

## Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023, 6:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

### CONDENSED MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Gibson called the meeting to order, Councilmember Barker, Brown, Lowell and Michalson were all present.

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 09/28/2023

Mayor Gibson: introduced town council meeting minutes for 09/28/2023.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve the town council meeting minutes for 09/28/23.

Councilmember Lowell: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Public comment? Further discussion? seeing none, Jenelle please call for 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 #18605-18614, 18616-18633.

Mayor Gibson: introduced claims #18605-18614, 18616-18633.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to approve claims #18605-18614, 18616-18633.

Councilmember Barker: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Public comment on the claims? Further discussion? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: no.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 3-1

6. Administrative Reports

a. Airport

Will Rowe: out of state. Report in the packet.

b. Building Department

c. Finance

d. Fire Department

Chief Motley: in your packet you have a copy of the stats. We are right on pace for what we were last year. October is fire safety month at the school.

e. Police Department

Chief Schafer: report was provided to the council at their table. You have two months of reports in front of you. Officer Frandsen is back from paternity leave. Officer Kopsa is at the school and would like to continue pursuing that role.

f. Public Works

Steve Kruse: out of state. Report in the packet.

7. Guests

a. MDT-updates on current & planned projects

Joel Broche, MDT Missoula District: Bob sends his apologies that he cannot be here. North of Stevensville is the biggest project for us. Getting closure on that project, 2025 or 2026 working on our funding for the Stevensville project. I know that there are some questions about sidewalks painted, weather permitting paint this fall. Four-way stops are being looked at and back on our radar.

Mayor Gibson: that is 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main and Eastside and Main.

Joel Broche: that is my responsibility, and I apologize as I am working through all of this. Been here since January and still learning. Any questions for me?

Mayor Gibson: just making sure that we have some follow up about Eastside and Main and 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main.

8. Correspondence

NONE.

9. Public Hearings

a. Discussion: FY 2023/2024 Town of Stevensville Budget

Mayor Gibson: introduced the public hearing section of the agenda. Robert, if you want to do a presentation and then we will open it up to public comment. And as we go through this process if the council wished to propose amendments that is fine, what you want to take out but if you want to add in have an idea where the money comes from, it is pretty tight. I want to give a brief overview of where we would could have been. When I first got here, Mr. Michalson you were here, Stacie, you were here and Cindy, you were here. There was a transportation contract that was a little vague, not with the department of transportation \$95,000, did not do it, there was a contract for \$26,000.00 per year for Mysidewalk, which none of the staff used, it was not necessary, did not do it. \$11,000.00 Target Solutions, staff did not use did not do it. Pass two audits that were past due, we were kind of held hostage, cost us \$140,000.00. there was an administrative assistant position here there was a community development position there were a couple of other positions, never filled. It looks like those position were filled with one time CARES money the money wasn't there. There was a sale of land, three years ago. Bob, do you remember when that was? \$230,000.00 the money was not there; I assume that it was used to fund positions. In my opinion it should have been, just like the fire department and the chief it should have been put in capital, it wasn't, and it is gone. Covid money, during that time, the police officers salaries were paid with Covid money and that was about another \$200,000.00. with all of that in mind we are in pretty good shape, it is tight but think of where we could have been. That is all that I have.

Robert Underwood: I would like to add one more thing to that. Inflation over the past two years has really taken a hit on the town. Gasoline, power, etc. couple of admin notes really quick. I know that there are some questions about the funds/object numbers. The funds are really what the accountants worry about, and the object codes are what the department heads worry about. The department can move money around within the object funds. The object allows us to track where we are spending the money so next year we know how much we have spent. It is just not locked into that fund. Then sometimes we have to put in a new object code when we spend something different from next year.

Gina Crowe, Finance Officer: those object codes I printed out for you, and they are on the desk there, and that is what he is talking about as far as object codes.

Robert Underwood: also, in this budget there is a .40 raise per employee that would start on January 1, 2024. In this budget there is no overtime for any employee, one thing that we are going to have to stop using is the matrix. It has not kept up with the times, it was done about three years ago. We combined the gas tax and BaRSSA tax as per the state, this last year they have combined the two funds into one check, and we do not have to apply for BaRSSA money. in this budget we are closing our economic development fund and putting it in the general fund, we have not used the economic development fund in two years that is something that Dewey

put in. we added \$13,000.00 to the fire fighter retirement fund that is money that the town gives to the firefighters for their retirement.

Councilmember Lowell: where did you come up with the \$13,000.00?

Robert Underwood: it comes out of, the figures that they come up with is from the fund, so they give us a figure based on what they have in their fund.

Councilmember Lowell: can I ask Jeff how many retirees that you have now. Do you know?

Chief Motley: I believe that it is eight.

Councilmember Lowell: and how much do they get?

Chief Motley: it varies amongst the retirees, we have some that retired early, and some have a part time pension and a 30-year pension, so it ranges from \$130.00- \$225.00.

Councilmember Lowell: so, it has not changed much, do you feel that you are kind of short in that fund because of not planning for people to be retiring. Is that what happened?

Chief Motley: no, they changed that, and we have had to spend down our account over the past seven years, we are now in a situation where we have to have an amount and the \$13,000.00 helps with the fiscal year and puts us into compliance for the minimal amount.

Councilmember Lowell: then you can plan for the auditor and have three more people retiring.

Chief Motley: I will be the next person to retire and then after myself it is another seven years.

Councilmember Lowell: so, you do not have a particular number. Thank you.

Councilmember Michalson: is this part of the rural' s retirement plan. "double dipping" is what they call it.

Chief Motley: the rural is paid out of state. We only pay for those that meet the qualifications of years of service and hours per year.

Councilmember Michalson: so, we do pay for some of those.

Chief Motley: there is a chance out of the district could be put into the towns retirement, that was put in by resolution several years ago.

Robert Underwood: also, we are going to transfer into the ambulance fund because they are in the negative, and the capital fund. Also, to the airport from the TEDD fund, we do that every year. We also transferring \$5,500 for both the water and sewer fund to cover the cost of the fuel. We are also transferring from the water bond fund to the water project fund to match the ARPA funds.

Mayor Gibson: the first ARPA came out for bid. November is the final date.

Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk: yes, that is correct. November 3, 2023, at 10:30 is the closing and that is the first of the projects.

Robert Underwood: the next three are to clean up the water and sewer funds, the auditor says that it is not worth keeping them separate, so we will combined them. Robert referred to the chart provided to the council, revenue vs expenditures. The biggest concern would be the airport fund. They are going to have

Councilmember Lowell: on your water fund is it due to overdue billings?

Robert Underwood: we have been losing for the past 4 years. That was caught on the audit last year. We need to have a rate study. I recommend that we put the two funds together, making the system easier. This budget keeps funding three police officers and the last one I will let you read that. Revenue and Expenditures sheets, proposed revenues and proposed expenditures and the remaining cash at the end of the year. The reserve amounts of what we are supposed to have in those accounts at the end of the year. For the whole town we start out at about 3.7 million and draws down about \$800,000.00. If we go by just the bank fund, the general fund about \$436,000.00 in the general fund and get about \$800,000 in revenue. A drop of about \$196,000.00 we will still meet the required amount in the general fund. That is not adding in the economic development fund of \$22,000.00. you add that in, and you will still have some money left over for next year. The next one that I would draw your attention to is drawing down the building department fund by about \$20,000.00. When you look at the water and sewer funds the water fund is just about \$172,000.00 hit that is what appears, the sewer fund is about \$4,000.00 we are making money off the sewer fund and losing money off of the water fund. Once you add the bond money to it, it does not look as bad. The biggest concern of the whole thing would be the airport fund, it starts out at \$89,000.00 spends down and then will have in the end about \$16,000.00. they are going to have a hard time next year finding funds. That is an overview of the funds, any questions.

Councilmember Lowell: on your water fund, is it due to overdue billing?

Robert Underwood: we have been losing money in the water fund for the last 4 ½ years. They even caught it in the audit, we are not keeping up with it. That was an audit finding last year. They need to look at where the raise is going to be.

Councilmember Lowell: it just seems so foreign to me that the water would be, it is a pretty easy self-sufficient fund I just don't understand how it is losing.

Mayor Gibson: we have some other issues, Melanie is not here, Gina and Jenelle have been dealing with it, it goes back to this meter thing we have false readings way out, false readings down. At the beginning of summer, we have people being billed for 83.44 and on the flip side they are being billed for \$1,000.00-\$6,0000.00. you approved those new meters, and they are not here yet. There are some real problems on how these are being read, when Melanie is back, we are going to have a meeting with Black Mountain and the billing people. It has been a problem ever since I was here and I am sure that it was before also, when we came in a couple of years ago, we have enforced better past due bills.

Robert Underwood: to add to that we have not increased the rates for water and sewer. In over three years. We have not added to anything else but the O&M amount. The cost of things have gone up, the amount of energy that we use to pump the water.

Councilmember Lowell: we are so low income here; I do not know how some people can make it. You hear raise and that is a tough deal, this is so much more than others.

Mayor Gibosn: Robert touched on this earlier, the claims every month. If you look at what we pay to run those pumps, electric bills. This goes back to the ARPA project. if we can fix some of those leaks, a lot of them, it is going to help all of us.

Robert Underwood: any more questions on the big picture. We are going to start on the salaries.

Mayor Gibson: before you begin on the salaries, you see the police chief, I think that is the old police chief.

Robert Underwood: that is what is in the budget, and if we hire another one in April that would be the possible amount. If you look at the pay matrix, you see hourly wages for everyone, that number reflects a .20 raise for everyone and to make this chart up I gave it a .40 starting in January.

Councilmember Michalson: so, it is not retroactive?

Robert Underwood: no, it is not.

Mayor Gibson: we have talked about this before, I use the police department as an example. The last police officer that we hired was \$20.00 per hour and that officer has a degree in criminal justice. Other agencies pay more and then some day someone is going to have to look at is that the other departments have 20-year retirement. We have 30-year retirement. I know that it costs more, but if you have young officers like we do. Besides the 20-year retirement they can do and make more doing the same thing, what would you do. You see all the signs for \$20.00 per hour, we can't compete, it is a retention issue. We have a really good police force right now, they might be looking, we can't continue. We want to have a police force we have to do something.

Councilmember Lowell: it seems to me that there would be somewhere in the general fund that could be cut back and give the police officers, is it just the monetary amount or the retirement or both.

Chief Schafer: it is all, in the past year. Missoula just got a raise; detention officers are starting at \$34.00/hour. Ravalli county just got a raise, \$27.00. City of Hamilton just got a raise, \$26.00 per hour. I go to work every day thinking that I could die, I don't want to go that many years thinking that. 30 year is a long time, most departments are 25 and around here it is 20.

Robert Underwood: it is just about a \$9,000.00 increase to the PERS retirement for the officers to make it a 20-year retirement. It is not huge, but in this budget it is.

Councilmember Lowell: I think that definitely that is something that should be done in the future, and I don't know why it has not been done already.

Mayor Gibson: people have said before I was here that it was a much higher cost to go to that retirement, than what it really was.

Robert Underwood: also, on the salary matrix you will see that the benefits for the town have gone up and we are covering that. They also have that benefit of PERS. The total of that is the



compensation for working here, but we are behind in a few areas. You also see the honorariums. The only change to that would be we have an airport manager that is not an employee, he is only \$1,000.00 per month stipend and that is going to save the airport money. Will is doing a great job.

Mayor Gibson: I think that is half then what it was before.

Robert Underwood: no benefits this time. Doing a great job.

Councilmember Michalson: are you proposing to knock you salary down to \$1250 per month?

Mayor Gibson: \$15,000.00 I am glad that you asked. I surveyed through the League and Towns, 15 communities. (Mayor read the amounts that mayors make in towns our size.) That is what mayors make in towns our size, we are still above.

Robert Underwood: is there any other questions about salaries? You can see the funds that each of the salaries come from.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Tadvick: 509 Mission Street, there has been discussion in the past about the sheriff's department taking over. That would save us some money, we just a training program for other agencies. My suggestion is to contact the sheriff's department.

Mayor Gibson: Officer Schafer and Mac for the last three-four weeks, I was told that I would be contacted by the sheriff's department to talk with them and explore just what you are talking about, but I have not heard from them.

Jim Tadvick: someone also mentioned about street repairs, we have a problem on Mission Street, at least on our end where there have been some many overlays of pavement, when it rains it comes down into our basement. You are going to have to take up Mission Street completely and start all over.

Mayor Gibson: there are three things going on here there is exciting BaRSSA money and new funds, through the public works director they looked at the two worst places Spring and Railroad. For Mission, from my understanding on the ARPA leak fix that could include some street repair on Mission and Buck.

Alvin Melow: 304 Smith. Would this be the proper time to discuss the drains that are flooding.

Mayor Gibson: there is some confusion, I thought that Mr. Kruse was going to be here. He was proposing and he left, and I did not get to talk to him, there was just one bid and there should be more than one bid. Looking at, and I do not know exactly where that was, but it did have to do with stormwater drainage. The cost for that area was \$21,000. That could come out of BaRSSA, but the council has come across this before we need more than one bid. That is being looked at.

Alvin Melow: so that is under consideration.

Mayor Gibson: I will ask the council how they would like to proceed. Do you want to take out or add. And if you want to add you better have a proposal for where that money comes from.

Councilmember Michalson: page 1 of 44. You do not have anything for the council for travel or lodging.

Mayor Gibson: there was some, we reduced, when we are in these times, we reduced our travel, the courts travel, we reduced the fire department, we reduced them all unless mandatory. If you want, and if you are talking about the annual meeting in Fairmont.

Councilmember Michalson: yeah.

Mayor Gibson: then suggest a dollar amount and then I would assume that you will support the reduction in the mayors salary to offset.

Councilmember Michalson: or the councils salary.

Mayor Gibson: the councils salary, you only get \$275.00 a month. It is up to you.

Councilmember Barker: how many trainings a year are the other employees going to?

Mayor Gibson: right now, it is all online. Except for the judge and the court clerk, it is mandatory, and they just went. They used to go twice, and we cut that, we cut mine from \$2,000.00 to \$500.00.

Councilmember Barker: to me it is very important that the council goes to these training because it is something that we do take a lot away from and there is a lot of different bills that are placed in front of us that we watch.

Mayor Gibson: I am not denying that. I guess I do not know how much you are proposing.

Councilmember Barker: what was it last year?

Mayor Gibson: \$2,000.00, I think.

Councilmember Michalson: it was more than that because we got computers last year. I think that it was \$7,000.00

Robert Underwood: if you look at your 22/23 it says what you spent your money on. Non-capital was about \$5,000.00 on computers and other equipment. And travel last year was \$1,900.00.

Councilmember Michalson: so, it was about \$7,000.00.

Mayor Gibson: but the training that you were talking about was less than \$2,000.00.

Councilmember Michalson: right. I am not getting into the computer part of it.

Mayor Gibson: if you want to make a proposal for a certain amount for the training at Fairmont that is up to you.

Councilmember Michalson: would \$2,000.00 be enough Stacie?

Mayor Gibson: where did you go last year?

Councilmember Barker: we went to Bozeman.

Mayor Gibson: so, it is a little less.



Councilmember Michalson: and there was two of us last time year there might be, Wally is coming aboard, he might want to go.

Councilmember Barker: it was a little over (unclear dollar amount stated) for lodging.

Robert Underwood: \$275.00 per person for lodging.

Mayor Gibosn: you both went in the same vehicle.

Robert Underwood: the travel costs were \$225.00 per person, and the lodging was, the milage was over \$500.00. the whole thing last year was \$1,000.00 is what you spent.

Councilmember Barker: I think if we went with \$2,000.00 that would be good, if you have two other councilmembers that want to go.

Councilmember Michalson: it is going to be tight with three.

Councilmember Lowell: don't we have a city vehicle that everyone could go in one car?

Mayor Gibosn: we have the courtesy car, it has about 230,000 miles on it.

Councilmember Barker: if you announced it all four could still go in the same vehicle. And that saves. I don't know what others feel about using the same rooms, I am totally for that. That would save on cost as well.

Mayor Gibson: I would suggest that you make an amendment to add whatever amount.

Councilmember Barker: I think that it is only fare.

Councilmember Michalson: \$2,500.00 cover it?

Councilmember Barker: if we have extra, we have extra.

Councilmember Michalson: make a motion to amend the budget to add \$2,500.00 to legislative services for travel, lodging and training.

Councilmember Barker: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Gibson: there is a motion and a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Public comment? Further discussion? Seeing none, Jenelle please call for the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

Councilmember Michalson: I also have, I don't see where we funded our local government review for next year. The 10-year review that we have to do by law.

Mayor Gibosn: what he is talking about is, every ten years the town has to go to the public vote to talk about the charter, change it, add councilmembers. I don't know what the actual cost is, but I would not think it is much more than \$1,000.00.

Councilmember Michalson: I spoke to Nancy earlier today; she thought it was about \$5,000.00.

Councilmember Lowell: I believe that was the amount, you have to have an odd number of people and the most that you need is copies of things, I would think that \$500.00 would be sufficient.

Mayor Gibson: when I was on the league board, they did not mention a number like \$5,000.00. I think that you could come back and ask for more, I think that you would be safe with \$1,000.00.

Robert Underwood: you canceled the election. What month?

Councilmember Michalson: recited the MCA code for the 10-year review. In June you do a general election to see what they want to do.

Mayor Gibson: make an amendment to add \$1,000.00 to that section for this. I am still not clear if it would be a mail ballot.

Robert Underwood: if we piggyback the county will give us a better rate. Probably the June that they do for the schools. The more that goes on the ballot the cheaper. Right now, is \$1,600.00 that we are not going to use.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Leslie Tadvick: can't you just piggyback off of the primary which is in June 2024 election.

Mayor Gibson: that is why I think that it is premature at this time. When that time comes, you would have a clearer picture.

Councilmember Michalson: so, you don't think we should do a budget amendment?

Mayor Gibson: it could channel into the next years budget and we do not know what the cost is, you are still going to do it.

Councilmember Michalson: we have to adopt a resolution by February and put an amount in there to not exceed.

Mayor Gibson: I do not like to put in amounts when I don't know what they are. You have to do the resolution I agree but I think that you will have a clearer picture and then do a budget amendment.

Councilmember Lowell: Regina at the clerk and recorder office can give you that information.

Councilmember Lowell: I just noticed that our court is costing us \$78,000 a year and we are only bringing in \$13,500. I do not know.

Mayor Gibson: to remind you, you were not here Nancy, the council voted to double her salary from \$18,000 to \$36,000 a year.

Councilmember Lowell: for one or two days a week? That is a lot of money.

Councilmember Michalson: we cannot go back, we were told by the judge that it was set at three years, and I thought it was one, when I went back and looked at it by law the council can look at the salary every year of a judge.

Councilmember Lowell: I think that is something that should be looked at and reviewed. The other thing is the swimming pool in just last year. Not sure what the salaries were but they were quite high and costing about \$27,000 plus benefits of \$2,500 and the revenue was \$14,000. I do know that the pool was down, it seems like they may want to cut back.

Mayor Gibson: Gina, do you remember what the lifeguards make. \$12.00 per hour.

Gina Crowe: it varies, between \$11-\$13. When they come back from the prior year, they get a dollar raise.

Councilmember Lowell: I did not know about that. It just seems out of whack and maybe too many lifeguards.

Mayor Gibson: the fact is that the pool loses money every year. We raised some of the fees on a minimal scale. I know that Missoula cut back on some of their hours because of lost revenue. In my opinion I do not know how we can continue to operate this pool. I would look at Hamilton, in the future you would make it a year around pool, you cannot continue to operate this pool at the amount of money that we take in.

Councilmember Michalson: in my old hometown they had the same problem, they created a district for their pool. Just like here, a lot of people that use the pool are from outside of Stevensville.

Mayor Gibson: when I talked to Stephen Lassiter, I think that is what Hamilton does.

Councilmember Barker: Roundup did that and they ended up with a really nice pool.

Councilmember Brown: I have a question about the salary for the building inspector and how much we bring in for permits and it looks like we are losing money in that too.

Robert Underwood: we are not losing money; we are just not making money like we used to.

Mayor Gibson: before it used to be a full-time position and now with this contract it costs less than a full-time position.

Robert Underwood: we are still bringing money in, and we are getting that down which is a good thing.

Jenelle Berthoud: this year I have only had 22 building permits and 15 electrical permits.

Mayor Gibson: where the town got hit last time was when the school was built, and the town took in a lot of money for that school project, but people did not realize that was a lot of money.

Robert Underwood: the fund is doing what it is supposed to do, bring in money to pay some salaries and pay Tim.

Councilmember Brown: we may need to look at increasing the fees for those permits.

Robert Underwood: for four years we got in trouble in the audit because we had too much money, hopefully it will not build back up again because it is not designed to do that.

Councilmember Barker: sidewalk improvements. We need to have some clarification on sidewalks, that it is not the towns responsibility to take care of the sidewalks in front of the residents. Downtown it is. We have nothing in there again, sometime as a council we need to look at it. Putting money back into that fund.

Mayor Gibson: there was some talk about BarSSA. I think that is something to be looked at to see if it can be used for sidewalks and not just streets.

Councilmember Barker: it is very important; it is something as a council that we need to look at. 21/22 there was money there and now there is not.

Councilmember Michalson: I believe the previous administration used it for paving on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Mayor Gibson: the fire department and police you are going to have to come up with a way to build up these capital projects. Most places build this up over 3-5 years so that the money is there to fix a fire truck or replace a cop car and right now it all comes from the general fund. Stacie, you are right, the sidewalks need to be repaired, the tree wells.

Councilmember Barker: we talked about it in our park board meeting about getting some sort of grates, Steve Lassiter also spoke with an arborist about the trees.

Councilmember Brown: under the airport, can you explain professional services.

Robert Underwood: in the airport, \$22,000.00 in that fund. It is \$5,000 for the annual audit. Mowing \$5,000, and \$17,000 is the master plan.

Councilmember Brown: I could not figure out why it was so high.

Mayor Gibson: after talking to Will there is going to be some more discussion about this master plan. Will is talking to the FAA, he is going to take care of that airport.

Councilmember Michalson: it came up in the last budget about surplus and that was why we got the airport car brought down here. We mentioned the COVID ambulance. I would suggest that whoever is the next mayor that he would get together and put together a surplus sale.

Mayor Gibson: I think that you propose that right now. We have talked about it forever. Not sure how much we are going to get.

Councilmember Michalson: I make a motion to make an amendment to have a surplus sale, COVID ambulance, airport car, public works cars, anything that we have. I make an amendment and a motion to have a surplus sale.

Councilmember Barker: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

Robert Underwood: the last positive thing to say is what Gina and the mayor have done in the past month. They have moved all of the CD's into a public fund account that gives us 4%. We will see some income from that in the thousands.

Mayor Gibson: I was going to mention that in the executive report, Gina did a great job with this is a short amount of time. And that will help in the future.

Councilmember Michalson: like \$53,000 a year.

Mayor Gibson: can we entertain a motion to pass the budget.

Councilmember Brown: do we need to do a budget amendment for the amount of money coming back to the town.

Mayor Gibson: you mean the restitution, I think that it is an 18-month suspended sentence and he can pay that back, I do not know how that works.

Councilmember Brown: I just did not know. Since we are changing the airport manager from a salary to a stipend do we have to do a resolution?

Mayor Gibson: it has already been done; he is getting \$1,000 per month.

Councilmember Michalson: when that came up it was a conversation not a resolution.

Mayor Gibson: we talked about it to the attorney that there was not a resolution needed.

Councilmember Barker: it still has to come forth like wages with a resolution.

Mayor Gibson: you can do it now, but it has not been noticed.

Jenelle Berthoud: it is in your budget right now.

Mayor Gibson: in my opinion, you approve the budget and at the next meeting we will do a resolution for that salary.

Jenelle Berthoud: first close the public hearing.

Councilmember Brown: I will make a motion to close the public hearing.

Councilmember Barker: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Lowell: aye.

Councilmember Michalson: aye.

Mayor Gibson: passes 4-0

10. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 524, a Resolution for Adopting a Budget and Adopting Wages and Salaries for the Town of Stevensville, Montana FY 2324

Mayor Gibson: now we can have a motion to pass the budget as amended.

Councilmember Michalson: I make a motion to pass the FY 23/24 budget as amended.

Councilmember Brown: 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Gibson: motion and a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Public comment? Any further discussion? Seeing none, Jenelle please call for the vote.

Councilmember Barker: no.

Councilmember Brown: no.

Councilmember Lowell: no.

Councilmember Michalson: no.

Mayor Gibson: so, what do you want to do?

Councilmember Lowell: I just need to review it a bit more, I have some changes.

Mayor Gibson: we will put the budget approval on the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

11. Board Reports

Councilmember Brown: airport board meeting was Tuesday night. Wills report is pretty much what he covered. He was hoping to get out the invoices. There are several people that he trying to get current contact information for, the airport is still looking at the revenue from selling the gravel. We are going to have to have another airport board meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> because they realized that their engineer has to be reselected of an engineer firm. Thank you to whoever put in the comment about running their meetings correctly.

12. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Barker: I want to say thank you to the Civic Club for helping with the Scarecrow Festival. I think that it was very well attended. On the safety side of it did a great job.

Mayor Gibson: what I was told they had a better turnout.

Councilmember Barker: like 59 scarecrows.



Councilmember Brown: I want to thank Gina and all the people that has put the budget together. And thank you for explaining the codes. She took time to explain those to me and thank you very much for doing that.

13. Executive Report

Mayor Gibson: my intent is November 21, 2023. You will get an official resignation letter that will go to the council, Jenelle it will go to the attorney and point out what the procedures are to replace the mayor.

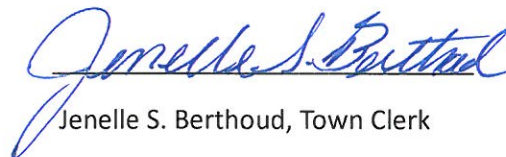
14. Adjournment

APPROVE:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Steve Gibson", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Gibson, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jenelle S. Berthoud", written over a horizontal line.

Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk