

FEBRUARY 3, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. in the Heritage Center/City Office. Mayor Bob Worth, 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, Curtis Rethwisch, and Shelly Finzen from the Lake Benton Valley Journal were also present.

Mayor Bob Worth called the meeting to order. 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 January 21, 2020 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2020. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

LB GROCERY	\$	7.28	OTTERTAIL POWER	\$	2,701.64
RETHWISCH & SON	\$	283.05	GOPHER STATE	\$	50.00
UTILITY CONSULTANTS	\$	63.62	TODD DRAPER	\$	32.00
TRAVIS LUSTFIELD	\$	763.50	PAT HAYNES	\$	364.03
MINNESOTA LIFE	\$	5.10	LB CHAMBER	\$	282.51
CAREN PETERSEN	\$	270.00	BIOAG ENERGY	\$	373.37
MAGAZINE LIFE	\$	31.98	TROY NORDMEYER	\$	32.00
KYLIE ROCHEL	\$	110.00	ONE OFFICE SOLUTION	\$	178.86
BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$	114.10	AMAZON	\$	666.23
CENTER POINT	\$	44.34	DEMCO	\$	182.21

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

Two rehab grant checks (Contractor request of \$4,254.00 to James Lozinski Construction, and \$700.00 to Scarcely for lead assessment), were presented for payment. The funds have been requested and were deposited into the account. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve payment of the rehab grant checks presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper updated the Council regarding a new pay loader with a blower on the front. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper contacted Titan to get pricing on trading in the City's existing unit and blower and purchasing a new compact pay loader with a snow blower on the front. Titan informed Todd the trade-in value of the current tractor and blower would be \$44,000.00 for the 2015 tractor. A new compact 221F loader and blower would be \$89,010.00. In which the City would pay \$45,010.00 to boot. The City's tractor has 1,900 hours.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper stated that compact loaders have the same 74 horse power that is on the City's current loader and comes with high-flow hydraulics and a hydraulic snow blower fits on the front. A new compact loader would be used for the same purpose as the City's current tractor which is to widen the streets, and the blower will be front mount instead of having to go backwards. The City would have to purchase a blower for the front at \$6,500.00.

Mayor Bob Worth, Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl and Maintenance Supervisor talked with a rep from Christianson Farm Machinery in Tyler. New Holland has a program for leasing compact loader tractors to lease for nine months. This is based on 250 hours in nine months for \$5.00/hour for the first 150 hours and \$25.00/hour for the remaining 100 hours.

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl to commit to the nine month lease for a 2021 New Holland compact loader tractor (W80C-HS 74 HP) with Christianson Farm Machinery to begin the fall of 2020; and purchase a new blower for \$6,500.00 in the fall of 2020. Motion carried.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper then informed the Council that with the high water tables expected this spring, he will be installing a suction valve in the lift station on Parkview Drive. The City employees will request homeowners to pump their sump pumps outside on April 1, 2020 by putting information on the Local Access Channel and in the newspaper. Next fall the City employees will be sending letters to those residents that are not in their homes during the winter months about getting their water shut off or making sure their homes are winterized.

The next item of business was to review/act on temporary on-sale liquor licenses for the Henry Sollie Legion Post and the Fire Department. The Legion is requesting one Temporary On-Sale Liquor License (24-hour-\$50.00) to serve alcohol at the Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club Annual Game Feed on March 21, 2020 at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center; and the Lake Benton Fire Department is requesting one Temporary On-Sale Liquor License (24-hour-\$50.00) to serve alcohol at the Lake Benton Foundation Gala on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. A club, charitable organization, religious organization or a non-profit organization within the City can receive an on-sale temporary liquor license up to twelve (12) times a year. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the two temporary on-sale liquor licenses (24-hour/\$50.00) to the Henry Sollie Legion Post to serve alcohol at the Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club Annual Game Feed on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center, and to the Lake Benton Fire Department at the Lake Benton Foundation Gala on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the police protection proposal with Lincoln County. Mayor Bob Worth reminded the Council they discussed this issue at the last regular meeting and there was no formal motion because Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl was absent. Mayor Bob Worth also reminded the Council that Trustee Dave Enke, Trustee Mark Dunn and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen will be attending the Lincoln County Commissioners meeting February 4, 2020 at 9:00 AM to inquire if the County would be interested in contracting police protection for the City of Lake Benton. Twenty-four hour protection was discussed at the last meeting and the table was opened up again for discussion and comments.

Mayor Bob Worth stated he belongs to a group on the website for Mayors. The site enables you to view what other Mayors are dealing with in their cities. In the last two weeks, police protection was perceived to be the biggest topic on whether to go with your own City police or contract with the County. Very few cities our size have City owned police protection. When Dave, Mark and Eileen meet with the County Commissioners, the intent is to see if they are indeed interested and consider negotiations in good faith. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to engage in negotiations with Lincoln County for police protection. Motion carried.

Discussion then took place on hours of protection needed. A Council member felt that since the City has not had a full-time police officer on duty since June that ten hours is adequate for Lake Benton and would be willing to consider 12 to 14 hours.

After further discussion on hours, a **MOTION** was made by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to allow for a maximum of 24 hours a week with the County during negotiations. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Historical Society met on January 30 and they are working on rotating the museum displays. The World War I traveling exhibit will be here on June 1, 2020. The Historical Society received new donations which included a violin, roller skates, and books. The Historical Society's annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2020.

Trustee Dave Enke – The Library met last week and the evaluations for the library employees have been completed and raises were given. The Legacy funds used for assisting libraries with grants have been cut in half at the state level. This will force libraries to look for other grant opportunities and funding.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – No report.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water sent out a Notice of Rate Increase stating that the water rates will be raised \$0.08 per 1,000 gallons effective June 1, 2020 and payable July 1, 2020. This item will be put on one of the agendas in May 2020 for the Council's review and action.

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen then updated the Council on the Work Comp pretrial conference for the City's former Police Chief that was scheduled for January 17, 2020 has been rescheduled, again, to April 2, 2020. This claim was filed August 29, 2018.

John Mendez, Project Manager for FEMA, e-mailed Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen last week to inform her that the completed work for the streets in town is in final review. The emergency work for pumping and the EMS lot are still being reviewed, and unfortunately, there is no time table for the process.

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen recommended the Lions Club purchase their own drum liner trash bags since they use quite a few bags and do not pay a fee to use the Event Center. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve that the Lions Club purchase their own drum liner trash bags. Motion carried.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Bob Worth informed the Council someone contacted him and requested to donate the City Lake Benton's 1938 restored fire truck back to the City. It may be the middle of summer before the City will accept the donation. A stipulation was the truck must be displayed inside.

Mayor Bob Worth was at a meeting in St. Paul and talked with Senator Klobuchar's office about FEMA reimbursement dollars. It is unfair for small towns to have to carry the load to pay for fixing the streets, emergency pumping, etc. and waiting almost a year before getting reimbursed. Senator Klobuchar's office will raise this issue and hopefully get 75% up front and the remaining 25% when the review process is complete.

Mayor Bob Worth will be out of town February 4 through February 29, 2020.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK