

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Lake Benton City Council was held on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 5:30 P.M. in the Lake Benton Area Community and Event Center. 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, Scott Christensen, and Miranda Deutz 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 November 2, 2020 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 2, 2020. Motion carried.

CLAIMS PRESENTED AGAINST THE CITY OF LAKE BENTON:

ITC	\$ 342.25	EILEEN CHRISTENSEN	\$ 139.50
VADIM	\$ 1.36	M & H COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 294.50
L-P RURAL WATER	\$ 6,193.29	RETHWISCH & SON	\$ 1,768.86
EXPRESSWAY	\$ 397.85	GOPHER STATE	\$ 13.50
CITY OF LAKE BENTON	\$ 176.42	POSTMASTER	\$ 116.55
CHAMBER-CVB	\$ 475.35	SW SANITATION	\$ 3,599.68
BARB HURD	\$ 210.00	TRACY TRIGG	\$ 213.75
BANNER ASSOC	\$ 1,350.00	BIOAG	\$ 359.80
CARDMEMBER SRVCS	\$ 236.89	MARY THOOF	\$ 213.75
ONE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$ 43.76	CHRISTIANSON FARM	\$ 6,500.00
CORINNE CROWE	\$ 6.00		

MOTION by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Dave Enke 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.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

The Council reviewed the law enforcement report and commented on the extremely good job the County is doing for the City. The Council was also commended for choosing to contract with the County and it is working very well. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the law enforcement report. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper informed the Council the City got the leased New Holland compact loader from Christianson Farm Machinery and used it over the Veteran's Day snow storm. This is a good fit for snow removal. Todd was not sure how the blower will work, but the bucket will work great for the 2020-2021 snow season. Christianson Farm Machinery requested if the City is going to lease a compact loader for the same fee for the 2021-2022 snow season. This is only costing the City a maximum of \$3,300.00 each year with no repairs and no warranty, which is better than purchasing a new Case for \$11,000.00 (\$89,000.00 minus the trade-in of \$78,000.00) and dealing with repairs and warranties. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Mark Dunn to lease a compact loader from Christianson Farm Machinery for the 2021-2022 snow season. Motion carried.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper then informed the Council the New Holland compact loader is stored in the new Maintenance building and the Case blower is stored in the EMS building where the police squad used to be. There is however a problem with the garage opener in the EMS building and Todd priced a new opener to be installed for the commercial door with Rethwisch & Son for \$811.00. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to purchase a new opener from Rethwisch & Son for \$811.00. Motion carried.

Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper updated the Council on the two water leaks this past Thursday, one by the post office and the other one by Randy Sixta's agronomy building. Todd is planning to set up a meeting with Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water regarding the water pressure in the City limits and to keep this from happening again. Mayor Bob Worth requested to sit in on the meeting. As a result of the leak by Randy Sixta's building, there is no longer water to the building. The leak was by an Excel energy pole which was installed next to the water line, but they were able to intercept with the line on Center Street. This will need to be reviewed next spring to get water back to the building. Maintenance Supervisor Todd Draper contacted Banner Associates and they suggested not including this project with the Fremont Street project due to the assessments. Maintenance Todd Supervisor informed the Council that when the City did the 1998 project, they could not find service to hook up to north of Expressway. This project will include running a new line and bore or dig the line in. The leak was so bad they thought they may have to shut off the line that feeds the water tank. However, they were able to beat the time limit and everything was okay. Double D Gravel did a great job and the assistance from Sheriff Chad Meester was very helpful. **MOTION** by Daryl Schlapkohl, seconded by Rosie DeZeeuw to approve the Maintenance Supervisor's report. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a request to close Lincoln Street for the Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club Ice Fishing Tournament on January 30, 2021. Lake Benton Sportsman's Club member Scott Christensen was in attendance to request the closure of Lincoln Street for their fishing tournament scheduled for January 30, 2021 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM to disperse prizes. The area at the lake is not large enough for social distancing the crowd. This is also dependent on if the State and DNR will permit them to have the tournament due to COVID-19. The Council recommended the Sportsmen's Club inform Curtis Rethwisch the Street may be closed by his lumber yard on that date for three hours. **MOTION** by Mark Dunn, seconded by Dave Enke to approve closing Lincoln Street for the Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club Ice Fishing Tournament on January 30, 2021 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, and inform Curtis Rethwisch that Lincoln Street (next to his lumber yard) may be shutting down on the above date and time. Motion carried.

The next item of business was to review/act on a Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places for Elections in 2021. City Administrator/Clerk Eileen Christensen informed the Council effective July 1, 2017, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 204B, requires all cities and townships to pass a resolution by December 31st of each year establishing a combined polling place for any elections in the following year. The Resolution is establishing a designated polling place for all elections at the Lake Benton Area Community & Event Center at 114 South Center Street, Lake Benton, MN. Included in the resolution are combined townships of Diamond Lake, Drammen, Lake Benton and Verdi because they use the same facility at the same time as the City of Lake Benton. **MOTION** by Dave Enke, seconded by Mark Dunn to adopt the Resolution Establishing Combined Polling Places for Elections in 2021 at the Lake Benton Area Community & Event Center at 114 North Center Street, Lake Benton, MN. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Dave Enke – No report.

Trustee Mark Dunn – No report.

Trustee Daryl Schlapkohl – Opera House board member Dave Norgaard contacted Daryl and informed him the cost to stud the wall (\$1,200.00), and spray foam (\$5,400.00) at the Opera House would cost approximately \$6,600.00. The City has \$6,000.00 in CDs to help pay a portion of this, but the Opera House will need to find funds to pay for the remainder and sheet rocking. They should see a big saving in their heating bill once this is completed. Daryl will keep the Council informed and bring back solid numbers at the December 2, 2020 meeting.

Mayor Bob Worth inquired if Daryl attended the Commissioners meeting after the last Council meeting regarding the park. Daryl stated Lisa Graphenteen is working on getting funding for the 15 to 18 year project, with hopes to get funding in 2021 and put the project out for bids with work beginning in 2022. This project will be done in segments (i.e. camp grounds, trails, etc.). They are planning to allow tubing with a “stand on” conveyor belt to get to the top of the hill.

Trustee Rosie DeZeeuw – The Chamber met last Tuesday and the Diner’s Club is having a \$3.00 drive-thru meal on November 19, 2020. If this goes well, they will have another \$3.00 drive-thru meal on December 17, 2020. The Food Shelf is up and running. They are requesting patrons place their orders and wait in their vehicles for the staff to put together and distribute to them outside. The museum floor got cleaned and waxed and residents and youth assisted in moving items from one place to another in the museum. The Chamber’s Halloween Trick-or-Treat was a success as they prepared and distributed 100 bags to children. There will not be a Christmas Tree Walk this year due to COVID-19, but the Chamber will decorate the stage area in the museum and place a tree in the front entrance of the Heritage Center. Santa Claus Day will be taking place at the Lake Benton Public School for the students only. This is not open to the public.

Ottertail put up the new lights on Lakeshore Drive and they look nice.

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT:

No report.

MAYORAL REPORT:

Mayor Bob Worth commented that all the City employees are fantastic and the City appreciates them.

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

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK