

Stevensville Town Council Meeting Minutes**for THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025, 6:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall****1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mayor Michalson called the meeting to order. Councilmembers Barker, Bragg and Smith were all present. Councilmember Brown has an excused absence.

2. Pledge of Allegiance**3. Public Comments (Public comment from citizens on items that are not on the agenda)**

Sue Allen: my issue is a little bit related to an agenda item but is nothing to do with an agenda item. I have a complaint on an employee, and I want this to be on the record, and this is against Stephen Lassiter. I posted on a Facebook page that quote, "Bob wants to close town hall at noon every Friday the MCA is very specific that town hall should be open. These are my opinions, as taxpayers and we are aware Bob does not like to follow the laws, come to the June 26th meeting to voice your opinion, I know that Jenelle has always wanted Fridays off." Steve Lassiter answered my text with quote "once again you hide be hide your keyboard and with no facts to back you up put this bullshit on the other page you love so well, this is a page for honest discussion by the way it is called Stevensville uncensored come up0 to the podium and spew your nonsense even degenerates like you have that right, GTEFOH" I looked up what those letters mean. Since I was talking about town business Steven Lassiter being a valued employee according to the mayor, was there fore responding as a town employee in a further comment he states that "this has been on the agenda twice" which is incorrect. It was discussed at the last town council meeting, but it was not an agenda item. Stephen Lassiter was reprimanded just about four weeks ago for calling a person ignorant, and a child, irrational, mentally unstable and a game player. That reprimand apparently has had no effect on him and his bullying and disrespect unchecked. I have put a call into an attorney that is very knowledgeable about the misbehavior of town representatives. This despicable misbehavior needs to be delt with properly and needs to stop.

Lesley Tadvick: 509 Mission Street, I am back from Arizona, where it is brown and now it is brown in Stevensville too. We need to implement an increase on water for these people that have yards that are burning up and are not watering; who enjoy their gardens and lawns and their flowers our little town is drying up. Can we please increase the gallons, I know that you have to increase the rates, and we are shocked about, we are gone for 6 months a year, and we still have to pay it however if it would

help somebody else to get their yard green I would sure appreciate that. Older people like me like a green yard and flowers. Can we increase the water?

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Town Council Meeting Minutes 05/22/2025

Mayor Michalson: introduced approval of minutes town council meeting minutes 05/22/2025.

Councilmember Barker: make a motion to approve town council meeting minutes for 05/22/2025.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

b. Special Town Council Meeting Minutes 06/02/2025

Mayor Michalson: introduced special town council meeting minutes for 06/02/2025.

Councilmember Smith: I move to accept special town council meeting minutes for 06/02/2025.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

c. Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 06/11/2025

Mayor Michalson: introduced budget workshop meeting minutes for 06/11/2025.

Councilmember Bragg: I make a motion to approve budget workshop meeting minutes for 06/11/2025.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

d. Town Council Meeting Minutes 06/12/2025

Mayor Michalson: introduced town council meeting minutes for 06/12/2025.

Councilmember Smith: I move to accept town council meeting minutes for 06/12/2025.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

5. Approval of Bi-Weekly Claims

a. Informational: Duplicate Claims #19691 and #19702

Mayor Michalson: introduced duplicate claims.

b. Claims #19738-#19758

Mayor Michalson: I would ask that you approve claims omitting #19744 if you look at that it is Montana Rural water, Steve and Cody were at class today and they had a pump go out and Cody was not able to attend.

Councilmember Smith: I move to accept claims #19738-#19758 omitting #19744.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Barker: Claim #19709 didn't we just do the Dog Wate Bags?

Gina Crowe: we do not have that on this set of claims.

Councilmember Barker: never mind I am on the wrong claim.

Mayor Michalson: is the council good on the claims, public comments?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Lowell: I am wondering how the budget is coming, and I am not sure on the total amount, but I am assuming that you will be closing the books on June 30th for the end of the year and you are going to have a lot of outstanding checks. I think the budget is due by August 10th.

Mayor Michalson: correct, actually on the agenda tonight we are going to pick two budget workshops for July. Hope to have it buttoned up at the end of July. Any further comments, seeing none, Jenell please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

6. Public Hearings

a. Resolution No. 568 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Adopting Town Hall Business Hours for Fridays 8:00am-12:00pm for the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Michalson: introduced public hearing Resolution No. 568 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Adopting Town Hall Business Hours for Fridays 8:00am-12:00pm for the Town of Stevensville.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. Unfinished Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 568 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Adopting Town Hall Business Hours for Fridays 8:00am-12:00pm for the Town of Stevensville

Mayor Michalson: introduced unfinished business item a. Resolution No. 568 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Adopting Town Hall Business Hours for Fridays 8:00am-12:00pm for the Town of Stevensville.

Councilmember Barker: can I make a quick comment; I think that we have had some confusion on Resolution No. 568, this is the time for the public to get up and speak before we vote on it.

Mayor Michalson: correct, they had a chance at the public hearing, and they also have a chance right now.

Sharon Gee: that was confusing, I live at.

Jenelle Berthoud: the public hearing closed.

Mayor Michalson: the hearing closed you will get a chance as soon as there is a motion.

Councilmember Barker: make a motion to approve Resolution No. 568 a Resolution of the Stevensville Town Council Adopting Town Hall Business Hours for Fridays 8:00am-12:00pm for the Town of Stevensville.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Smith: I would like to move that we table this until the entire council is present, this is a very necessary, not necessary but is a very hot topic and I believe that we need all of our elected officials here.

Councilmember Bragg: I would like to hear from the public before we table this because all of these people who came tonight if they want to speak wont have to come again at the next meeting.

Jenelle Berthoud: keep in mind that it will not be held at the next meeting. I would have to put this back out for another hearing.

Mayor Michalson: would the council like to hear from the public. We hear from the public and if the council wishes to table it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharron Gee: I do have some concerns; I already have concerns about not having anyone to answer the phone, they tell me that they are going to call me back and they never do, so that is a concern. I also wonder if 40 hours for a full-time employee is that standard because I would (unclear audio). Those are a couple of my concerns.

Jean McKinnley: I really feel that this a special privilege for the town to have what we have. I feel that we should have access. Keep this building open for the time that we are allotted, I don't think that we need to change it at this time. I also don't see why this has to be done tonight, this is a very important decision that needs to be made for the town, not just for those that work here. We need to have access. We feel that this is not something that we should decide tonight until we have all four of our council members here. This is something that hit me kind of suddenly there are a lot more issues there is a lot that goes into this. How do you adjust the people that pay. We cannot suddenly just say we are going to give you an extra four hours to your paycheck and not work for it.

Lesly Tadvick: I am concerned about people coming in to pay a fine that they have to have paid by Friday and they did not get paid until Friday for the judge what are they supposed to do, maybe they did not get paid until Friday and they need to get in and get it paid so they don't get into trouble. If the comp time is a problem, like say on Tuesday one of you can come in three hours later or on Wednesday and stagger your hours so that we do not shut it down completely, what is some grandma like me has a water leak and needs to get a hold of Steve and find out. I think that it needs to be public oriented, and I think that we need to take into consideration all of these things and I know that these gals work hard and I know that they have overtime coming, aren't you gals salaried?

Gina Crowe: no one is salaried.

Lesly Tadvick: nobody is salaried, I take that back, I would be for leaving the town open, we did not close the hospital because someone had overtime, just saying.

Nancy Lowell: the only thing that concerns me is that you are opening a can of worms. I worked with a lot of people in the town for a long time. You would be setting a precedent who is to say they get off half a day Friday who is to say the cops take off on Friday or the sewer guys. I think that you cannot discriminate you would have to let them go as well.

Sue Allen: what about all of the other departments, with the town hall closed how do we reach all the other people with problems are they going to do just what Nancy

said. You are setting a precedence here these three people are going to be given five or four hours a day off. What about the other people? Can't you manage comp time. Like Ms. Tadvick said, come in three hours late, go home two hours early but manage that comp time, you are only three employees. There should be some way to arrange it so that there is no overtime.

Scott Buttler: I do agree with them, and Mr. Smith that should be decided by the full council, why is this deemed necessary. The public needs more information and it should be in front of a full council.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments from the public? With that can we get a motion to table.

Councilmember Smith: considering the comments I would like to move to table this until the entire council can discuss it at the next appropriate meeting.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Barker: not on the tabling but would like to comment. Some of the questions I have are all of the employees leaving at 12:00, have they got their 40 hours in. there are still people here, my question is do they have their 40 hours in at that time without comp time?

Mayor Michalson: Jenelle is way over by then.

Councilmember Barker: if they haven't gotten their 40 hours in and they are closing it that means that every person in the office should be gone, no comp time, everybody should leave. If we are closing town hall at 12:00 no employee should be working at town hall. I want to know how they are getting all of their hours in it is an 8-5 shift. I know that the office opens at 8:00 and they take an hour for lunch but normally they have a 40-hour work week so how are they getting those hours in. That is my biggest question.

Jenelle Berthoud: I don't think that it is appropriate to comment at this time, I am not going to comment on this.

Gina Crowe: a lot of times we do not take lunch because it is so busy (unclear audio) I cannot speak for Jenelle, but I hold two job descriptions, HR and Finance, that is not a 40 hour a week job. I come in every morning and sometimes I can barely breath I am so busy. We have been keeping track of it, it is not because we want to close town hall because we don't want to be here for the public, because that is not

the case, a lot of time we have no traffic coming in, we have Andrena, and if there is nothing else for her to do there is no reason to have her stay. Last Friday we had three people come into town hall. We had no phone calls, and no one wanted a receipt. That is the trend, when there is nothing to do why make somebody stay here. To do with phone calls, we all return our phone calls, public works has an on-call phone when needed. We looked at it as why waste the towns money.

Mayor Michalson: you talked about Jenelle and her 40 hours. I had Andrena run the numbers in 2024. We had 58 meetings; we normally have 24. Last year was very busy, so every time you have a meeting she is there, just like right now. That is time over the eight hours. This year we are already at 42 so we have had 100 meetings since last year. We are managing it; these ladies manage it. you want to manage time, Andrena left at noon today. There are days that Gina and Jenelle take off. Nobody sees that, but they manage their time very well. When you do 100 meetings and going budget workshops and now that we are doing the growth policy and that is going to be twice a month. That is a lot of meetings and Jenelle has to be at all of those meetings she is the clerk. She is the one that when the growth policy needs records she is the one. She is above and beyond the time that she is to be here. I am not defending her the proof is in the pudding, she spends a lot of time here, Gina spends a lot of time here, but nobody sees her. The issues is not time management the issue is, when I do my afternoon walk I stop in here every afternoon. Every Friday there is nobody here. Chief Boe can attest to that. My question is if nobody is coming in here, are we doing the public a good service sitting in there, is that a waste of taxpayer money? I get what Lesly said, I am here to tell you that there is nothing on Friday afternoons, it is just not ours, it is also state government and Washington; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday emails and phone calls, Thursday it starts to slow down and by Friday everyone is ready to be done. there just isn't the numbers coming in on Fridays, Andrena was keeping the numbers, and I would ask how many came in and she would say one, one all day. That is why we are here, it is not time management we are doing a lot of good things for this town, these ladies are working hard they are not out to screw the public they are here to serve the public; you bet that they work for you, I work for you. we are just asking for a little leeway on Fridays that is all, we see what is going on, the public doesn't see it. I will admit when I was on the council all those years, damn right I said the same thing.

Councilmember Smith: point of order, Mr. Mayor we have a way of speaking that does not use foul language.

Mayor Michalson: okay, I apologize. Anyway, back to my, like I said I do not believe that anyone should be just sitting there. Andrena could have gone out to the cemetery but she was anticipating that this would probably get shut down tonight so she will come in tomorrow and work all day.

Councilmember Barker: just two things that I would like to address, Montana Code Annotated for office hours 7-4-102 (read part 1) we fall under part 3, (read part 3). Under classification MCA, 7-1-4111 every city that has a population of less than 5,000 or more than a thousand is a city of a third class. I watched this on Facebook, we are a third class so that means that we fall under number 3, office hours. I am not saying that we will do anything with it, but I just want to lay out clarification on those from MCA.

Mayor Michalson: I would like to bring up a point to that we tabled it until tonight because Mr. Smith sent me a deal about the public hearing.

Councilmember Smith: that same MCA, yes.

Mayor Michalson: we got an opinion from Greg, and he said yes you should have a public hearing. She (Jenelle) before that asked Dan Clark at the local government center what it was, and Dan Clark got back to you on Monday.

Jenelle Berthoud: would you like me to read Dan Clarks response was to us.

Mayor Michalson: yes.

Jenelle Berthoud: I suggest following the specific authority outlined in section number 3 and establish the cities office hours by a resolution as a curtesy I suggest that you inform your county commissioner, your clerk and recorder and your county treasure if the city or towns office hours are to change.

Mayor Michalson: there you go, according to Dan item number 3, and I think Dan said that we did not have to have a public hearing, doesn't matter we are doing it any ways. Any other comments from the council before we vote to table it. Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

8. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Awarding of Water Distribution System Leak Detection Services

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item a, Awarding of Water Distribution System Leak Detection Services.

Jenelle Berthoud: in front of you tonight Eli with HDR has placed a bid sheet.

Eli Molloy, HDR: at the last meeting you opened the bids, you had three bids, the first one does appear to be the lowest bid, and they bid it as time and material, and we asked for a fixed fee. We are recommending that you take the Water XYZ, they are the most qualified bidder, they are from Missoula.

Jenelle Berthoud: the owner of that business is here tonight.

Councilmember Barker: I make a motion to accept Water XYZ for leak detection services.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion? As you know this was part of the ARPA grant.

Councilmember Smith: this is basically the lowest bid now.

Eli Molloy: the other one did not meet the bidding requirements.

Councilmember Smith: it says that you have to use the best one.

Eli Molloy: doing a quick overview the lowest would not have met our qualifications.

Councilmember Barker: so the engineers estimate was the same type of thing.

Eli Molloy: we estimated about \$8,000.00 it was a little over that but still in the ballpark.

Councilmember Barker: this is there money, it is from the ARPA grant.

Eli Molloy: I should have pointed that out to you.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments from the council for Eli. Public comments?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Shoft: I would like to know more about what we are going to find; can I pass out some handouts. I was looking through the agenda for the utility report. Quoted

numbers of gallons, when I go back to the report HDR did in 2021, we wrote down the gallons produced, the gallons metered and then the percentage of non-billed water. I do not think that is all leaked, I think that is that you did not have meters, I asked the fireman how many gallons they put in a truck. The pool is not metered. It is not all leakage, if you look at this report the numbers by month, if you take January 16, 17 and 18. The percentage is getting higher and that is for every month. The only ones that I did not compare was after June of 18 because that was when the report stopped. In 16 it was not concluded. The thing that I want to get to, leaking doesn't solve the problem, we need to calculate the cost of the leakage is, and with the cost you can get proposals to fix it because there is a way to determine the payment.

Mayor Michalson:

Tui, Water XYZ: he makes some valid points, basically calculating how many gallons you pump and how many gallons you sell. Those differences will be looked at and factored in.

Mayor Michalson: you brought up Steve about fire hydrants.

Stephen Lassiter: are you going to go from hydrant to hydrant, up to 300 feet away. How far?

Tui: it depends, sound travels at different speeds at different lengths, metal pipes I can hear from three fire hydrants away.

Stephen Lassiter: we shouldn't miss anything between hydrants.

Tui: and then we would look at curb stops.

Larry: it boggles me that the highest percentage points are in December 16 and 17 and March 18. Nobody is watering then.

Tui: I can explain that, the percent is a flawed metric, the more water that you are pumping through the system off sets that, but in the summer you have irrigation so that percent lose will go down.

Eli Molloy: when they flush pipes that is lose as well.

(side conversation)

Tui: if you pump five million gallons and you sell four million gallons there is a discrepancy of one million gallons, say for example a brewery comes into town and they are suddenly using one million gallons you are pumping six million gallons you are selling five million gallons you still have a one million gallon difference the fist

example your percentage lose is 20% the second example your percentage lose is 18% you are just moving more water through your system so your percent of lose goes down.

Larry: I don't know what your computer system is doing but you are billing in gallons, it is on our bill, somewhere in 2021 they got that number.

Tui: that is a bit of a process, and that is something that we do, but it is not in this bid.

Eli Molloy: in the years that I have worked with you the town has replaces a lot of meters and I think that you have that down now.

Mayor Michalson: seven meters are not reading now. When I first got here it was over 200.

Councilmember Smith: did you say earlier that this is being funded by a grant?

Mayor Michalson: yes, ARPA.

Councilmember Smith: my other comment is if the newer areas, the leak is minimal and the older areas of Stevensville, I am going to tell you it is leaking and this leak detection needs to find it and get them fixed, that is treated water that is just going into the ground.

Mayor Michalson: that is why we are doing it. any other comments from the council, seeing none, Jenelle would you please take the vote.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

b. Opening Bids for Water System Telemetry System Replacement

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item b, Opening Bids for Water System Telemetry System Replacement.

Jenelle Berthoud, Town Clerk: same process Mayor, after I open the bid, we received one, I will scan this over to Eli for review and then this will come back for bid award on July 8th at 5:30 pm. You guys received that meeting invite as well. This is from Neely Electric out of Missoula MT. Total base bid price \$186,613.00.

Mayor Michalson: can you repeat that Jenelle.

Jenelle Berthoud: \$186,613.00. then added alternate bid schedule wastewater, \$29,455.00, well-1 \$46,757.00 and well-1 install \$11,450.00. Eli, do we take the base price of \$186,000 and add the next three.

Eli Molloy: yes, so the way that we wrote it, we want to use up all of that grant money, so the base bid was kind of the what is needed to be done to get it done and the alternate items you can go ahead and then go down the list and add accordingly as the funds allow, to use up all of that grant money.

Councilmember Smith: I think that she is going to give us a total.

Jenelle Berthoud: total if you were to include those add ones, \$274,275.00.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments from the council?

Councilmember Smith: that is the only bid.

Mayor Michalson: yes, and she will bring it back at the special meeting.

c. Opening Bids for IT Services

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item c, opening bids for IT services.

Jenelle Berthoud: we received two one was from our current IT provider; First Call monthly reoccurring \$2,500.00. Mayor we are going to do the same thing, review these and come back on July 10th. There is also another section that comes with our IT services and that is the cyber security portion of that and that is a monthly fee of \$2,500.00. Total for IT services is \$5,000.00 per month. This is our annual subscription for our Microsoft 365 account, \$641.00 per month.

Mayor Michalson: so, we are paying \$5,641.00 per month to accept this.

Jenelle Berthoud: correct. The second bid is from Ricoh IT services, they have multiple locations, and they have a branch in Missoula, but they are out of state. \$8,650.00 and then when you include there would be an upfront onboarding fee of \$13,000.00 months one through 12, \$15,096.00, month 13, \$14, 270.50. I will make sure that I get these over to you Gina and the Mayor.

Councilmember Barker: what is the onboarding, from First Call?

Gina Crowe: it would be taking everything that we have and setting it all up.

Councilmember Smtih: to finance, First Call that we have right now, is the cyber security just as much as the monthly recurring today?

Gina Crowe: just about. I knew that it was going to go up, but I thought it was going to be more than \$2,500.00. Our .gov emails went up \$66.00 to manage our emails, and the cyber security, I think that there are different levels and now that we have this I can dive into this a little more and see what we need. Especially for public works and if we were to get hacked. I will follow up on those rates. First Call has been good with us and very responsive.

Mayor Michalson: when we were at Fairmont, a discussion on cyber security did come up and some town back in Ohio got cyber attacked and took over their water plant and held them at ransom and they had to pay over \$14 million to get their system back up and running. It is a big deal.

Councilmember Smith: with the cyber security if there is a hack job they take care of that and do they give us an insurance policy for like what the mayor just said.

Gina Crowe: if we do not have cyber security MMIA is not probably going to cover us.

d. Informational: Introduction of New Police Officer, Otis Baugh

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item d, introduced new police officer Otis Baugh. We had a Police Commission meeting on Tuesday where they interviewed Otis Baugh.

Otis Baugh: I have been in the county and in the area coming up on about 7 years, I have family in Corvallis. My past is in the military, IED, and now I am looking to settle down and be part of the community and I am happy to be here.

Councilmember Smith: obviously you were a good IED expert you are here.

Otis Baugh: a running joke is a good IED tech has all of his fingers and toes, and I do.

Councilmember Barker: want to say thank you.

e. Informational: Subscription for Q-Ware

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item e. Subscription for Q-Ware. That was in here in the past, kind of went away and we want to bring that back for public works, scheduling, backups. Steve Kruse when he was here was good at it, and Stephen is ready to use it now that he has a new parks guy.

Gina Crowe: \$2,600.00 a year.

Mayor Michalson: we have had it for years.

Councilmember Barker: can you explain what the Q-ware is and what it does.

Jenelle Berthoud: do you guys remember when you would get your reports from Steve Kruse in the packet one was gallons of water and the other one with tasks.

Councilmember Barker: with the completed tasks. I did not know what the name was.

Stephen Lassiter: it was a PDF, who it was assigned to.

Gina Crowe: just to tell you what it does from an MMIA perspective. It tracks everything, sewer is one of the items that MMIA looks at and one of the most expensive claims in the state of Montana, they always ask when I submit a claim what is the history on this particular item. We don't know if Stephen writes it down in a book and Stephen leaves, that book goes with Stephen. I think that it is very important from a liability standpoint to be able to have that data, when something comes up we can look back at a blockage and say this is what was done, and this is the preventive maintenance. When you do that they are more likely to look favorably at the claim as Stevensville is doing this. Is there something that comes up and we have no data on it they are going to say you are going to pay for it all yourself.

f. Discussion/Decision: RFP for Prosecution Services for the Stevensville City Court

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item f. RFP for Prosecution Services for the Stevensville City Court. You can see the opinion from Greg that we can farm that out.

Councilmember Barker: I make a motion to approve RFP for Prosecution Services for the Stevensville City Court.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Barker: how effective was this position to have for the courts.

Jenelle Berthoud: you have to have a prosecuting attorney.

Mayor Michalson: by law you have to have one. any other comments from the council? Public comment?

Councilmember Smith: have you talked with Greg lately if he can take on prosecution again.

Mayor Michalson: he said between this and Philipsburg, if we did not get any RFP's he would look at it and may reconsider.

Councilmember Smith: he would have to.

Mayor Michalson: he would like to keep where he is at. Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Bragg:

Councilmember Barker:

Councilmember Smith:

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

g. Discussion/Decision: Resolution No. 547a, A Resolution Establishing Lighting District Taxes for the Town of Stevensville, Montana Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item g, Resolution No. 547a, A Resolution Establishing Lighting District Taxes for the Town of Stevensville, Montana Fiscal Year 2025-2026. I would like the council to table this one, because when Gina and Robert put that out it was based on the information at the time but yesterday two more checks came in and Dan Whitesitt came it and said that it was on him he was late getting them out. So if we can table that to next council meeting it will be lower than this.

Councilmember Bragg: I move to table, Resolution No. 547a, A Resolution Establishing Lighting District Taxes for the Town of Stevensville, Montana Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council. Public comment, seeing none Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

h. Discussion/Decision: Lease and Operating Agreement between the Town of Stevensville and Rural Fire District

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item h, Lease and Operating Agreement between the Town of Stevensville and Rural Fire District. As you know we held two COW meetings to discuss this.

Councilmember Smith: I move that accept the Lease and Operating Agreement between the Town of Stevensville and Rural Fire District.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Barker: when this was said and done, I know that they were going to go back and is everything okay with them.

Mayor Michalson: we got no changes; they accepted at that meeting. Public comments? Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

i. Discussion/Decision: Sublease and Operating Agreement Between Town of Stevensville Fire Department and Rural

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item I, Sublease and Operating Agreement Between Town of Stevensville Fire Department and Rural

Councilmember Smith: I move to accept the Sublease and Operating Agreement Between Town of Stevensville Fire Department and Rural.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comments, seeing none Jenell please take the vote.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

j. Discussion/Decision: Interlocal Agreement Between the Town of Stevensville and Rural Fire District

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item j, Interlocal Agreement Between the Town of Stevensville and Rural Fire District.

Councilmember Smith: I move to accept the Interlocal Agreement Between the Town of Stevensville and Rural Fire District.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment, seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

k. Discussion/Decision: Permission to Bid on a Street Sweeper

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item k, permission to bid on a street sweeper. Yesterday Mr. Lassiter and I went to Three Forks and got to look at the street sweeper, it is in good shape, it runs, new brushes and the vacuum works as well, I think that it is a no brainer. What I noticed down there every piece of equipment at Three Forks was almost new, so I asked the public works director, how do you guys, we use 25% of our gas tax money total every year we put that in for equipment. Got back here and we talked to Gina and Robert, and we are going to start doing that, a lot of our equipment is starting to fail in a bad way and it needs to be upgraded.

Councilmember Smith: may I ask what year is this one.

Mayor Michalson: 1998.

Councilmember Smith: and how much do they want for this?

Mayor Michalson: the bid starts at \$10,000.00.

Councilmember Smith: that is just a bid at an auction.

Mayor Michalson: surplus bid, we might not even get it.

Councilmember Bragg: I move to accept permission to bid on a street sweeper.

Mayor Michalson: bids close on July 2nd.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council?

Councilmember Barker: can you tell us why we need a street sweeper.

Mayor Michalson: we need a street sweeper; it is one of the biggest gripes that I hear when I am out walking is why we do not have a street sweeper.

Councilmember Bragg: as someone that has walked every street in this town a lot of people leave trash along the road, and this would defiantly help to clean that up.

Councilmember Smith: if this would clean up the leaves, come by my house.

Mayor Michalson: he said on the 4th of July in Three Forks they have a Main Street celebration the next day they have bottles, cans and trash and they go along, and he said that it picks up pizza boxes. It is a sweet unit it is a must have. Comments from the public?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vicki Motley: is there a maximum that you are willing to bid, you have opened it up to bid how much are you willing to bid.

Mayor Michalson: \$12,000.00, because if we put \$15,000 and no body has bid, but if we do that and we are the only one then we are out \$5,000.00 and then like he said someone at the last minute will put it \$10,001.00 we thought that we would go in the middle of the road.

Steve Gibson: you obviously and Gina knew this before, that you could take 25% of the BARSA money.

Gina Crowe: I did not know that.

Steve Gibson: well Steve Kruse knew it.

Gina Crowe: Robert did not know it either.

Steve Gibson: well Steve Kruse did we talked about, we had the old sweeper and all that it did was throw dirt and we definitely need one, and the BARSA money you can always use 25% of it for equipment and I am sure that you are taking in about \$90,000.00 per year.

Jeanie McKinley: is this just for Main Street or all of our streets and what does it cost to maintain it.

Stephen Lassiter: brushes are about \$1,000.00 and there are five of them and these ones are brand new.

Councilmember Smith: about how long do you think those brushes are going to last.

Stephen Lassiter: several years, 2-4 years. He said stay away from chip-seal. Regular sweeping probably 4-5.

Councilmember Smith: I take it that we are giving permission to bid ten?

Mayor Michalson: minimum is ten.

Councilmember Smith: and the maximum is twelve.

Mayor Michalson: we are going to put in a \$12,000.00 bid.

Councilmember Smith: then it should be worded that way.

Jeanie McKinley: how long will this last.

Stephen Lassiter: for a long time, if you maintain it.

Mayor Michalson: he had 1,700 hours on it and he was the only one that ran it. it looks new almost.

Councilmember Barker: I would like to rescind our first motion that we had on the table. I make a motion to approve the permission to bid on the street sweeper the bid starting at \$10,000 and going as high as \$12,000.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

I. Discussion/Decision: Schedule Budget Workshops for July

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business I, schedule a budget workshop for July. Looking at our schedule on July 8th and 9th at 6:00 pm.

Councilmember Barker: I make a motion to schedule budget workshops on July 8th and 9th at 6:00 pm.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Discussion from the council? Public comment? Jenelle, please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-0

9. Board Reports

NONE

10. Town Council Comments

Councilmember Smith: from what I heard earlier today I would like to move that we have a closed-door executive board meeting with council and the mayor regarding employment policy issues. I cannot get specific.

Jenelel Berthoud: could you please repeat that I could not hear what you said.

Councilmember Smith: I move to have a closed-door executive meeting with the council and the mayor regarding employment policy issues.

Mayor Michalson: I can schedule that.

Councilmember Barker: I just would like to remind everybody with the up-and-coming 4th of July that we have specific times and dates that we can set off fireworks in the city limits I believe that on July 3rd it is from 8am-12. Reminder and to be careful. We will not be having a fireworks display at the park; the fire department has put that on in the past however liability issues have come up so they cannot do that. They will still have the picnic.

Vicki Motley: Florence is having a fireworks show.

Jenelle Berthoud: am I correct that this has nothing to do with liability it is the fire department chose to not do it this year.

Vicki Motley: they chose to not do it, the cost of the liability insurance for one.

Councilmember Barker: I stand corrected.

11. Executive Report

Mayor Michalson: on the 17th we had a meeting with Greg, Jenelle and I with Thoman Orr regarding Berta's Farm, we did not agree on much so we will be having another meeting next week with Greg and I and get a plan going forward for going in front of the judge next month. Tuesday we had a Police Commission for Mr. Baugh, and they confirmed him as you know. Jarret Fisher with Tall Timber has agreed to do our disaster tree trimming and he came up with an estimate of \$60,000.00 this will be covered. Ken Scrivner came in, they are very well respected in the community, and they are looking for a community garden spot so I am just throwing it out there, the 6th Street park, that is seldom ever used, I am just putting it out there and I was thinking to bring it in front of the park board if there would be any options to doing a community garden, the church would look at raised beds and there is water there and they would do the gardening and the growing and then give the produce to the community and I think that it is a win-win this is just in the talking stages, and it has to come to the park board and then to the council and the public. I think the park isn't used besides mowing and watering it, right Steve. Other than the people that live around it they hardly use it.

12. Adjournment

Councilmember Smith: motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Barker: 2nd.

APPROVE:



Bob Michalson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk