

Stevensville Special Town Council Meeting Minutes

for THURSDAY, AUGUST 07, 2025, 5:30 PM 206 Buck Street, Town Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Michalson called the meeting to order. Councilmember Barker, Bragg and Smith were all present. Councilmember Brown, unexcused absence.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Devlin: Creamery Picnic was last weekend, and I did notice that town hall was closed at 1:00 pm I did not see a prior notice of this or anything. An agenda item about three meetings ago was brought up about closing town hall at 12:00 on Fridays and townspeople showed up with their opinions and all of them were against having it closed, and a town councilmember was also opposed. Sometime after that it was decided that the town hall would stay open Monday through Friday 8-5 except for state and federal holidays. I did post on the Facebook page into who had authorized the closing, and I did see that the police and the maintenance crews were out working but the office staff was off. My comments of course have been met with great disapproval except for a few people that understood what the law was and agreed. Stephen Lassiter again put his two cents worth in by commenting to a person about my post "holy shit that is funny" councilmember Smith replied to Stephen and reminded him that he signed a contract when he was employed regarding how he was expected to behave with the public. Stephen commented in a condescending remark and said that he would go through that contract line by line with Mr. Smith and ended up saying "and you will not intimidate me careful where you tread" I take that as a threat to a councilmember I have sent a letter to the town council and I know that Stephen has been reprimanded twice that I know of to how he speaks to the public and now he is threatening a town councilmember and I hope that something is being done.

3. New Business

a. Discussion/Decision: Approval of Fuel Purchase for the Stevensville Airport

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item a, Approval of Fuel Purchase for the Stevensville Airport. I would also like to state for the record, that Councilmember Brown has shown up.

Brian Germane, Airport Manager: thanks for meeting early today so that we can work through the next purchase of fuel. We purchased fuel and started selling from the 4,000 gallons on July 1st. it is selling faster than we thought and we will be out by the end of the week. I am here to ask for a purchase of another 5,000 gallons, and current price is \$4.51 per gallon and is cheaper than the last time we bought. It will be closer to about \$22,000.

Mayor Michalson: question for Gina and Robert will this be in the new budget.

Robert Underwood: yes, this and the next couple are in the budget.

Councilmember Smith: how much has been sold, how much profit has been made.

Brian Germane: not much profit is being made because we are leasing this tank. We are breaking even right now.

Gina Crowe: we are ahead about \$300.00.

Councilmember Brown: don't we need a motion before we discuss this.

Councilmember Smith: I move that we approve Fuel Purchase for the Stevensville Airport.

Councilmember Bragg: 2nd.

Mayor Michalson: motion and a 2nd. Council discussion?

Councilmember Smith: I would like to ask we are using branded 66 fuel what is our insurance policy on that, two million or what.

Brian Germane: because we are branded we only have to carry a one-million-dollar policy.

Councilmember Smith: my comment is a million is basically nothing in today's market especially at an airport.

Brian Germane: I think that it depends on what you are concerned about. The fuel is covered by City Services. What our insurance coverage, what the million-dollar policy is covering is an incidental. Some one that drives into the fuel tank, it is not covering contaminated fuel that causes a plane crash that goes back to City Services provided we are doing the quality control, that we take very seriously.

Councilmember Smith: what if there is an accident in the fueling of the airplane and we have an explosion?

Brian Germane: that goes back to the individual that is fueling their insurance covers that. Our insurance would not cover, or would it be validated while someone was fueling their airplane.

Councilmember Smith: one more question since the old tank has been rejuvenated and everything is working now.

Brian Germane: it is working now; fuel is coming out crystal clear and we do not have a speck of sediment coming out of it.

Mayor Michalson: any further questions from the council?

Councilmember Brown: I was trying to read up on fuel and stuff today and one question that popped up out of Montana Code who is collecting the four cents a gallon for the state, is that coming when we purchase. I just want to make sure that somebody is collecting that and the state is getting paid.

Brain Germane: yeah, when we purchase the fuel at the price that we pay already has, I will break that down for you, there is nineteen point three cents federal tax and one tenth of a cent UST Fee and there is a spill fee and the Montana excise tax for gas at five cents per gallon and then the Montana and UST which is three quarters of a cent per gallon. So, all of those fees are collected and paid when we purchase the fuel.

Councilmember Brown: I had a citizen ask can anybody, I guess this is gas that survivalist are looking for, can anybody go up and purchase.

Brian Germane: gas just has to be put in some type of approved fuel container. AB gas cannot go in a normal red gas can. There are containers that are specifically made for AB gas.

Mayor Michalson: any other comments from the council? Public comments? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: aye.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 4-0

b. Discussion/Decision: FY 2025 Stevensville Airport Infrastructure Grant Agreement

Mayor Michalson: introduced new business item b, FY 2025 Stevensville Airport Infrastructure Grant Agreement. Greg approved this and he will sign when this is approved. This has to be in by August 20th.

Councilmember Bragg: I move to open the discussion for FY 2025 Stevensville Airport Infrastructure Grant Agreement.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

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

Councilmember Barker: so, this is the grant for the runway construction and all of that.

Brian Germane: this is a grant that the FAA and the department of aeronautics provides us the funding for our own new fuel tank, right now we are leasing the tank. This was a grant offer from the FAA for the new tank, \$537,500.00, which was the 95% of the grant amount and that balance is paid completely by MDT. 100% funding. There is another project that will be coming to us when the FAA offers it for the pavement.

Councilmember Smith: how far out are we for the tank.

Brian Germane: about 16 weeks, from the time that we approve the grant offer from the FEDS and then I will bring in the contractor, probably by the end of the year.

Mayor Michalson: what kind of work will have to be done around that area to put that tank in.

Brian Germane: new foundation, excavation, new culvert to move water away from the tank, concrete and asphalt around the tank.

Councilmember Brown: is this on the designated area for the fuel farm.

Brian Germane: new area, the master plan update that M&M is completing has this new tank in this location, we have designated a fuel farm area and now we can designate the old area for future use.

Councilmember Brown: so, when will those plans be available for the council to look at.

Brian Germane: those are ready for review right now.

Councilmember Brown: I asked after the council meeting on 6/2 for additional information from the airport and I am still waiting for that information.

Brian Germane: can you refresh me on what information, is it the plans for the tank or the airport layout plan?

Councilmember Brown: airport layout plan.

Brian Germane: I have not received the final airport layout plan; I can send you a rough draft.

Councilmember Brown: that would be wonderful.

Councilmember Smith: on the day that we get this new tank, will City Services be removing the old tank? But not the foundation.

Brian Germane: the owner of the tank will, and after we transfer over to the new tank per our lease agreement they have 60 days to remove the old tank and the entire system.

Councilmember Smith: has the sign been changed from titan to 66?

Brian Germane: it has not, it still says 66. They will provide the sign.

Mayor Michalson: Public comment? Seeing none, Jenelle please take the vote.

Councilmember Barker: aye.

Councilmember Brown: no.

Councilmember Bragg: aye.

Councilmember Smith: aye.

Mayor Michalson: passes 3-1

4. Adjournment

Councilmember Barker: make a motion to adjourn.

Councilmember Smith: 2nd.

APPROVE:



Bob Michalson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk