes on the lots.

Vince Robinson updated the EDA on the Rental Rehab Program that he should hear on the competitiveness of their preliminary proposal soon. If the competitiveness is high and they get the funding, a final proposal is due in February.

Next Era Energy has development plans to commence in 2020. EDA is very interested in marketing or plan to enable them to build their office/maintenance facility in Lake Benton. Mayor Bob Worth, Vince Robinson, Karen Lichtsinn and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen will be meeting tomorrow morning to prepare incentives to present to Dannel Herzig with Next Era Energy tomorrow evening. This could employ an additional ten people in the City.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – No report.

**ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

No report.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

Mayor Bob Worth reminded the Council to think strongly about what can be done to keep the First Responder Service in Lake Benton. Mayor Bob Worth and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen are planning to have a staff and Council Christmas party in January.

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, a **MOTION** was made by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke and carried, the meeting adjourned.

---

MAYOR

---

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK