

# COLTON TOWN HALL MINUTES

April 7th, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:27 p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jerry Weber, Sam Keller, Kyle White, Jim Dahmen and Chuck DeMeerleer. Dot Sharp was absent. Also in attendance were Jenni Straughan, Greg Schultheis, Karen Grable, WSU architect student Steve, Mr. and Mrs. Tracewicx and Steve Bremer.

**Minutes:** Sam Keller motioned to accept the minutes and Chuck DeMeerleer 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 #903310-903319 for: \$10,453.88

Warrant #'s 909395-909406 for:

General:	\$ 6,143.03
Streets:	\$2,936.54
Real Estate Excise:	\$
Cumulative Reserve:	\$
Water/Sewer:	\$ 4,289.75
Subtotal:	\$ 13,369.32
Grand Total:	\$ 23,823.20

**New Business:****Steve, WSU Architect Student:**

Steve explained to the council that he is working on his thesis and wants to help bring more services to rural communities. He is working on the old bank and would like to re-introduce it as a space for activities and put heritage back into the town.

**Emily Tracewicx:**

Emily explained to the council that she has been a resident of Colton since 2011 and that she was walking with her young daughter a month ago and she was sprayed by a wet stream of chemicals that had a strong odor. The council was perplexed by this because the only thing that was being sprayed was dry fertilizer and that it doesn't have an odor. She said that she is very concerned about the agriculture chemicals that are being used around town and that she was also concerned about the chemicals that the town was using for killing weeds. Steve Bremer told her that she could contact the Department of Agriculture and get her name on a list, if she or her family has sensitivity to those types of chemicals, and that anytime anyone sprays or uses chemicals they would have to let her know. Steve also told her that he would not spray any weed killing chemicals around her home. Mayor Weber told her that they would have to maintain the town property in front of their home which they agreed that they would do. Steve also told her that that she could put a sign up that says "No Spray Zone".

**Crack Sealing:**

Steve told the council that there are several streets that need crack sealing. The council agreed to get a bid from the county to have these repaired.

**New Chemical at the School:**

Steve told the council that the school purchased a really expensive brand new chemical to kill dandelions. He said that he would like to try it and the school was willing to charge \$100 to do this. The council agreed to pay the \$100.

**Town Siren:**

Steve told the council that Strom Electric tried to fix the siren, but that the motor was burned out. The council would like Strom to give a bid to fix it.

**Bids for Asphalt Replacement:**

Steve told the council that he received 2 bids for asphalt replacement on Rimrock, Depot and Gun Club Road. Herco's bid was \$1,100 less than Geise's. The council approved the lowest bid with a motion from Chuck DeMeerleer and a second by Sam Keller. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

**Assisted Living Facility:**

The Garges' are looking into building an assisted living home here in Colton. They will need 9 CNA's and will accept private pay and people who have long term care insurance.

**Spring Clean-up:**

The 40 yard dumpster will be delivered this Thursday. Saturday is Spring Clean-up Day. Flyers were sent out and the hours are from 8 a.m. to noon. Steve will be there to ensure that only proper things are dumped in it.

**Whitman County Library:**

Mayor Weber read a letter from the Whitman County Library that discussed the high speed internet that they would be having installed soon. The library bill was also enclosed.

**USDA Rural Development:**

Mayor Weber read a letter from USDA thanking the town for turning in its annual report complete and timely.

**DOE Letter:**

Mayor Weber read a letter from DOE that said that they have approved our updated facility plan.

**Ongoing Business:****Lewis and Clark Recycling:**

Mayor Weber read an email from Shanna saying that the recycling containers will be ready to bring up in the next week or two. The council was concerned since Lewis and Clark Recycling had not sent a contract yet. Mayor Weber asked Jenni to contact them and let them know that the town needs a contract and that it will be reviewed at the May Council Meeting.

**Website:**

Mayor Weber told the council that he, Dot and Jenni met with Bo Ossinger about the new website. He presented a picture of the Colton home page that Bo completed. He said he really liked the look of it and that it will be so much better than the current one. Greg Schultheis told the council that the website that Bo is doing is a static website and the one that Sunni would do is a dynamic website. He explained the difference and said that the town would have to pay Bo to make changes to the website and that the one that Sunni would do anyone could make changes. Greg said that if Bo died that the town would have no one else that could make the changes.

Jenni told him that Bo said that he could train her to use it, but that he said it would be so much quicker if he did it himself and that it would cost hardly anything, probably under \$25 a month. Jenni said that Dot Sharp contacted several of the towns that use Bo and every one of them highly recommended him and they were very pleased with their websites. He is only charging the town \$300 to put together the website. Chuck DeMeerleer said that he has looked into websites and that a \$6000 website is far more than what the town needs. Greg told the council that the town needs to have a dynamic website because it sells the town and brings in economic growth and development. He said that static websites also cannot be navigated on smart phones and that is a problem. Jenni told the council that she would contact Bo and ask him what would happen if he was unable to update the website. Karen Grable told the council that she knew of some web developers and would email the town their information. She too said that \$6,000 was very expensive and that the town could find someone to do it for a lot less than that.

**Speed Zone Signs:**

Jenni told the council that DOT has everything that they need from us and that it will probably take them a while to get the approval and move the signs.

**Police Heat and A/C:**

When Mike's Heating came to look at the police office's heater/AC, they also sent a bid to replace the old one. The council asked Steve to get a couple of more bids.

**Terry Nab:**

Mayor Weber read a letter from Terry Nab. It stated that he would like to continue to work with the town. All council agreed that they would like to continue to work with Terry Nab.

**T D and H:**

Mayor Weber asked Jenni to send a letter to TD and H thanking them for their service. The council also asked Jenni to contact TD and H to find out when they would pull the tidbits and collect their data.

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.

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Approved By Mayor

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Attested By Clerk