

MARCH 7, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 5:30 P.M. in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. Mayor Michael Carpenter presided. Trustees Rosie DeZeeuw, Mark Dunn, Patrick Haynes, and Daryl Schlapkohl were present. City Attorney Mike Cable was absent. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen, Heath Houselog, Danny Krotzer, and Kristina Hernandez from the Lake Benton Valley Journal were also present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Mayor Michael Carpenter 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. Heath Houselog, Chair of the Lake Benton Township, was present and introduced himself to the Council. Heath explained he is not just speaking for the Lake Benton Township, but other townships as well. The Fire Department had two (2) informative meetings and all eight (8) townships voted to purchase a new truck but were informed they have no say on the contract or the truck. The amount of the fire call changed from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00 without informing the townships. The townships pay 2/3 of the contract and are questioning why the contract was changed without notice. One Council member inquired if the City should move forward with an amendment to the contract? The Council confirmed the Fire Department will not purchase a new truck until 2029 and Heath Houselog agreed. Another Council member inquired if the townships have an issue with the amount going up from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00 and Heath stated the Fire Department can charge \$2,000.00 a fire call as he appreciates the fire service, he strongly feels they have no say. Heath went on to state the townships asked for a committee and were informed that is not going to happen. Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded Heath the City has a representative (Trustee Mark Dunn) to the Fire Department. Mayor Michael Carpenter stated if there are issues, the Council will check into it, but still does not know what the issue is. Heath then stated the issue is the City changed the contract without telling us and it is a legal contract. Heath continued to state the contract was signed in 2017 and in September 2018 the Fire Department changed the fire call from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00. There are other issues with the contract as well such as the Council is supposed to have a quorum at the annual Fire Department, City and Township meeting, and maybe this could have been handled that night. Mayor Michael Carpenter requested Heath Houselog to give the City 30 days to look into the contract and will get back to him through Trustee Mark Dunn and the Fire Department.

Mayor Michael Carpenter then informed the Council that Item Number Three (3) on the Agenda is the Public Works Update, and Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper is waiting for information regarding the Ottertail Substation and should have that information at the March 21, 2022 meeting.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2022 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Rosie DeZeeuw, seconded by Patrick Haynes to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 22, 2022. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

BOLT'S LB GROCERY	\$ 12.37	ITC	\$ 341.23
M & H COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 20.00	L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 4,343.69
RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 886.95	EXPRESSWAY	\$ 535.52
RICK'S WELDING	\$ 56.00	GOPHER STATE	\$ 2.70
POSTMASTER	\$ 188.80	TODD DRAPER	\$ 32.00
PAT HAYNES	\$ 663.85	DOUBLE D GRAVEL	\$ 13,744.55
MN DEPT OF HEALTH	\$ 789.00	SOUTHWEST SANITATION	\$ 3,710.58
TROY NORDMEYER	\$ 32.00	TE UNDERGROUND	\$ 1,377.40
KYLIE ROCHEL	\$ 137.00	ONE OFFICE	\$ 71.34
BUFFALO RIDGE NEWS	\$ 80.00	AMAZON	\$ 857.92
PLUM CREEK LIBRARY	\$ 4,090.00	CENTER POINT	\$ 45.54
JANINE SCHAAP	\$ 112.79	DANNY/MEGAN KROTZER	\$ 250.00

MOTION by Mark Dunn, seconded by Daryl Schlapkohl 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 get an update on the video streaming reports. Danny Krotzer was present to provide the numbers of viewers watching the Council meetings being telecast via a computer or smart phone. Danny explained there are two viewing aspects – one live streamed and the second is archived. The average monthly views show 40 to 45 viewers each month. Some meetings may be 14 or 15 views according to the subject matters included in the meeting. The live streaming and archiving seem to be successful as it supports the needs of the community and it is nice to have an archive for reference. Anyone can get on and watch on any device. Although the system may have had a couple technology glitches, it is very reliable. Not everyone can make a meeting, but they can watch live or view the archives at a later date. Danny explained at some point it would be nice to develop a channel for citizens to watch on television as it is not on a public access channel. The Council inquired if citizens cannot make the meeting, can they be included in the meeting thru this technology. This can be done with an Administrator to administer the meeting which is a lot of work.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution Accepting Donations to the Library. The Library received a donation from the Fiber Guild for \$50.00. This donation will be designated for collections. Minnesota Statutes state the Library can accept donations for the benefit of recreational services. The Council needs to pass the resolution accepting the donation to the Library. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Resolution Accepting the Donation from the Fiber Guild for \$50.00 to the Library. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Library met two weeks ago and the February stats are up from last February. Janine is working on the annual state reports. The painting class that took place a couple weeks ago had 15 attendees and was a good class. The Winter Reading Program runs through March 31, 2022.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – No report.

Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council he issued new appointments after Dave Enke's resignation. Trustee Mark Dunn had ample committees, Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw took on the Library and Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl took on an additional three appointment. Everyone is aware Trustee Patrick Haynes has now been sworn in to take Dave Enke's place until December 31, 2022. Trustee Patrick Haynes stated he would be willing to assist with an appointment if needed. Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl stated with work and his family he would like to get off the EDA board. Trustee Patrick Haynes agreed to take over for Daryl Schlapkohl on the EDA board. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the reassignment of the City rep to the EDA from Daryl Schlapkohl to Patrick Haynes. Motion carried. Trustee Haynes was informed there is an EDA meeting Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7:30 AM at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

Administrator/Clerk received a letter from First Security Bank in Lake Benton that Account #829060 labeled "Police Forfeiture" has not had a transaction during the last three (3) years. The account has a balance of \$2,019.79 as of March 1, 2022. Under Minnesota law if there is a period of three (3) years without contact, First Security Bank may be required to transfer this account to the custody of the Treasurer of the State of Minnesota as unclaimed property. The City may sign the letter provided and return to the bank which would indicate that the City wishes to keep the above account active and available to the City or close the account and transfer the funds to another account. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to approve transferring \$2,019.79 from Account #829060 labeled "Police Forfeiture" to Account \$700369, and close Account #829060. Motion carried.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Michael Carpenter informed the Council that the dishwasher in the Event Center, used mainly by the Lions Club, is on a lease agreement, and the lease amount is \$105.00 a month. Jim Roggenbuck stopped the Mayor one day and stated the Lions would be willing to pay half the lease agreement. Does the Council wish to keep the lease, get out of the lease and purchase a new or used dishwasher? Danny Krotzer then requested to speak as he is assisting with the rental of the Event Center and has worked with this equipment in the past. If the dishwasher is removed, the City may lose their food prep licensing and the Event Center will no longer have the commercial kitchen. Danny explained two units are not functional if one part is taken away, and the entire dishwasher is working fine. Danny checked prices for a qualified used dishwasher and the amount is \$4,500.00 to \$5,000.00. If the City leases the dishwasher Eco Lab will fix it when it breaks down and clean and replace the elements when needed. The Council requested Danny and Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen get a copy of the lease from Eco Lab. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Patrick Haynes to table this issue until the March 21st or April 4th meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Michael Carpenter reminded the Council of the March 15th bid opening for the Mork and Giles Addition at 2:00 at the City office. Mayor Michael Carpenter then informed Patrick Haynes about the March 16, 2022 bid opening for the duplexes to be constructed. The 2022 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center.

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