

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023, 6:00 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

CONDENSED MINTUES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Gibson called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Barker, Brown, Lowell, and Michalson.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comments (Public comment from citizens on items that are not on the agenda)

NONE

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting Minutes for 03/23/2023

Mayor Gibson: introduced approval of minutes for 03/23/2023.

Councilmember Barker: make a motion to approve meeting minutes for 03/23/2023.

Councilmember Michalson: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Public comment? Any discussion on the minutes?

Councilmember Michalson: Page 9 paragraph 3, all councilmembers need to say "aye".

Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk: I think that was an item that was not actually voted on, but I will double check that sir.

Councilmember Michalson: Page 15, I can bring it up at the public hearing agenda. You had made a comment that we were going to get back to Nancy about the \$57,000 legislature bill and that we could use that as we see fit, and that it would be on tonight's budget amendments.

Mayor Gibson: I was wrong, it is not on the budget amendments reviewing it further we get it every year.

Councilmember Lowell: what is it?

Robert Underwood: it is the city's share from the state that we get every three months.

Mayor Gibson: further discussion on the minutes, seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Claims #18284-#18311

Mayor Gibson: introduced approval of bi-weekly claims #18284-#18311.

Councilmember Lowell: I will make a motion to approve the bi-weekly claims #18284-#18311.

Councilmember Michalson: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Public comment? Any discussion on the claims?

Councilmember Michalson: supply ditch #18292, \$345.00. I have never seen this on the claims before is this something new, it says a yearly one.

Pam Sosa: I believe that you had it last year.

Councilmember Lowell: it is your supply ditch water rights.

Councilmember Michalson: okay. Claim #18293, Optical Scientific, I know that we said this many times that this is for the AWAS, we always spend so much money on it that is mandatory, we have to have it.

Pam Sosa: Yes, we do, it is an FAA requirement.

Councilmember Michalson: Claim #18305, New Fields, water rights, for \$4,800.00 you had mentioned in the minutes that you would be at a ZOOM meeting with Ross Miller are you going to give us a report.

Mayor Gibson: I was going to give that in the executive report. We are getting close.

Councilmember Barker: #18294, Mountain Air insurance, services, renewal on liability insurance I am assuming that this is part of the airport?

Pam Sosa: Yes.

Councilmember Barker: To touch base, it is not a claim on here but from the prior, Go Daddy Renewal website, you guys were going to meet with Kelly Grimes with First call, did we get a final bid.

Jenelle Berthoud: we went back through, changed a few units that we are not using we should see something before the end of the month.

Councilmember Brown: #18307, more of a question for Jenelle I see that you have for milage to the county clerk and recorder, my question is, is that for recording documents, putting documents into record?

Jenelle Berthoud: that one was too, I met with the developer at the time that were holding the paperwork on a final plat, and I needed to be down there to stamp that.

Councilmember Brown: I was just going to say that there is a program out there that the town might want to look into it is called Simple File and you can upload your documents and they go directly to the clerk and recorder. That might save you some time.

Mayor Gibson: we will look into that; this is the first time it happened. Any other questions on the claims? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

6. Administrative Reports

Mayor Gibson: introduced administrative reports, Tim Smead is on vacation and Steve Kruse is stranded in Florida. We do have the chief and Mr. Motley and Pam is here and if you have any questions on the reports for those people that are here.

Councilmember Barker: I would like to hear the reports.

a. Airport

b. Building Department

c. Finance

d. Fire Department

Chief Motley: gave his report to the council (report was provided in the agenda packet).

Councilmember Lowell: I did not notice on here I was curious on the fireman's disability are you still doing the books Vickie, I noticed that it is not on here for any expenditures it is not even listed the number the 7120. That money goes to the town and then distributed, and I am just curious why it is not listed here because it is state money.

Chief Motley: I think that you will see it in a budget amendment.

Robert Underwood: it is a pass through, theoretically we do not have to put it on there because we have to give it to them, so we don't even get to look at it. You will see on the budget amendment, theirs and the police fund.

Councilmember Lowell: I know that there are two of them, it just seemed odd to me. And how are you doing with your retirees?

