

**JUNE 3, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, June 3, 2019 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, Police Chief Tony Sievert, Police Officer Dallas Cornell, Jason Overby and Joe Weber-Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, 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 May 20, 2019 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2019. Motion carried.

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

LB GROCERY	\$ 8.65	OTTERTAIL	\$ 2,272.83
BUFFALO RIDGE AGENCY	\$ 480.00	TODD DRAPER	\$ 32.00
PAT HAYNES	\$ 250.00	GUARDIAN FLEET	\$ 11,712.18
MN LIFE	\$ 6.80	MAX FLEET	\$ 75.00
LB AREA FOUNDATION	\$ 100.00	ANTHONY SIEVERT	\$ 482.82
MN DEPT OF HEALTH	\$ 516.00	DANEBOB CHURCH	\$ 50.00
GARDEN GATE	\$ 1,460.00	PALISADES	\$ 20,107.50
TROY NORDMEYER	\$ 32.00	BUFFALO RIDGE CONCR	\$ 150.00
PEOPLE	\$ 118.26	MN FIRE SERV CERT BD	\$ 230.00
KYLIE ROCHEL	\$ 104.00	VERIZON	\$ 35.01
ONE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 169.77	BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 38.00
ELKTON LUMBER	\$ 13,840.00	DODGE OF BURNSVILLE	\$ 30,940.00
AMAZON CAPITAL SRVCS	\$ 268.92	ALPHA TRNG/TACTICS	\$ 130.00
DEMCO	\$ 113.41	CORINNE CROWE	\$ 9.56

**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 Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water regarding the water rates. Jason Overby and Joe Weber were in attendance and thanked the Council for inviting them to the meeting. The Council inquired why Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water keeps raising the rates every year. Jason explained basically all the municipalities pass on the increase to the consumer. There has been a \$0.10 per 1,000 gallon increase for the past four years which helps pay for the Operations and Management (O & M), inflation, chemicals and electrical costs. The City of Lake Benton saw an increase of 4% from \$2.56 to \$2.66 per 1,000 gallons of water. Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water provides water to thirty-six (36) municipalities that have the same water bulk rate as Lake Benton, and they pass the increase onto the residents as well. Jason also informed the Council that Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water has five (5) capital improvement projects in the works and the municipalities are not paying for those.

The Council thanked Jason and Joe for attending the meeting and explaining to them the water increases each year. Jason informed the Council to feel free to meet with him at this office and he will be happy to review anything they question.

### **POLICE REPORT**

The Police Report for May was given by Police Chief Tony Sievert. Police Chief Tony Sievert reviewed the calls and the squad has 2,020 miles on it. Tony informed the Council he attended the Summer Fun Day today and talked with the youth about "Stranger Danger". **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the May Police Report. Motion carried.

Police Chief Tony Sievert then informed the Council he has resigned his position with the City of Lake Benton and his last day of work will be June 16, 2019. Tony informed the Council the AFSCME Union contract states the Police Chief is to give a thirty (30) day notice of his resignation. Since he only gave the City an eighteen (18) day notice, he informed the Council he would like to take his balance of twelve (12) days of vacation beginning June 17, 2019. Tony requested the Council to approve his request to take the balance of his vacation for the last two weeks of June 2019 to be included in his thirty (30) day notice.

Mayor Bob Worth expressed that Tony has done a lot of good things for the City of Lake Benton and he appreciates all of his efforts. There have been several compliments on his work, and he has done a fantastic job.

**MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve Police Chief Tony Sievert's resignation and Tony can use the balance of his earned vacation of twelve (12) days after June 16, 2019 to be included in his thirty (30) day notice. Motion carried.

Police Chief Tony Sievert then recommended Dallas Cornell to be appointed Interim Police Chief. Tony will train Dallas on the administrative duties and complete the paperwork with POST Board before he leaves. The Council discussed having a special meeting to discuss the open Police Chief position before they make any appointments. The special meeting of the Council will be held on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 5:30 PM at the Heritage Center/City Office.

The next item of business was to review/act on the DNR Water Access Project. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper reminded the Council the contractor for the project will begin as early as July 8, 2019 and the City needs to remove and replace some items. The City should replace the water service to the Resort which consists of boring 250' of 1" water line and hook up to the Resort's shut-off. This will cost the City approximately \$2,000.00. If the owners of the Resort want to connect to it, they will be responsible for the cost to bore additional water line. There is a tree that needs to be removed by the former Creamery and this can be done in house. The DNR will be installing ADA restrooms, so the current 8' x 12' building will need to be torn down or sold.

Discussion took place on funding to build another restroom rather than using the DNR's ADA porta-potties – can the City get something better. The cost of a new building and adding a sewer line are concerns in doing this, but Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper will ask the DNR if something else can be done rather than the ADA porta-potties.

**MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the removal of the tree, sell or tear down the restroom, and bore 250' of 1" water line under the road for approximately \$2,000.00. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE**

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council that every year during Saddle Horse Holiday, the City needs extra porta-potties at the ballfields. Also the following weekend is a girl's soft ball tournament with 16 teams. Last year the City and the County incurred the expense for the porta-potties at a cost of \$625.00 which included pumping twice over the weekend for the

girl's tournament. Todd inquired if the City would be willing to pay for seven (7) porta-potties and get them pumped twice over the weekend of June 22-23, 2019. Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl stated that the Lincoln County Parks will pay half the cost because both the County and the City benefit from these people in town. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Mark Dunn to authorize Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper to get the seven (7) porta-potties for the weekend of June 22-23, 2019, and accept Lincoln County Parks donation for half the cost. Motion carried.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper then informed the Council the spare police car has been decommissioned and whoever removed the graphics did a poor job. Todd worked on his own time to wash the car, clean the inside, remove the residue from the graphics, and take pictures to advertise for sale. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper would like Council approval for him and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to put it for sale and recoup some of the money spent on the new squad. Todd looked on-line at 2013 vehicles with 103,000 miles and believes the City could make at a minimum of \$9,000.00 up to \$11,000.00 because the City put new tires on it. The City can advertise on Marketplace on Facebook and the Hy-Vee Trader, and put the vehicle on the hill by Highway 14 and Lakeview Street. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to authorize Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen to sell the spare police squad with an asking price of \$9,500.00. If offered \$9,000.00 – take it. Motion carried.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper then confirmed with the Council that he can move the generator from the old Community Center to the lift station at the Resort. The Council confirmed he can do that.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper then informed the Council that Brad Gillingham with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) visited the City and reviewed the City's monthly reports, the Main Lift Station, and sewer ponds. MPCA recommends the lift station meter not be 30 feet underground and requests cities move the meters above ground. Todd is checking prices to get this done. It was also recommended the City get a debris basket in the wet well to collect non-degradable items that come out of the inlet and collect daily. Todd is checking costs for a debris basket as well.

The next item of business was to review/act on a building permit for Margaret Larson to install a 12' x 8' storage shed at 209 Bluff Street West. Margaret was given the setbacks from her property line on which she can put the shed. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper confirmed there were no setback concerns and everything is in compliance with the City's ordinance. The fee of \$25.00 has been paid. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve the building permit for Margaret Larson to install a 12' x 8' storage shed at 209 Bluff Street West. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on the Code of Ethics for Public Officials Policy. Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that Jeff VanBuren, Area Specialist for USDA Rural Development, will conduct a civil rights compliance review and security inspection on June 20, 2019 of the Library. The City of Lake Benton still owes on a loan from Rural Development when the Library was renovated, and therefore the City is reviewed every three years. One of the items Jeff needs for his review is a signed copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy (Code of Ethics for Public Officials) after the City Council votes to pass the Policy.

**MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve the Code of Ethics for Public Officials Policy. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution Accepting Donations to the Library. The Library received the following donation in memory of Willie Oltmans:

- Ila Christensen - \$20.00

The donation will be designated towards Collections. Minnesota Statutes state the Library can accept donations for the benefit of recreational services. The Council needs to pass a resolution accepting the donations to the Library. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Resolution Accepting Donations from Ila Christensen for \$20.00. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – No report.

Trustee Dave Enke – The Library Board met a couple weeks ago and the Summer Reading Program begins this week and will run 7 to 8 weeks. June is a busy month which includes the following: A 4-H Camp at the Hole-in-the-Mountain Chalet on June 11, 2019; Saddle Horse Holiday will include activities of bean bag toss, ladder ball and a dunk tank on June 15, 2019; Magician Max Fleet will be at the Library on June 17, 2019; WonderWeavers Puppet Show will be at the Library on June 19, 2019; and Ralph Covert will entertain at the Library with activity songs, story songs, and a healthy dose of pure silliness on June 26, 2019.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – Daryl talked with a solar power company regarding the City's property north of town on Highway 75. There is already a transmission line installed which is beneficial to solar power and the company is looking for 100 to 150 acre ground. The solar company is also offering to pay \$1,250.00 an acre for the right acreage. The year 2020 is going to be big for wind energy, and 2023 is the timeline for solar power to grow. A representative will be coming to visit and look at the property in the near future.

**ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:**

Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council that she received two flyers for local community festival parades. The first is for the Elkton Harvest Festival June 10-11, 2019; and the second is for the Ruthton Fourth of July parade on July 4, 2019 at 11:00 AM.

**MAYORAL REPORT:**

Mayor Bob Worth expressed his disappointment and sadness that Tony Sievert is leaving. Mayor Bob Worth requested the Council consider options for a new Police Chief, Interim Chief, County, advertising, etc. before they meet at the special meeting next Monday, June 10, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

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.

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MAYOR

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ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK