

**STEVENSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Council for the Town of Stevensville came together at Council Chambers, this being the time set for the regular meeting of the Town Council. Mayor Ludington called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember's Holcomb, Hunter, Perrin and Crews were all present. There were several members of the public present also.

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

**Approval of minutes from:**

October 22<sup>nd</sup> Town Council Meeting

**Councilmember Holcomb made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Hunter seconded the motion.** Councilmember Hunter noted an error in the December meeting date under New Business Item B. The December meeting date is December 10<sup>th</sup> not the 12<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Bartlett will amend the minutes. **The vote was called and all voted "aye". Motion carried 4-0.**

**Approval of bi-weekly claims:**

Council reviewed the claims as presented.

**Councilmember Perrin made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Councilmember Holcomb seconded the motion and all voted "aye". Motion carried 4-0.**

**Administrative Reports:**

Building

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's report for October.

Fire

Fire Administrative Assistant Brandon Dewey presented the Fire Department report for October.

Streets/Alleys

Streets Supervisor Ed Sutherlin reported on streets and alleys. He then reported on parks, recommending Council address allowing alcohol at the Skate Park, and gave an update of the Lewis & Park bathroom remodel.

Bob Michalson requested the Town address the leaf piles in Town.

Ed then recommended Council address the bicycles being ridden in the skate park.

Council discussed addressing a Skate Park ordinance banning alcohol and bicycles at the next Council meeting.

#### Water/Sewer

Water/Sewer Supervisor George Thomas reported on water and sewer issues.

Discussion was held regarding mitigation of deer at the Airport.

#### Guests:

There were no guests.

#### Correspondence:

Mayor Ludington read the following correspondence into the record:

- Letter from Bob Daniels thanking Town employees for the work they did at his residence.
- Letter from John Munk requesting an audit of the Town's financials be done due to the Mayor, Treasurer and Council members resigning or retiring.
- Letter from William Haley requesting an audit of the Town's financials be done due to the Mayor resignation and upcoming Treasurer retirement.

#### Public Comments:

Chris Weatherly commented on flood irrigation being done at the Fort Owen Ranch this summer causing damage at the State Park. Loren Flynn at FW&P has been informed of this and Chris requested the Town Councils support in making this irrigation practice stop.

Tanya Eckert inquired about the costs of recycling for the Town. She commented on being contacted to find 1-2 volunteers to sort the recycle bins and she did not understand why the Town should have volunteers to do this when the Town is paying so much for this service.

Bob Michalson, Turner Street, commented in support of the Town conducting a financial audit. He then commented on Bitterroot Star not publishing the recent election results.

Leslie Tadvick, 509 Mission Street, commented in support of the Town conducting a financial audit.

John Munk, 401 Central Avenue, commented on being approached by Michael Howell of the Bitterroot Star regarding his letter requesting a financial audit.

James Tadvick, 509 Mission Street, commented in support of a financial audit and encouraged the Mayor and Council to respond to all the requests of a financial audit.

Mayor Ludington commented on the recently completed FY13/14 audit and FY14/15 audit beginning next week. He gave a history of the Town's audits and informed the public that he is completely confident that the state of financials for the Town is in excellent condition. He then commented on the budget, revenue and expenses. All the financials, audits and budget documents are available to any member of the public upon request.

**Unfinished Business:**

**A. Standing Agenda Item: Sewer Project**

**1. Discussion/decision – Change Order No. 3, Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project**

HDR Project Manager Tom Hanou gave an update on the Waste Water Treatment Plant project and informed Mayor and Council of upcoming possible changes they are working on with RD. Tom then presented Change Order No. 3 for a total cost of \$20,824.94.

Discussion was held on the remaining balance of contingency funds for this project.

**Councilmember Perrin made a motion to approve Change Order No. 3, Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project, for a total cost of \$20,824.94. Councilmember Hunter seconded the motion.** Mayor Ludington and Ed Sutherlin commented on the need for the work in this change order. Further discussion ensued regarding filling the oxidation ditch which is not part of this contract. **The vote was called and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.**

**B. Discussion/decision– Resolution No. 365B, A Resolution Amending the Personnel Policy of the Town of Stevensville, Tabled from the October 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Council Meetings**

Mayor Ludington read Resolution No. 365B into the record.

**Councilmember Perrin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 365B, Amending the Personnel Policy of the Town of Stevensville. Councilmember Hunter seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.**

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion/decision – Stevensville Welcome Signage**

Chris Weatherly gave a presentation to Council on Highway 93 Stevensville welcome signs needing urgent repair. He recommended Council look at one of two options, repairing these signs or purchasing new maintenance free signs.

Dan Ritter also commented on the signs and County Contract and recommended the Town, Stevensville Main Street Assn and Ravalli County work together to repair or replace these signs.

Councilmember Perrin gave a history of the signs and their installation.

Further discussion ensued regarding the sign maintenance obligations of the County, the signs possibly being a safety hazard, and contacting the County Commissioners to start a dialogue regarding the signs.

**Councilmember Crews made a motion to table this issue until the Town can send a letter to the County Commissioners addressing the signs. Councilmember Holcomb seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.**

**B. Discussion/decision – Submission of MT Aeronautics Grant Application for the Stevensville Airport Runway Reconstruction Project**  
Morrison Maierle Engineer Shaun Shea reviewed the FAA grant which pays for 90% of the runway reconstruction project costs and presented the MT Aeronautics Grant which will pay for a portion of the remaining 10% obligation of the Town.

**Councilmember Crews made a motion to approve Morrison Maierle’s submission of the MT Aeronautics Grant Application for the Stevensville Airport Runway Reconstruction Project. Councilmember Holcomb seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.**

**C. Discussion/decision – FY1415 Audit Services from Wipfli, LLP**  
Mayor Ludington presented the engagement letter from Wipfli, LLP for FY14/15 audit services for a total cost of \$15,500.

Discussion ensued regarding funds budgeted for this audit and the proposed audit costs.

**Councilmember Perrin made a motion to approve FY14/15 Audit Services from Wipfli, LLP for a total cost of \$15,500. Councilmember Crews seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.**

**D. Discussion/decision – Council Consent of Mayor’s Appointment of Dan Cranston and Mike Mickelson to the Stevensville Police Commission**  
Mayor Ludington presented his appointments for the Police Commission and requested consent of the Council.

**Councilmember Perrin made a motion to consent to Mayor Ludington’s appointment of Dan Cranston and Mike Mickelson to the Stevensville Police Commission. Councilmember Crews seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Motion carried 4-0.**

**Executive Report:**

Mayor Ludington reported on the following items:

- Veterans Day Dinner at the Legion Hall
- Meeting with NorthWestern Energy regarding the new substation and routing of new transmission lines
- Completion of the Skate Park and the grand opening of the Park
- Issues brought forward by the Park Board at the Skate Park
- Upcoming Police and Treasurer interviews
- Mitigation of deer issues at the Airport
- Trailer issues at 518 Church being resolved

Bob Michalson commented on the neglect of Father Ravalli Park and the lack of anything being done to improve this park.

Mayor Ludington requested recently elected Councilmembers Bob Michalson and Stacie Barker to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Council consented to a Committee of the Whole meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**Town Council Comments:**

Councilmember Holcomb commended Raymond Smith and the kids that worked hard getting this park accomplished.

Councilmember Perrin commented on water and sewer infrastructure fees being converted into the water and sewer capital improvement funds.

Councilmember Crews commented on the Charter Communications lease possibly expiring due to the service upgrade project. He then commented on ongoing bear problems, including his sighting of grizzly prints at Father Ravalli Park; and raccoon issues with possible rabies.

**Board Reports**


Councilmember Crews reported the Airport Board did not meet due to lack of quorum.

Councilmember Holcomb reported the Park Board did not meet.

Councilmember Crews congratulated the newly elected Councilmembers.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**

**APPROVE:**

  
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Paul Ludington, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Stacy Bartlett, Town Clerk