Chief Motley: our numbers are staying pretty even, looking at 10-20 years down the road, we will probably stay. We did have an actuary look at it years ago. We have found that the number of

individuals going on retirement and the number of individuals coming off of retirement. We are losing more than what we are putting in. I would be the next one to draw retirement, and after me it is like seven years before another individual can.

e. Police Department

Chief Sosa: gave his report to the council (report was provided in the agenda packet). In coordination with the fire department and the building inspector's office we will be starting with the build out at town hall, that is not going to cost the town anything it is going to come from the funds from the chili cook off. Hope to get that done, the office space that we are currently at expires August 31st, so we have time to get back to town hall.

Mayor Gibson: I just want to add that you talked about this Councilmember Michalson from day one about bringing police back here the community wants to. Mac and everyone else has worked very hard on this in fact it will save us over a \$1,000.00 per month once we get back here.

Councilmember Lowell: you will be in the old police office?

Chief Sosa: we will be in the old police office; we are planning on a 10x30 expansion.

f. Public Works

7. Public Hearing

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 513a, a Resolution Providing for the Amendments, Revisions and Additions of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Councilmember Michalson: I wanted to address something. If you can bear with me for a second, I think that it is important. I missed this too, and fellow member Barker brought this to my attention, and we need to look into it. It has to do with the discussion decision where you have a public hearing and an agenda item all in the same format. On 9/1/22 we had a public hearing and then below that we went to new business and that is where we had the discussion. And then on 9/8/22 we had a public hearing and then below we adopted the budget. 9/28/22 we had a public hearing and had the audit and everything on one. I started to look into and all that I could find is that you can vote on it but you can't vote on it, unless to suspend. So, I went to the council rules and the council rules say the same thing, just to get it right, I don't have a problem doing it this way, but I think that we should have it legal.

Mayor Gibson: Robert, this is the way that we talked about it. We have multiple years here it is part of the audit. We have to do this.

Jenelle Berthoud: I need to answer this, if I understand you correctly Councilmember Michalson you want to see that they are discussing the three items and then voting under new business. That is what you are implying.

Councilmember Michalson: correct.

Jenelle Berthoud: I had just gone off of how we had done the last budget amendment. I totally see what you are saying.

Councilmember Michalson: I had gone back to 2016 and that is how we had done it.

Jenelle Berthoud: I apologize for that I had it done it that way because I just copied what we had done. You guys are going to have to decide if we are going to continue on with this or if it is going to be tabled and moved to the next council meeting now. It has already had a public hearing, so you guys have to decide.

Councilmember Barker: from here forward I think as a public hearing it is a discussion not a decision then it needs to go to new business, I think that tonight we go ahead and do what we have and then follow.

Councilmember Michalson: that is what I said.

Mayor Gibson: it is up to you, I don't care.

Councilmember Barker: you do care I hear you say this, you do care.

Mayor Gibson: excuse me, I do care, we have to get it done, I don't care on how you do it is what I am saying. That is all that I said.

Councilmember Michalson: from here on out I would like to go the way it was before where we have a public hearing close the public hearing and then go to new business.

Mayor Gibson: introduced public hearing item a. Resolution No. 513a, a Resolution Providing for the Amendments, Revisions and Additions of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve Resolution No. 513a, a Resolution Providing for the Amendments, Revisions and Additions of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Public comment? Robert, we are going to need you to explain, how do you want to.

Robert Underwood: I can explain, this is for budget amendment for this fiscal year, remember we passed a budget amendment there was a discussion about the ARPA money and that we were going to have to move money to pay for our portion of the grant, we have not gotten that money yet, so we have kind of screwed up our numbers. We may get that money by the end of the year. What it also did is when the audit was done it has now changed the numbers. What we are going to do, I will go through them one by one, there is some wording that is off. Increase the general fund and that was for the audit increase and insurance, and we forgot to calculate the employer contributions. We already passed that; the wording should say expenditure increase fund 1000.

Mayor Gibson: please make clear what you want that to say so that the council can amend that.

Robert Underwood: needs to have the addition of the word "increase".

Councilmember Lowell: this is from what type of money?

Robert Underwood: from the general fund.

Councilmember Lowell: so, you are not transferring from somewhere else?

Robert Underwood: we will be. That same issue goes to the next one, all of the ones that are lined out are the ones from before and we are not having to do this now. We go to the second page, same amount as we had before.

Councilmember Lowell: the thing that had me confused on this particular one, ARPA and you are putting it into the general and it is water.

Jenelle Berthoud: they are looking at the original one.

Robert Underwood: this was done from the last administration, we received two different monies, he put it in the American rescue fund, and it just sat there.

Mayor Gibson: I think that part of the confusion is the ARPA and the American rescue fund. There is the recent ARPA money for leaks and there was the American rescue money that was already here.

Robert Underwood: that was already passed, and nothing has changed in that one, the only thing that I would change is that same wording, expenditure "increase" in fund 5210 water.

Jenelle Berthoud: I need to clarify something, Mr. Underwood provided you at the table the original resolution to compare, you guys are looking at the 513 and that might be where you are getting confused.

Councilmember Lowell: I don't have page 42.

Jenelle Berthoud: Nancy you have 513a in front of you and the 513 is the original one that was made, Mr. Underwood made you copies to compare to.

Councilmember Michalson: 513a is the modification one, correct.

Robert Underwood: correct, it has been the same as the one in the past, at the bottom of page 2, to the expenditures we forgot to add in Mr. Netzley contract and the increase in insurance, building fund, water fund, sewer fund. We added these. On the next page you can see the increase on the master plan for airport, when we get that money, it comes in and then goes out for the project. The next three are new ones, the drug forfeiture account.

Councilmember Michalson: the marijuana money you said that we were going to get that.

Mayor Gibson: we have not seen it yet.

Robert Underwood: we have gotten about \$3,000.00 from the state, but no paper from the state to verify that. The gaming money we get paperwork on that. That is different from the drug forfeiture fund. The next one is for the bond fund, let's go one below that, the fireman's fund. It is just a pass-through amount, let's go back up to the bond payment fund, this came out in the audit, since the bond payment is an expense of the water fund back in the day they set two

different funds, it says on the bill, water and sewer, the auditor looked at it and we can put it into one. We have to show by resolution for the ARPA fund where our match is coming from.

Councilmember Lowell: if it is a water payment you can only use that for water. You can't combine them.

Robert Underwood: not according to the auditors, this is a revenue fund, he is going to come and explain this to us at the next meeting. We had some audit findings on this about the water and sewer.

Councilmember Lowell: that is what they always say, but it seems that there is plenty of money.

Robert Underwood: theoretically our water bond costs \$91,000.00 per year and we collect more than that, so I have been trying to fight this since I have been here, and nobody wants to touch water and sewer. I have always said that we don't make enough money and then we go in the hole and now we have an audit finding because we have not met our bound requirements in either of those funds.

Councilmember Lowell: I just can't believe that the water and sewer aren't self sufficient they always have been it is a revolving.

Robert Underwood: there has not been an increase in two years.

Councilmember Lowell: even without an increase I think that there is still enough money that it certainly should not be going in the hole. There is too much spending on other things.

Robert Underwood: we have had Montana Rural water come in twice and they have said we are not making it.

Mayor Gibson: actually, it will come up next meeting from the auditor, the auditor is making a recommendation that we make an increase.

Councilmember Lowell: I would really hate to see that, because there are so many people struggling right now, \$100.00 per month is a huge amount, just my thought.

Mayor Gibson: I agree, there will be time to address this with the auditor.

Robert Underwood: increase that for the project, so this will show the people with the state where our match is coming from. Transfer from the American rescue into the general fund and that was one to cover, audit, utility increase and insurance, and it also puts it in the general fund with what is remaining. The last one that we forgot in the budget and to make it simpler in 2021 the prior mayor decided to pay all of the gas out of the street fund, and we needed to reimburse that from water and sewer.

Mayor Gibson: How are you proposing the amendment read.

Robert Underwood: on page one it should say increase, on the second page it should say the same thing.

Mayor Gibson: can we have a motion to amend that?

Councilmember Barker: where does it put some of those funds at then when we do all of these amendments right now.

Robert Underwood: that is a huge discussion that we were going to go over, give them the (unclear audio) this is before moving the funds, we are not in the hole at the top, I have two tax vouchers, but they don't match so I am waiting to talk with Dan Whitesitt.

Mayor Gibson: I am going to ask the council and Robert if we took a brief recess and write out what you want.

Robert Underwood: one more thing, as long as I have worked here, we have always been at 3.4 million and now we are about \$500,000 ahead.

Mayor Gibson: We are better than we have ever been at this time. Can we have a recess, how long would it take? Can you do this in about 10 minutes.

Councilmember Barker: is it just a lot of missed on our part or missed on things that were to come through and did not come through.

Robert Underwood: we caught that early on, and we did the budget amendments. As we did the AFR, it kind of balanced out everything, it was a timing thing.

Councilmember Lowell: why are we transferring money from water and sewer, they both have a lot of money in them.

Robert Underwood: we are not transferring into them, the only ones that we are transferring to are the general fund and the capital improvement fund.

RECESS TO CORRECT WORDING IN RESOLUTION 513a TO PRESENT BACK TO COUNCIL

Mayor Gibson: called the meeting back to order. Asked the council to review the changes that were just made. You have the proposed language in front of you, take some time to review it.

Councilmember Michalson: are we going to make a motion and a 2nd on the highlighted.

Councilmember Michalson: I make a motion to approve the amendment of 513a of an increase in the general fund.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd, any further discussion on that amendment. Seeing none, public comment. Jenelle, we are taking the vote on that amendment.

Councilmember Michalson:

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

Councilmember Michalson: I make a motion to amend Resolution 513a to include expenditure increase to fund 5210.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: we have a motion and a 2nd, any further discussion on that amendment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0. That covers the amendments and now we are back to passing Resolution 513a as amended.

Councilmember Michalson: I make a motion to approve Resolution 513a to include the amendments that we just approved.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Any further discussion, seeing no public comment. Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

b. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 516, a Resolution Providing for the Amendment of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Mayor Gibson: introduced public hearing item b. Resolution No. 516, a Resolution Providing for the Amendment of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve Resolution No. 516, a Resolution Providing for the Amendment of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Councilmember Lowell: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Questions for Robert?

Councilmember Barker: So, looking at some of these, where are we sitting at on those funds again, the one question was the Jean Thomas Fund. We are amending this so where does it put that fund at.

Robert Underwood: the cash balances that I handed out, this is money that is already spent.

Councilmember Barker: this is stuff that was done by the prior council.

Mayor Gibson: Robert correct me if I am wrong, I think when they gave the money to the splash pond.

Robert Underwood: it looks like we spent \$164,000 in the general fund, the problem was we received CARES money and we bought computers and fixed the door over here, those should have been reimbursements. We should have reimbursed with a journal voucher, and it did not get done, the AFR did not get done, it fell through the cracks after the election. Jean Thomas, \$25,000 to the water park, there was no budget amendment for that and \$11,400 for the new playground and cedar fence at Father Ravalli Park.

Mayor Gibson: but there is still money left in the Jean Thomas Fund.

Councilmember Barker: \$16,000.00 which is a shame, and that money should have come to the Park Board.

Robert Underwood: and the last one was the capital improvement which was the police car. Bottom line is we bought two police cars over those two years, and it took so long that one of them went into the next year.

Mayor Gibson: just remember that this is all 20/21.

Councilmember Barker: can the prior council be held accountable for these type of things that we are now dealing with I mean it is a question, we are now having to come back and take care of some of these funds that are in the negative. It is a question and asked by many, can we go back at the prior council.

Mayor Gibson: maybe that is a question for Mr. Overstreet.

Councilmember Barker: after going for training for stuff in the past, whoever goes past that in that fund is held accountable for it, why can't we as a town hold these people accountable for what they have done.

Robert Underwood: I do know that the town can be sued by a citizen, it happened in Kalispell.

Councilmember Barker: we are looking at so many of these accounts, it is putting a big strain on everything.

Mayor Gibson: I agree 100% again I don't see how we could do that.

Greg Overstreet, Town Attorney: I don't know the specific answer, even if there were a way to have previous councilmembers or members of the administration, I would be surprised if they were held personally responsible, and the other thing is the town would need to file a suit and that would cost a lot of money and then if a suit was filed, we could be flagging a way for other

people to sue the town and then the town would have to cross sue the councilmembers that in their personal life probably don't have the money, so I guess what I am saying is the litigation process would be very inefficient, it is not a great way to resolve disputes generally.

Councilmember Barker: we have to be very diligent, having these reports in front of us all the time. So, we know where we are standing. I think right now that it is so random that we are seeing them. I think that the taxpayers of the town are the ones that are going to suffer from this.

Mayor Gibson: I think not from a legal standpoint. The other unfortunate thing is some of these people that were paid are not responsible and they have been paid and that would become an issue too. I don't disagree with you when you have a chance, and you look where we are at with the current budget we are doing really well. It has been tough, and next year might be tighter, I don't disagree with you, I just don't see how we can go back.

Councilmember Michalson: we were talking out there about the audit and on the building code it has to do with the excess, what happens there.

Robert Underwood: we have it every year. If it gets passed there is a legislature bill.

Mayor Gibson: there is a bill going through the legislature right now, that could give some more spending authority for that money which would be a good thing.

Councilmember Michalson: basically, this has already been spent and now we are cleaning up the previous administration's mistakes and putting everything back into place.

Robert Underwood: these will be in the audit; it is not hiding anything it is just cleaning up some paperwork.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

c. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 517, a Resolution Providing for the Amendment of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item c. Resolution No. 517, a Resolution Providing for the Amendment of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve Resolution No. 517, a Resolution Providing for the Amendment of the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Any questions for Robert on 517.

Councilmember Brown: this is more or less the same reason?

Robert Underwood: this all had to do with 3rd Street. Overage.

Mayor Gibson: any other questions on 517? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

8. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Draft Letter to Owner of Phase I Burnt Fork Estates on the use of the Logan Lane for Construction

Mayor Gibson: introduced unfinished business item a. Draft Letter to Owner of Phase I Burnt Fork Estates on the use of the Logan Lane for Construction. I received a call from former Councilmember Wolff and Mr. Overstreet. It should say Sassafras not Syringa. You can proceed how you wish but for your information in the past couple of weeks someone has bought two of those lots and they are going to be doing the building of those places and it will not be Mr. Jessop. I am not saying don't send this letter, I am just saying that he has sold two and he knows that he has to pull building permits. You can move forward with this and that is fine, and we will do that, but just wanted to let you know.

Councilmember Barker: so, on all of the lots it is a different builder?

Mayor Gibson: just two, according to the person that bought these two lots the other lots are not for sale at this time. I don't know if that means Mr. Jessop is going to build houses or someone else.

Councilmember Lowell: I drove by there and I would think that it would be easier to use Logan where they have their gate.

Mayor Gibson: if you recall, Councilmember Barker brought this from the homeowner's association (HOA) that they requested that they not use Creekside Drive that comes into Sassafras for construction because they have another access off of Logan.

Councilmember Lowell: I would think that it would be easier for the trucks to get in there instead of in Creekside.

Mayor Gibson: if you look at it closely what they did was move the cow fence and I am assuming that it is still their intent to put cows out there. If you want to send this letter to Mr. Jessop, he is not going to be building those two houses, however he might be building other houses.

Councilmember Barker: I personally feel that we should move forward with the letter, he is aware that this has been a discussion, we don't know what his intentions are.

Mayor Gibson: there are four lots left there.

Councilmember Barker: at least we have made that attempt to put this out there.

Mayor Gibson: if you want to make a motion and a 2nd to send the letter with the corrections. Syringa to Sassafras.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve the draft letter to the owner of Phase I Burnt Fork Estates on the use of the Logan Lane for Construction

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd. Public comment?

Jim Kalkofen: Creekside resident. I think that this letter to the developer is important, I think that it is important to the new owners of the lots when they apply for their building permits that they also see that same letter, maybe it could be attached to the building permit because they will have access to come through Logan Lane as well and another reason is there is a possibility that the developer want to proceed with all of the ponds, and holding ponds he would be coming in with big machines and that would be another reason to use the access off of Logan. The other thing that is important is the covenants for Creekside homeowners is that building is allowed from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm and no building on Sundays and we would as a homeowners group that would be understood by a developer.

Mayor Gibson: two things that we can do, and Jenelle remind me. We will send this letter and when that individual comes in, we can do that we will give him a copy of that. We did have a different meeting where we brought that up with Mr. Jessop about the times but again it is going to be up to him, but the town ordinance does not address that, I agree with you, but we will let the new owner know when he comes in to start getting building permits, he is going to have to hook up meters etc. we will give him the same letter. Any other public comment, seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote. This authorizes Mr. Overstreet to go ahead and send that letter.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: no

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: 3-1

b. Discussion/Decision: Corrections to the Personnel Policy Manual

Mayor Gibson: introduced unfinished business item b. Corrections to the Personnel Policy Manual, we just missed this after MMIA, we can't force someone to take vacation or sick leave during parental leave. They can take it without pay, the other section was from the previous administration, and I think that it happened with a few people and the town paid and you can't do that. The town paid for someone's parental leave, and after checking you can't do that. It came out of the town budget, and you can't do that.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve the corrections of the personnel policy manual.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2nd, public comment, seeing none, any further discussion. Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

9. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Renee Endicott to the Town of Stevensville Park Board

Mayor Gibson: introduced new business item a, Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Renee Endicott to the Town of Stevensville Park Board.

Councilmember Barker: make a motion for the Consent to the Mayor's Appointment of Renee Endicott to the Town of Stevensville Park Board.

Councilmember Lowell: 2nd.

Mayor Gibson: Motion and a 2nd, any discussion, seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0, so Councilmember Barker is your board full now?

Councilmember Barker: we still have one more left, and I think that it might be filled.

Councilmember Michalson: does it have to be outside of town?

Councilmember Barker: no.

10. Board Reports

Councilmember Brown: two airport board meetings. April 5 and April 11. The airport board approved the leases for Skydive MT. so now that can go to the council. There was discussion to move the CARES money to pay for a credit card bill from last year for mowing and they are not sure if that was already done, Robert you might know.

Robert Underwood: the tractor bill is already paid you guys had that discussion with Tim. There is \$30,000 in CARES money for the airport, so I have to take the biggest bills for the airport and now that I have some time next week, I can put those in there and they can reimburse us. Tractor, AWOS bills from last year.

Councilmember Brown: they wanted to move the money from the airport board into the general to pay for that. They did have several guests at the meeting, the Stevensville Airport Foundation, they will be moving forward with the memorandum of understanding with the county to see if they still want to do the gravel pit up there. With all of the money from that going into the airport fund.

Mayor Gibson: excuse me, can I just comment on that. On the gravel pit, we had the attorney review that some time ago and the issue was it would have to go out for bid, if they want to bring this forward, the county had made a proposal so much money for the gravel pit and put a fence and you reviewed it and it would probably have to go out for bid, if they want to bring it that is fine but we will give the legal opinion and I believe that the airport director was aware of that.

Councilmember Brown: the other thing that was on my radar was the agreement with the forest service will expire at the end of December and they would really like to get that renewed. The SAMS registration is coming up and needs to be completed by the end of May, Robert, I understand that you are aware of that.

Robert Underwood: I got an email.

Councilmember Brown: thank you. They are also trying to work on getting the airport curtesy car grant with the state, they formed a committee, and they will be looking at it and I understand that there is still money there. But there were some changes to the Montana code so that has to be looked into. They do need the budget information to turn into the FAA. They did not have one to turn into the FAA since 2019 for the grants and in the grants, they need to see the budget.

Councilmember Michalson: the audit Cindy.

Councilmember Brown: the audit, thank you. They need to turn that into FAA so that they are in compliance with the grants, they also want to make sure that they still have approximately

\$45,000 that has not been touched in the CARES, ARPA money that has been earmarked for the airport.

Robert Underwood: it is about \$30,000, that is the money that I talked about that has to be drawn down.

Councilmember Michalson: I have a question and it has to do with Planning & Zoning, anything?

Jenelle Berthoud: you guys go ahead and inform me if you want to hold a meeting still this month, same for Park Board or if you just want to schedule for next month. Nothing
Councilmember Michalson.

Mayor Gibson: I think that you can start with your board to look at the previous growth policy look at the information from Hamilton and I think that we contacted League of Towns to see if they knew of anybody.

Councilmember Michalson: Greg Chilcott mentioned Garland Cummings or something like that down there that worked part time. And Greg mentioned that he would talk to him.

Jenelle Berthoud: I have not.

Councilmember Barker: I did get word that we had put in for the Rapp Family Foundation Grant and that did come through, we are planning on putting in for another one as well.

Mayor Gibson: Jenelle you talked to the head of the Civic Club, and they know that they have to bring the Splash Pad to the council. They are waiting to change that surface.

Jenelle Berthoud: they are going to possibly be doing that next week.

Mayor Gibson: But that has to come to you, the council, for your approval.

11. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Lowell: I was just looking at we still have three months on the budget, do you think that we are going to have more amendments, do you think that you are holding steady with the bills that are coming in or do you think that it is time to put a freeze on spending until the end of the budget.

Mayor Gibson: you have on your table; we are at 75% and 63% spent. I think that the biggest things that you brought up tonight and a lot of these have been one-time expenditures. I think that would be the only thing that would make a difference. We still have Dustin's position and another police officer position.

Councilmember Lowell: something coming up, the pool will open, and I don't know how many people you have there and that will be an expense. An expense getting it going, I just think that it is very nice, I call it the free money, to clean up the accounts and next year there is not going to be that money and there maybe will be some cuts somewhere.

Mayor Gibson: I agree but I do want to thank all of the department heads, and Robert, we had kind of a mess here, with the increase in utilities and fuel and all of those things and a more expensive audit. To be at 63% at 75% of the year I think that we need to thank all of the employees.

Councilmember Lowell: I just was not sure if there were big things coming up, there is still three months.

Mayor Gibson: not that I know of, but we will look.

Councilmember Lowell: I just think that it is important to prepare for next year because I think that it is going to be a very difficult year with the budget.

Councilmember Michalson: speaking of the budget do you have an idea when we will get started.

Mayor Gibson: Nancy talked a little bit about it, we don't want to start too early because we do not know what the revenues are, my intent is to start at the end of May. But again, the stuff that has to go to Regina, lighting districts that is not until the end of August, we want to be careful that the time that they passed the budget on July 1st they did not know what the revenues were. Again, we don't want to overestimate the revenues.

Councilmember Lowell: I think that happened this year.

Mayor Gibson: what happened last year, if I recall when they built the school, we had a lot of money that year for building permits, like \$180,000 and that is kind of the same amount of money that was projected the next year. Revenues are very important, and our intent is the end of May.

Councilmember Barker: I know that you say you want to bring everything to a council meeting, and I think that we really need to focus on having our COW meetings, that way we can discuss in between our council meetings.

Mayor Gibson: we can look at that in May.

Councilmember Barker: I think that we have to have at least a couple of them to discuss the budget.

Mayor Gibson: just get it to Jenelle when you want it and I would say May, end of May would be better.

Councilmember Barker: just so that we have them.

Mayor Gibson: that is good, sure.

12. Executive Report

Mayor Gibson: I do have a few things, positive and a sad one, on the executive report. I think that I have mentioned some of these before, we have talked about Spring Street and streets and there is a bill that is going through the senate right now and it is in the house, were we typically get \$36,000 BARSAs money this bill when you do the calculations for Stevensville, we could get \$350,000 which we have had discussions about Spring Street, they call it the pothole bill. There is another one about building permit money. at the next meeting the auditor will be here, and we will write our responses by Monday and Bob the auditor will be here to present. When Mr. Kruse gets back, we want to start the bid process, my intent is I want to do the leak thing first. On the water rights, it went to water court about two weeks ago and we have been working with

Ross Miller on objections, it is all goes well we could have that settled by September. Streaming of the meetings, next week we will be changing to YouTube, no more Facebook, the streaming will be on YouTube next meeting.

Jenelle Berthoud: you can access that through our home page on the Stevensville website.

Councilmember Michalson: no more Facebook.

Jenelle Berthoud: it is on the website, just go to the YouTube link and that is where you can watch live. Thanks to Municode and First Call. It is super easy.

Mayor Gibson: Jenelle researched this, and a lot of other communities are doing this.


Councilmember Michalson: didn't Brandon have a You Tube?

Jenelle Berthoud: I think so, I was a police clerk then and so I did not have any connection with that, but I think that you are right.

Mayor Gibson: the final thing, Pam Sosa is leaving and she will be here for the next meeting, Pam, I have been in this business a long time, I have never seen someone, no I have seen Jenelle and some of our other employees, Pam has been so dedicated to the Town of Stevensville, she always has a smile on her face, works great with the public, she had a learning curve and it is amazing on how much she learned in the short amount of time that she was here. I am going to miss her very much.

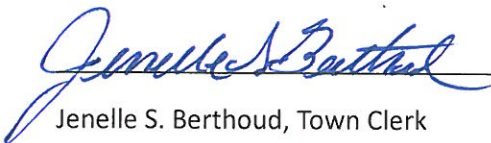
13. Adjournment

APPROVE:



Steve Gibson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk