

COLTON TOWN HALL MINUTES
December 6th, 2021

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jerry Weber, Sam Keller, Cory Cucchiara, Dot Sharp, Kyle White and Scott Miller, Clerk Jenni Straughan, Steve Bremer, Stillman Norton, Brian Keller, and Ken Darby.

Minutes Sam Keller motioned to approve the November 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 Kyle White and a second by Scott Miller. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Salary and Benefits

Warrant #904748-904765 for: \$19,197.62

Warrant #'s 911033-911050 for:

General: \$ 21,355.88

Streets: \$ 3,943.20

Real Estate Excise: \$

Cemetery: \$

Water/Sewer: \$ 15,516.54

Subtotal: \$ 40,815.62

Grand Total: \$ 60,012.94

New Business:**Steve Bremer:****Discharging:**

Steve told the council that he won't start discharging until probably next week.

Sewer Flow Meter:

Steve told the council that the sewer flow meter has been calibrated. He is waiting on another meter for the other pump. Phil reset the water pumps for winter running.

Lagoon Specialist:

Steve handed the council an information packet on a product that is highly recommended by the Lagoon Specialist the town has hired to do testing. Steve said that after the use of the product after 11 months, it reduced sludge by 30%. And it also helps the BOD's and TSS. If it works it could save the town hundreds of thousands of dollars. The cost would be \$30K for a year of the products, \$2,500 a month. The council will review the handout and talk about it next year.

Snow Plow:

Steve said that the snow plow is loaded with sand and ready to go.

Blinking Crosswalk Sign:

Cory Cucchiara said that he has received lots of concerns about cars not slowing down for people in the crosswalks. He is going to find some literature on blinking lights at the crosswalk and present at the next meeting.

TIB:

The town received a letter from TIB that it did not receive funding because of the application being filled out incorrectly. Our engineer completed the

application. Jenni called them to find out what was wrong with the application. They have not returned her call yet.

DRS Exit Interview:

Jenni told the council that the DRS audit went well and the only issue was reporting two retirees to DRS.

Richard Hattan:

Jenni told the council that Richard Hattan would like to put up a removable retaining wall that would be on town right of way. He attached pictures for the council to view. The council had no problem with this, as long as he understood that if the town needed to dig it up, it would be at his expense. Jenni told the council that he was aware of this and that he had no problem if that was to happen.

Portogo:

Jenni told the council that she stopped payment on the Portogo check. The bank charged the town \$35, but in the end, it saved \$90. She also informed the council that the previous owner contacted Steve and said that he was taking the Portogo company back and would be picking up the porta-potties. It was discussed that they should reimburse the town for having to have their porta-potty cleaned by King's Throne.

Marshal Keller:

Marshal Keller told the council that there might be someone interested in his position who works for Whitman County now. But he said he wasn't sure if the Whitman County Sheriff would allow it anymore. The town will advertise the position next year.

Keller and Associates:

Stillman presented the council with the preliminary amendment to the town's sewer plan. Department of Ecology has had it for a couple of months but have not had a chance to review it yet. He briefly recapped it. There are

three alternatives: 1) Land Treatment 2) Status Quo and 3) Summer land treatment and winter creek discharge. There are pros and cons to all three options. The cost ranges from 3 million to 5 million to complete. He discussed some financial options, with the best one probably being a loan through DOE. They have a principal forgiveness program. The rate increase for sewer would be approximately \$33 a month at an interest rate of 1.3% for a 30 year loan. The council will discuss the options further next year and discussed having a town hall meeting for residents to attend for their input.

Town Hall Holiday Closure:

Town Hall will be closed December 20th-December 30th. There will be someone checking messages and emails. Town Hall will be opened periodically from January 3rd through January 6th. Again, messages will be checked regularly. Town Hall will re-open with normal hours on January 10th.

Sarah Cucchiara:

Caryl Keller has retired. Sarah will be filling in as the deputy clerk.

Kyle White:

The council thanked Kyle for his years of service and welcomed Ken Darby into his position. He will be sworn in next month.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Sam Keller and seconded by Kyle White. The meeting closed at 8:13 p.m.

Approved By Mayor

Attested By Clerk