

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE SARATOGA TOWN COUNCIL
HELD JANUARY 7, 2014, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE
SARATOGA TOWN HALL

Mayor John Zeiger called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present were Councilman Mike McWain, Councilman Steve Wilcoxson, Councilwoman Susan Howe, and Councilwoman Judy Welton.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilwoman Howe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Councilwoman Welton made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2013 meeting as presented. Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Howe made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing for the CDBG Grant application. (As noted: In accordance with W.S. § 16-4-403(c) Minutes of a meeting (i) Are required but not published from a meeting when no action is taken by the governing body. These minutes if approved will not be published.) Councilman Wilcoxson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Councilwoman Welton read the following bills for approval: Accounts Payable: \$65,713.45; Payroll and FICA for 12/31/2013 in the amount of \$53,358.23; and manual checks in the amount of \$50,306.20, for a total of \$169,377.88.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$169,377.88, Councilwoman Welton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mayor Zeiger read a letter received from BCI James Cable, LLC referencing the Cable Television Increase Notice for 2014. The rates will increase as follows: basic - \$1.50; expanded or essential value \$2.00; limited with expanded \$3.50; HBP- \$2.00; cinemax - \$2.00; showtime TMX - \$2.00 and starz/encore - \$2.00. The increase will begin during January 2014

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

Town Hall: Mayor Zeiger introduced Jeff Check District Manager of Sensus who had driven up from Colorado to be available to answer any questions that residents might have concerning the water meters.

Mayor Zeiger indicated that the council would address any questions or concerns they might have and then it would be open to the public for questions.

Councilwoman Welton noted that it appears that the system seems to be on track with many of the issues being addressed and corrected.

Mr. Check indicated that the system is improving as we go along and that the town has one of the most state of the art systems which is getting better all the time.

Jeff Check stated the system that the Town of Saratoga has is a fixed based radio system where the meter is actually calling into a radio tower which reads every hour and the town is getting a reading from every meter for every hour of every day. The system has the capability to produce reports and is designed to proactively catch water leaks before they become problematic. Mr. Check also reported that we are involved in upgrading the software to the most current software available. There are a number of towns in Wyoming using this same system.

Saratoga was one of the early users of the system and as such there are many upgrades and improvements to the system that have been developed and will be used to upgrade the Saratoga system.

Glee Johnson asked how many meters are still not working and Mr. Check responded by saying that there are both water meters and the radio module attached to the water meter. He suspects that all of the water meters are working and if there is something not working it is more likely the problem with the antenna, the wires, or the MXU. There were approximately thirty-four meters that did not transmit to the tower during the last billing.

Ms. Johnson was concerned about the inconsistencies with her own bills and she asked if there was a random quality check done each month to see if all the meters are uniformly working.

Mr. Check stated that with the radios, they either transmit or they don't. You either get a correct read of the odometer wheel on the water meter or you don't get a read. If the reading shows a zero reading there are many reasons why there might be a zero read: the meter is stuck, a particulate might be clogging up things inside the chamber and with either instance those things might cause the meter to stop. The system, when working correctly, has the capability to generate reports that will show if the radios are not transmitting.

It was noted that the town will continue to check those meters not transmitting and the crew will be replacing MXU's or reprogramming the meters as necessary. Any meters that need to be replaced will also be replaced.

Ken Schwerdt from PMPC thanked Mr. Check for coming to the meeting to answer questions. Mr. Schwerdt indicated that we have been struggling with the system for quite some time and we are still ironing out some problems.

Councilwoman Howe asked Mr. Check if they pull a meter that was having problems or not registering readings, would it cause a high reading that would impact the current billing charges. Mr. Check indicated that it should not cause a high reading but if that would happen they would probably only get billed for the minimum.

Councilwoman Welton asked if we had gotten a report on the meter in question. Clerk Cox stated that it was being watched and that the MXU had been changed a couple of times because it had not been reading. It is one of the meters being watched because it was not performing as it should.

Mayor Zeiger thanked Mr. Check for coming to the meeting to answer questions.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Randy Sikes reported that the food drive was very successful with thirty plus food baskets being delivered.

Police Department: Chief Tom Knickerbocker indicated that there was no report at this time.

Recreation Department: Recreation Director Lisa Burton provided the council with a copy of the January calendar of events for the recreation department.

Department of Public Works:

- Street Department: Chuck Bartlett reported that the street crew has been snow plowing and working on equipment.
- Water & Sewer: Chuck Bartlett noted that the water and sewer department crew has been installing new water and sewer service taps. Mr. Bartlett indicated that they are working on Phase II of the lagoon project.
- Weed and Pest: Mr. Bartlett reported that the final report was completed and submitted in December.
- Hot Pool: No report

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Airport Board: Mayor Zeiger read the two letters of interest for the airport board which had been received from Bobby Chitwood and Jennifer Hamilton. Both individuals indicated that they have aeronautic experience and a desire to participate on the airport board.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to appoint Bobby Chitwood to the airport board for a five year term vacated by Lee Tromble. Seconded by Councilwoman Welton the motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to appoint Jennifer Hamilton to the airport board for the remaining one year term of office vacated by Jack Sintek. Seconded by Councilman McWain the motion carried unanimously.

Community Center Joint Powers Board: The next meeting will be held January 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Water and Sewer Joint Powers Board: The next meeting will be held January 8, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Landfill Board: The next meeting will be held January 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Medical Board: no report

Planning Commission: The next Planning Commission meeting will be January 7, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Recreation Commission: The next meeting will be in January 13, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Community Garden Board: The next meeting will be in March 2014.

South Central Emergency Services Board: no report

Business: Clerk Suzie Cox noted that Resolution 2013-06 was prepared following approval of the CDBG grant application by the council at the December 17, 2013 meeting.

Councilman Wilcoxson made a motion to ratify Resolution No. 2013-06 to be submitted with the CDBG grant application. Seconded by Councilwoman Welton the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Suzie Cox noted that Resolution 2014-01 is for financial assistance from the Wyoming Department of Transportation to help with the cost of cleaning and maintain of storm sewers, sweeping and washing all streets and highways and for snow removal from streets and highways within corporate limits. The Town of Saratoga receives two checks per year in the amount of approximately \$17,260.00 for this maintenance.

Councilwoman Howe made a motion to approve Resolution 2010-03, a Resolution for the Department of Transportation. Seconded by Councilman Wilcoxson the motion carried unanimously.

Items from the Public: There were no items from the public

Adjournment: Being no further business to come before the meeting, Councilwoman Welton made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Howe the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the Saratoga Town Council will be held January 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Saratoga Town Hall.

Mayor John Zeiger

ATTEST:

Suzie Cox, Clerk