

**Stevensville Town Council
Thursday, March 14, 2018
7:00 p.m.**

Council for the Town of Stevensville came together in the Council Chambers, this being the time set for the regular meeting of the Town Council.

Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Roll Call: Mayor Dewey, Councilmembers Barker, Holcomb, Phillips and Michalson were all present. Staff and members of the public were also present.

2. The Council and all present rose, faced the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. February 7, 2019 COW Minutes
- b. February 14, 2019 Minutes

Councilmember Holcomb moved to approve the February 7, 2019 COW Minutes and the February 14, 2019 Minutes. Seconded by Councilmember Phillips.

The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion passes 4-0

3. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

Finance Officer, April Van Tassel presented on the bi-weekly claims and the two sets of reports explaining that the claims included in the February 28th meeting were paid out of cycle due to the meeting being cancelled.

Councilmember Holcomb moved that we approve the bi-weekly claims.

Mayor Dewey asked for a second. Council did not provide a second to the motion.

Councilmember Michalson stated he would like to make a motion and asked Councilmember Holcomb to retract hers.

Councilmember Holcomb retracted her motion.

Councilmember Michalson made a motion that we accept the bi-weekly claims except for claim #15063 CH Roustabouts, LLC, Project Snow-B-Gone, #15064 Rocky Road Enterprises 5040, #15065 Landmark Excavating, #15066 Yoder Gravel, and #15067 Sam Yoder. The reason I do not believe I can support the snow removal project is because it did not come before Council for approval prior to this claims. Seconded by Councilmember Holcomb.

Councilmember Michalson restated his motion. I would like to make a motion that we accept the bi-weekly claims except for claim #15063 CH Roustabouts, LLC, Snow-B-Gone, #15064 Rocky Road Enterprises, #15065 Landmark Excavating, #15066 Yoder Gravel, and #15067 Sam Yoder.

Councilmember Michalson did some studying and indicated that the reason he cannot support this is due to our Municipal Code, 2-400. Emergencies. *“The provisions of section 2-399 as to advertisement for bids shall not apply upon the happening of any emergency caused by fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, riot or insurrection, or any other similar emergency, but, in such case, the council may proceed in any manner which, in the judgment of three-fourths of the members of the council present at the meeting, duly recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of the council by aye and nay vote, will best meet the emergency and serve the public interest. Such emergency shall be declared and recorded at length in the minutes of the proceedings of the council at the time the vote thereon is taken and recorded.”*

Councilmember Michalson stated that this was not done. Councilmember Michalson also referenced Montana State Law, Annotated Code, Expenditures Limited to Appropriations, Part 40 Local Government Budget Act, 7-6-4005, *“Local government officials may not make a disbursement or an expenditure or incur an obligation in excess of the total appropriations for a fund. A local government official who violates subsection 1 is liable for the amount of the excess disbursement, expenditure, or obligation personally.”*

For those reasons alone he cannot accept the snow removal that was done in town. Councilmember Michalson does not think that should go to the tax payer. It did not go to Council, it was done by the authority of the Mayor. The Mayor did not have the authority to grant that. Councilmember Michalson commented that the Mayor did not have the authority to go and hire local people to do the snow removal.

Councilmember Holcomb asked the claims already paid, why wasn't it brought to the Council.

Mayor Dewey responded that we didn't have a meeting.

Councilmember Holcomb responded then they shouldn't have been paid.

Mayor Dewey responded as the Finance Officer explained, we did not want to incur any late fees by not paying those bills. The bills were paid due to an extenuating circumstance. It doesn't snow like that very often, and when it does, we have to continue on with business.

Councilmember Barker said that in December the claims are held until another cycle comes up and asked why aren't these the same?

Mayor Dewey responded we prearrange those cycles. In November a date is set to allow all claims be paid out of cycle. We pay the claims out of cycle and Council sees them after the fact.

Councilmember Michalson asked who cancelled the meeting?

Mayor Dewey responded that he did.

Councilmember Michalson stated that according to Council Rules and Montana Law, he doesn't think the Mayor has the authority to cancel the Council meeting.

Mayor Dewey asked, then who does?

Councilmember Michalson responded that in the Council Rules, you will see that the Mayor can only run a meeting. The Council has to come together, like it says in the Code and have $\frac{3}{4}$ majority to either cancel the meeting. This is the Council's meeting, not the Mayor's meeting. Tonight's meeting is a Council meeting, the Mayor's job is to monitor the meeting and run the meeting. It is Council's job to delegate through the laws, do our discussions and debate, and move on. Councilmember Michalson stated he doesn't think the Mayor legally had the authority to cancel the Council meeting. And that started the whole ball rolling on all of this stuff.

Mayor Dewey responded that there are a little over \$25,000 in the claims that Council is refusing to pay for services we hired and were rendered to the Community. If the Council has an issue with an Emergency not being declared, is that the issue? Mayor Dewey explained that the Town has not exceed appropriations.

Councilmember Michalson indicated that the Mayor should have called a special meeting to discuss it, it's in our Town Municipal Code 2-400.

Mayor Dewey commented that the Council doesn't declare the emergency.

Councilmember Michalson responded that the Mayor legally can't either.

Mayor Dewey responded that he has sole authority by Montana Code, he is the only person in this municipality that can declare Town responded that he has the sole authority to call an emergency an emergency or disaster.

Councilmember Michalson asked that the Mayor to provide that information.

Mayor Dewey read MCA 10-3-402, Local Emergency and Termination. *"Local emergency proclamation or disaster declaration may be issued only by the principal executive officer of a political subdivision. An emergency proclamation may be issued by order or resolution whenever the principal executive officer determines there is an emergency. An emergency proclamation may terminate with a disaster declaration or when the principal executive officer determines that the emergency no longer exists."*

Councilmember Michalson asked doesn't that say by resolution or that would be done by the Council.

Mayor Dewey responded that he can issue a proclamation or resolution on his own.

Mayor Dewey asked Councilmember Michalson that if he declared an emergency, would Council approve the claims? We owe these people money.

Councilmember Michalson responded that is not his issue, it's about process.

Mayor Dewey commented that he asked everyone to stay home so the Town could get the streets cleared, so you want me to put your own safety at risk to call a special meeting and give 48 hours of notice when we have snow falling and no place to put it.

Councilmember Barker commented that in 1996 when we had snow fall, this town never went under an emergency situation, we dealt with it, we didn't hire contractors. we didn't call an emergency. Council hadn't seen a contract or how much it was going to cost the town at all, and now we have this bill dropped on top of us for close to \$30,000, there is a problem. You could have called an emergency meeting.

Councilmember Holcomb stated the reason she has a problem is because protocol wasn't followed. All you had to do was call, we can't do email or we get accused that we are open quorum, so all you had to do was call an emergency meeting saying this is what we need to do and show us the contracts, we would not have had a problem with it. When does this stop? You pretty much can't do anything without Council approval.

Councilmember Barker commented that when the Mayor brought the snow plan to Council, she asked about the contractors and it was again, we have a standing relationship with whoever. That's not the point. These are contracts, maybe we could have got in with somebody lower. Those bids should have been brought to Council prior to. It's a protocol you have to follow too. We have protocol we have to follow. The tax payers have to pay for it, we are expending tax payer's money.

Mayor Dewey responded they are driving on the roads we cleared, they should pay for it.

Police Chief Marble commented that it seems like there are two separate issues, procedural and paying the bills. Police Chief Marble recommends that Council look at it compartmentally; pay the bills and then address the procedural issue.

Jim Crews, 316 9th Street, the concern he has is, Title 10 Declaration of emergency, but the town ordinance further restricts that declaration. Under section 2-400 Emergencies, *"The provisions of section 2-399 as to advertisement for bids shall not apply upon the happening of any emergency caused by fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, riot or insurrection, or any other similar emergency, but, in such case, the council may proceed in any manner which, in the judgment of three-fourths of the members of the council present at the meeting, duly recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of the council by aye and nay vote, will best meet the emergency and serve the public interest. Such emergency shall be declared and recorded at length in the minutes*

of the proceedings of the council at the time the vote thereon is taken and recorded.”

Mr. Crews indicated that he follows what is going on in the town pretty closely and never saw anything that we declared an emergency. So that negates what you are saying and by canceling the Council meeting, you took the authority away from the Council. If this was such a big deal, why didn't you call a special meeting because that is one of the meetings a Mayor can call. There is no such thing as an emergency Council meeting, it's a special meeting. A regularly scheduled meeting, which is in the Council Rules, which is controlled by Council. Council votes to determine the days they want to meet. Those meetings are established by the Council. If he remembers everything he learned in his government training, the only way that a Council meeting can really get cancelled is if you don't have a quorum. A special meeting can be called with 48 hours notice. That would have been a great way to handle this. You didn't have an emergency meeting, the Council meeting got canceled, no special meetings called, so the Council didn't get to be involved in any of these decisions. As a private citizen, that concerns him significantly, because yes, it is his tax dollars and yes, he is concerned about how they are being spent. Even after the snow removal has happened, we still have ruts down our streets, and in some streets deep enough to drag on the bottom of his wife's car, which he doesn't want damaged. We still have that problem. That is the real crux of the situation, Council should have been involved.

Joe Moore, 514 Central, didn't hear a question from Mr. Crews, so he doesn't know what he was trying to say. Mr. Moore appreciates having the streets cleared and thank you for the action. Mr. Moore agrees with the Chief as there seems to be another issue about protocol. As a citizens, he knows that not all streets are clean, his street isn't exactly clean, but the majority of the streets are doing well and thanks everyone for their efforts and is sorry that Council feels slighted.

Mayor Dewey reiterated the motion to approve the bi-weekly claims with the exception of claim #15063 - #15067

The vote was called and Councilmember Phillips voted “aye” and Councilmembers Barker, Holcomb and Michalson voted “nay”. Motion failed 1-3.

Councilmember Michalson asked to redirect his motion again as he thinks there is some confusion among Councilmembers.

Councilmember Michalson agrees to make a motion to accept paying all the bi-weekly claims, except as you just said Mr. Mayor the following claims of the ones that you just listed of the snow removal and that would be my decision as far as accepting all of the other claims except for the snow removal ones.

Councilmember Michalson commented that if he could redirect his motion again, he would do that and could entertain a re-vote on this because he thinks there is some confusion that by voting “no” we are dropping all the claims, but by voting yes, we are accepting all the claims except for the ones that he had mentioned for snow removal. **Councilmember Barker seconded the motion.**

Councilmember Michalson asked to redirect that and start at 15063 up to 15070.

Councilmember Michalson asked if that was correct and the Mayor responded he didn't know, he wrote down five numbers from the first motion and now he is adding to it.

Councilmember Michalson made a motion to accept all the bi-weekly claims except for 15063 CH Roustabouts, Project Snow-be-gone, 15064 Rocky Road Enterprises, 15065 Landmark Excavating, 15066 Yoder Gravel, 15067 for Sam Yoder.

Mayor Dewey asked if Councilmember Michalson was amending his motion; Councilmember Michalson responded yes.

Mayor Dewey commented that is the same exact.

Councilmember Michalson added and 15070.

Mayor Dewey clarified that Councilmember Michalson amended his motion to add claim #15070 to the list of claims not to be paid.

Seconded by Councilmember Barker.

The vote was called on the amendment and all voted “aye”. Motion passes 4-0

The vote was called on the motion on the floor and all voted “aye”. Motion passes 4-0.

5. **Administrative Reports**

a. **Finance Report**

Finance Officer April Van Tassel presented the finance report

Council asked if notices have gone out regarding the past due accounts and also asked if some of those are people who are on a payment plan.

Councilmember Michalson asked to see the check/deposit for the defibrillator.

b. **Police Department Report**

Police Chief Marble presented the police report

Councilmember Michalson asked for the ratio for on-going investigations and investigations solved.

Police Chief Marble explained that it is his hope that the third officer will be able to help with the investigations and that he could provide Councilmember Michalson clearance information for investigation cases.

c. Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Motley presented the fire report

Councilmember Michalson thanked Fire Chief Motley's wife, Vicki for shoveling hydrants.

Councilmember Michalson asked if the Town and Rural share the same rosters? Councilmember Michalson commented that he knows that you share everything.

Fire Chief Motley provided an explanation of the rosters for both the Town and Rural.

- d. **Public Works Report** – included in Council's packet
- e. **Building Department Report** – included in Council's packet
- f. **2018 City Court Annual Report** – included in Council's packet
- g. **Airport Board Report** – Craig Thomas, Airport Board Chair provided an overview of the airport activity and status of grant funding

6. Guests

None

7. Correspondence

Mayor Dewey read the following correspondences into the record:

- a. Appreciation Email - Stephanie Mapelli - March 6, 2019
- b. Letter of Appreciation, Businesses: Active Care Family Chiropractic, Sama Massage, Your Energy Fix, Cedar and Sage Herbal Medicine - March 7, 2019

8. Public Comments

Victoria Howell, 609 Middle Burnt Fork, and Bitterroot Star, commented that on social media last week there was a comment from a Councilmember's spouse that had to do with a challenge to the Bitterroot Star to look into possible mis-use of funds by the Mayor regarding a couple of items that the Town paid for and allegedly the Mayor did not pay these back. In response, Ms. Howell contacted the Mayor. One of them had to do with a trip he took to a convention. He went their early and did spend some personal time and he was supposed to pay that back to the Town that wasn't Town business. The second one had to do with the purchase of AEDs. The Town was purchasing some of these and Lost Trail Ski Patrol got one. She requested proof if this was paid back. She got copies of the cancelled checks. The Mayor paid back his personal portion of that trip. The Lost Trails Ski Patrol paid for their AED before they received the AED. Ms. Howell commented that she did not know why those needed to be looked into, apparently somebody was still concerned about this and felt she needed to let everyone know that it was paid back in a timely manner.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. **Standing Agenda Item: Discussion/decision regarding the Response and Recommendation Report regarding complaint filed by Town Clerk Audree Tribbensee**

Mayor Dewey introduced the item.
No comment from Council and no action taken.

- b. **Discussion/Update regarding the draft Code of Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials**

Mayor Dewey introduced the item.

Councilmember Michalson stated that he is comfortable moving it to the next Council meeting for approval.

Councilmember Phillips commented that there is a resolution to implement the code of conduct. Recommends that a final read take place looking for grammatical errors.

No action taken.

**Councilmember Michalson asked for a 5 minute Break.
Meeting resumed at 8:05 pm**

10. New Business

- a. **Discussion/Decision to approve Resolution 445, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Stevensville, Montana, providing for the amendment of the budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19**

Mayor Dewey introduced the item.

Councilmember Barker moved to approve Resolution 445, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Stevensville, Montana, providing for the amendment of the budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 in the amount of \$18,000. Seconded by Councilmember Michalson.

Fire Chief Motley commented that when the budget was set in July we had not been awarded the grant so we didn't know what we would be expending. When we were awarded the grant, that all happened in November and December. Hope to have the new equipment sometime next month.

The vote was called and all voted "aye". Motion passes 4-0.

b. **Discussion/Decision to approve Resolution 446, a Resolution of the Town of Stevensville, adopting a procedure for amending or Repealing a Resolution**

Mayor Dewey introduced the item.

Councilmember Phillips moved to suspend Council Rules and discuss items 10b and 10c. Seconded by Councilmember Holcomb

The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion passes 4-0.

Items 10b and 10c were discussed together as one item.

Councilmember Phillips provided an overview of his agenda item and commented that he believes there should be some consistency in format and procedures. If you look at history, it will be easier to research items if it is all in writing. Additionally, it would be helpful to understand why the action is being taken. Councilmember Phillips proposes we set a standard manner in which we amend or repeal a resolution. Amendments take place more frequently than repealing a resolution. Communities that use a resolution to amend or repeal a resolution include Great Falls, Billings and Helena.

Councilmember Michalson presented item 10c indicating that his proposal mirrors councilmember Phillips proposal. Councilmember Michalson shared his reasons for his proposal and indicated that this can be accomplished by either manner. Councilmember Michalson indicated that there does not appear to be a State Statute or Town ordinance that requires a resolution to be repealed or rescinded by another resolution. Discussion with Town cities, reveal this can be accomplished in either manner. The Town’s Attorney that this may be accomplished by using either methods. Stevensville does not have a history rescinding or repealing a resolution by a resolution. No records of such are in the Town’s resolution book. If a resolution is rescinded or repealed, the easiest way to amend, rescind or repeal a resolution would be to place a clerk’s note, annotated, the date/time stamp, and reference to that particular Council meeting. Councilmember Michalson shared that during his time on Council they only rescinded one resolution. Resolution 366 was rescinded without a resolution. Councilmember Michalson indicated that he talked to various Town Clerks who are mystified why you would need a resolution to rescind a resolution; they said just let old dogs lie. If we rescinded the Park Board and let it go away, Mayor Dewey could call a Park Board meeting down the road. Councilmember Michalson said you can time stamp them and let them lie there, they are dead or you can just let them lie as they are. They are not hurting anything. It gives flexibility to the Mayor or the Council to bring things back up again. But once you take that resolution away, its gone, it takes the flexibility away. Agrees with Mr. Phillips if we want to use a resolution to amend a

resolution that is fine or we can just time stamp them; using a resolution takes the flexibility away from the Council and the Mayor.

Councilmember Michalson suggests a motion that we move that the Council decision to rescind or repeal resolution may be made by a simple Council decision with the requirement that the clerk's note be placed in the resolution book annoting the date, time and Council meeting during which the resolution was repealed and rescinded.

Councilmember Michalson is fine with either one.

Councilmember Barker commented that she likes Michalson's.

Councilmember Barker made a motion to approve resolution 447.

**Councilmember Barker modified her motion and moved to make a motion for the Council decision to rescind or repeal a resolution may be by a simple Council decision with the requirements of the clerk's notes be placed in the resolution book annnotated the date, time and the Council meeting during which the resolution was repealed and rescinded.
Seconded by Councilmember Holcomb**

Councilmember Holcomb has been doing extensive research and could not find anywhere where they suggested a resolution to rescind a resolution, all they said is a resolution remains in effect until rescinded or replaced by. The only thing she could find was the ordinances. You have to have an ordinance to replace an ordinance.

Mayor Dewey commented that it does say in the Government Official's Handbook. That is the place where we found the best guidance for addressing resolutions and that is recommended by the Local Government Center, Dan Clark's office.

Councilmember Phillips commented that his main reason was having consistency, that we have all the facts, why a particular item is going to be rescinded or repealed, in writing. Having that document in the books that told why its being repealed or rescinded.

Councilmember Michalson agree with Phillips, but by keeping it simple in a small town, we don't do it very often. The documentation that you are talking about would be the discussion, decisions that the Council would have at the meeting. It would be part of the audio and the video. She puts the time and date stamp on it, and she goes back into her minutes and she would have that in the minutes where we discussed it, made a decision on it, and then moved on.

Joe Moore, commented that he is confused as it sounds like both proposals are similar. He believes that Council was reading from the code that says a resolution is not a law but usually sets policy? The idea that once a resolution is approved, it never goes away, because it is permanent? So, the issue, according to this, which says "most resolutions require one reading and become effective immediately upon passage". Further on down, it says they are there forever. It says resolutions are permanent records and should never be destroyed. One of the differences he is hearing is that, you want to do it according to the code in terms of Montana Code to stay with the handbook and keep it, because you are both identifying the same basic procedures, but you want to uniform it with the Code in the Montana Handbook. Mr. Michalson, you are saying that you want to make it more informal, we are small town, and we can do it in an informal way, but it's the same thing? Is this correct?

Councilmember Michalson responded yes, that is the way it should be done.

Mr. Moore commented that he has been at these meetings maybe a little more than two years and he has been through previous Mayors even before you were on the Council, it sounds like some of the things that are coming down the pipe with this, would be that we would want to stay within the Handbook, because that becomes the issue of argument as to whether we are following the rules or not. If you become too informal then we are going to be back to where we were before. If you spell it out like it is spelled out here, and we maintain that procedure, basically you are both saying the same thing, but the procedure laid out according to the Montana Handbook would allow us to say on the same page. They are both good, but the procedure, the way the Council has acted in the past, you would rather stick to the letter of the law rather than go with the spirit of the law. Mr. Moore complimented Mr. Michalson for his comment about being a small town and doing things a little easier. Something in the nature gives him hope. If we stuck to the procedure that spelled out the Handbook would help us. Just reading this makes sense.

Mark Adams, 319 College Street, to answer Mr. Moore's comment about the Handbook, it's not law, its recommendations. The County Attorney and Assistant County Attorney, a violation of the handbook is not a violation of State law. If you look at the Montana Code Annotated, they use a system similar to what Stevensville already uses. If you look down the list of laws, every now and then you see revised or rescinded or whatever. They don't go with a separate law.

Joe Moore commented that he agrees, but thinks it's a matter of staying on the same page.

Mayor Dewey responded that it is important to distinguish that resolutions are not law. Resolutions set policies internally.

The vote was called and all voted “aye” Motion passes 4-0.

- c. **Discussion/Decision to approve Resolution 447, adopting policy regarding rescinding or repealing Resolutions for the Town of Stevensville**

Discussed together with agenda item 10b.

- d. **Discussion/Decision to set a Committee of the Whole Meeting(s)**

Mayor Dewey introduced the item.

Councilmember Barker suggests keeping the COW meetings on a Thursday for consistency.

Councilmember Holcomb thinks that special event permits, purchasing policy, and resolution 281a in one meeting and thinks the reorganization plan will take longer.

Councilmember Holcomb moved to schedule a Committee of the Whole Meeting for March 21st at 6:30 we will discuss special event permits, purchasing policy, resolution 281a Council/Attorney contact policy. Seconded by Councilmember Michalson

The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion passes 4-0.

Councilmember Holcomb moved that we schedule Committee of the Whole Meeting for April 4th at 6:30 to discuss Mayor Dewey’s employee reorganization plan. Second by Councilmember Phillips.

The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion passes 4-0.

- e. **Discussion/Decision regarding a Special Event Permit and Alcohol Use Request for the Highland Games**

Mayor Dewey introduced the item and Town Clerk Tribbensee provided a brief overview of the event.

Council asked several questions about the event.

Councilmember Holcomb moved to approve a Special Event Permit and Alcohol Use Request for the Highland Games. Seconded by Councilmember Michalson.

Council asked questions about the condition of the ground if the snow melts in time for the event.

The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion passes 4-0.

11. Executive Report

Mayor Dewey reported on the following:

- A virtual tour of the Town’s website was conducted
 - Councilmember Barker commented that access to the site on a mobile device does not provide access to all of the Town’s site
 - Councilmember Michalson commented that Chapter 15 is still not updated
- Snow removal and flooding update, sandbags and sands available
- Cameras at Lewis and Clark Park are having issues, they intermittently work and the resolution is not as good as hoped
- Successful in obtaining a grant to help with water rights
- Middle Burnt Fork property appraisal update

12. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Holcomb has been doing a lot of soul searching, a lot of researching and she noticed that their side never gets told. So, she is here to tell her side of the story since we continue to be labeled as bullies. For the record, she indicated that she is speaking for herself and not for the other Councilmembers. For over a year we have been trying to coach our Mayor, but every time she says something or sends him an email, he either doesn’t respond or he comes back attacking her. She doesn’t send many emails any more because if she does, she is told that she is either attacking, accusing or bullying the Mayor and the employees. This is just for questioning something that she feels was not done legally by our policies. In her opinion, she does not feel we are bullying anyone just because we are asking questions and trying to get an answer on something that was done. Sorry Mayor, you cannot do things without our consent of the Council, so yes, we are your boss. If you go by the actual powers, she does not know what Brian West gave the Mayor, but the ones you follow are the 7-3-203. Never has the Council been treated this way in the years she has sat at this table. Always digging into our emails, which she knows they are public, and then running to the press or news station with them. We may have had disagreements in the past among the employees, Council and Mayor, but it was never this bad. She has been told several times that when people come to pay their bills, the Mayor’s son is running all over the place and the Mayor is nowhere to be found. Who is watching his son and are they being paid to babysit? Then we sit her and listen to our clerk chastise the Council, accuse Councilmember Michalson of deleting the Dropbox without proof, which is against our guidelines where it says “and free from the abusive language or unsupported allegations”. And because it is a freedom of speech, the Council’s spouses have the right to make comments. This was not appropriate for an employee to do during public comments or even at a public meeting. And for the

Mayor to just sit there and to allow it to happen was wrong. Our Town is looking like a soap opera or better yet a circus. We need to stop this childish game and start working for the citizens of this Town. That is why we were voted to this table to do. It seems like we are always having to defend ourselves and she for one feel we need to move forward. She is not saying anything with the fear of being accused, she is done not saying anything with the fear of being accused of bullying, harassing, attacking and accusing.

Councilmember Barker commented on the approval of minutes. On February 14th we denied the meeting minutes for the January 24th meeting. We asked that the Clerk, Audree make corrections to the public comment section and add her full comments to this section as well as the other citizens who commented and where in detail. These minutes should have been included in this meeting for approval. Again, we are behind in approval of minutes. She asked back in December if we were all caught up for approvals and asked Audree if we were caught up, she replied yes. As a clerk this is something that she should not be lagging in behind. In the three years being on Council, the former clerk/court clerk Stacey Bartlett was never behind on any meeting minutes for any of the Council meetings and COW meetings. This has got to change. We shouldn't have to approve 2 or 3 minute meetings back. She would like to see the change and go forward with this, the way it used to be. She would also like to see that the agenda packets include the claims prior to, two days prior to the meeting. She indicated that Council used to see the preliminary claims sheet and then a final claim sheet. These need to be available to the public to see as well, not the day of the meeting; this will help the public understand how the Town's money is being spent. It would also be nice if the Planning and Zoning Board would also notify us of a new business that is either being built or coming to town. Communication goes a long way and that is one area cannot find to relay to the Council. Construction starting in May on Main Street, the only way she found out that this was happening was through the Main Street Association. What type of construction is going to happen? We have never seen any plans on this. We have never been told that this is going to happen. This is going to affect the whole town; communication again. She knew about it, sure the Town knew about it, and why weren't we notified?

13. Board Report

Mayor Dewey asked Councilmember Michalson to report on the Airport Board meeting this week. Councilmember Michalson commented that he was not able to make the meeting.


Councilmember Holcomb indicated that the TIFID/TEDD Board is meeting next week.

14. Adjournment

Mayor Dewey commented that if the Council is going to keep with the theme that we are free from abusive language and unsupported allegations, then the topic of the Mayor's son is not to be spoken of at this table. Don't bring it up.

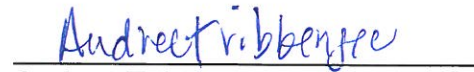
Mayor Dewey adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:50 pm.

APPROVE:



Brandon Dewey, Mayor

ATTEST:



Audree Tribbensee, Town Clerk