

COLTON TOWN HALL MINUTES
March 3rd, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jerry Weber, Sam Keller, Kyle White, Jim Dahmen, Dot Sharp and Chuck DeMeerleer. Also in attendance were Jenni Straughan and Steve Bremer.

Minutes: Sam Keller motioned to accept the minutes and Dot Sharp seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.

Warrants: Warrants, as follows, were approved, with a motion by Chuck DeMeerleer and a second by Jim Dahmen. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Salary and Benefits

Warrant #903300-903309 for: \$10,538.12

Warrant #'s 909382-909394 for:

General:	\$ 362.44
Streets:	\$54,901.02
Real Estate Excise:	\$
Cumulative Reserve:	\$
Water/Sewer:	\$ 2,086.07
Subtotal:	\$ 57,349.53
Grand Total:	\$ 67,887.65

New Business:**Kyle White:**

Kyle White was sworn in as Council Member Position #2. He was also given the Whistleblower Act.

Electrical Panel:

Steve said that only one bid came in and it is from Strom Electric for \$2,009. He said four electricians came to look at it. Dot Sharp motioned to accept Strom's bid and Sam Keller seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Genesee:

Genesee is going to start using microorganisms in their pond. Weippe has done it for three years and their ponds are crystal clear. They help contain algae and they have had no PH problems. If it works for Genesee, Steve said that he would like to try it here.

Gun Club Road:

Steve told the council that the Gun Club Road is starting to come apart. He said it needs to be cut and patched and chip sealed. The council agreed, he will contact the county to schedule this to be done.

Gravel Road by Bridge:

Steve told the council that the gravel road right past the bridge on Wilbur Ellis's side of town has huge pot holes. He said that it needs to be dug out about 20 to 30 feet and then asphalted. He will contact contractors to get bids.

Cracks on Summit:

Chuck said that there are several cracks on Summit Street that need to be filled too. The council asked Steve to get bids to have this done.

Box Scrapers:

Sam Keller presented several prices for box scrapers from \$700-\$1,200. It was decided since there are only a few gravel roads in town that it would be best to purchase the least expensive scraper, and that if a used one becomes available to purchase it.

Mike's Heating:

Steve told the council that Mikes' came and looked at the Police Office's heating unit. The unit became red hot and started smoking. Mike's could find nothing wrong with it but was turning in a bid to replace it.

Ongoing Business:**Old Town Pick-up Truck:**

Jim Dahmen suggested that the town keep the old pick-up truck. That way if Steve needs to go into town he can use that vehicle instead and save miles on the new one. It does need to have the ABS brakes fixed on it. Mayor Weber suggested to Steve to find out how much it would cost to fix the brakes. The council agreed with Jim Dahmen. Jenni will contact the insurance company and have the liability insurance reinstated.

Lewis and Clark Recycling:

Mayor Weber asked if anyone had heard from Lewis and Clark Recycling. No one had heard from them. Mayor Weber read an email from David Nails at Whitman County Recycling and it said that they have applied for a grant to purchase 10 new containers and if the grant is obtained that the town would get one of the containers. He said that the grant would also cover all recycling costs for a year. Whitman County will be doing single stream, which means all recyclables go into one bin. Whitman County also recycles glass, which Lewis Clark does not.

Colton Website:

Dot Sharp presented information on different websites and web designers. She said that a man out of Palouse has done several of the towns around Whitman County for \$600. Chuck DeMeerleer also told the council that he has been talking with web designers and that the highest priced one he found was \$3,500. He felt that \$6,000 was exorbitant. Mayor Weber said that he wants a website that pops, that will attract people to Colton. After much discussion, Sam Keller said that he was not willing to pay \$6,000 for a website, the other council members agreed. Mayor Weber asked Dot to contact Bo from Palouse and set up a meeting to discuss a new website with him.

Christmas Contest:

Chuck DeMeerleer said that he was approached to mention having a contest around Christmas time for best lighted house, most creative lighting, etc. The council said that maybe the Christmas committee could start this.

Department of Transportation:

Jenni told the council that she contacted DOT today asking when they were going to move the 30 MPH and 60 MPH signs at Rimrock Road. They did not return her call. She said that she emailed them also. She will continue to follow up on this.

Water Overages:

Jenni told the council that several residents had large overages due to the meters not being read for 4 months due to bad weather. Since the overages occurred over four months she had to credit 5 residents who were over the \$1.00 per 1000 gallons. Mayor Weber read a letter from Mr. Giden, who was concerned because he was overestimated and was overcharged. Jenni explained that she credited him the \$1.00 overcharge.

Sewer Charge for Colton School:

Jenni explained to the council that starting September 2013, the Colton School District was inadvertently undercharged. They were billed \$35 for sewer, when they should have been charged \$355.25. Jenni contacted Marsha at CHS and explained what happened and emailed her the correct bill.

Palouse City Byways:

Mayor Weber read a letter from Palouse City Byways asking for representatives from each town. Dot Sharp volunteered to be Colton's representative. Thank you, Dot.

Whitman County Mayor's Roundtable:

Mayor Weber told the council that he and Sunni Freyer were supposed to attend the Mayor's Roundtable Meeting this Thursday in Albion, but that he was unable to attend now and wanted to know if anyone was willing to go in his place. No one was able to attend.

Whitman County Public Works:

Whitman County sent an approval letter to the town for spot sealing some of Colton's Streets.

Terry Kristoff:

Mayor Weber read a letter from Terry Kristoff that said that DOE wants TD and H to send another draft of the town's Wastewater Facility Plan with the HP appendix removed.

Nate Smith:

Mayor Weber read a letter from Nate Smith regarding a grant opportunity for the town for safe routes to school. Mayor Weber sent it to Munir to review and help the town fill it out.

Terry Nab Letter:

Mayor Weber read a letter from Terry Nab. Terry explained that he was let go of TD and H and that he was going to be doing some private consulting and wanted to

continue to work with the town and that he would be very competitive. All council members agreed that they would like to continue to work with him.

Economic Development:

Mayor Weber read a letter from a company that was looking for 1200-2000 square feet of space for a manufacturing company. They were looking at Pullman, Uniontown and Colton. Mayor Weber contacted Chuck Tilton about his old grocery store. Chuck was opposed to the idea, but said that his brother is putting in a small apartment in that building.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Sam Keller and seconded by Chuck DeMeerleer. The motion was carried by voice and passed by all. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Approved By Mayor

Attested By Clerk