

COLTON TOWN HALL MINUTES
March 7th, 2022

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Pro Temp Mayor Sam Keller, Ken Darby, Cory Cucchiara, Dot Sharp and Scott Miller, Chris Schultheis, Gary Riedner, Tom Heitstuman, Wes and Diane Patterson, Clerk Jenni Straughan and Steve Bremer. Mayor Jerry Weber was absent.

Minutes Cory Cucchiara motioned to approve 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 Dot Sharp and a second by Scott Miller. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Salary and Benefits

Warrant #904790-904800 for: \$13,183.85

Warrant #'s 911077-911089 for:

General: \$ 2,107.37

Streets: \$ 1,178.06

Real Estate Excise: \$

Cemetery: \$

Water/Sewer: \$ 3,993.84

Subtotal: \$ 7,279.27

Grand Total: \$ 20,463.12

New Business: Chris Schultheis:**Trailer Court:**

Chris Schultheis told the council that he has set the process to close the trailer park down. He has contacted his attorney and will get notices sent out soon. The residents will have a year to move. He expects to have it all cleaned up and the trailers gone by 2023. He will then make them into three building sites. He said that he will come to the meetings when he can, to update the town and if he can't be here, he will let Jenni know so that she can update the council.

American Legion:

Gary Riedner discussed deeding Legion Park to the town, since the town will begin doing maintenance on it soon. He would like to draw up an agreement to ensure that the park and monument are maintained by the town.

Steve Bremer:

Steve told the council that he stopped discharging last Wednesday but needed to start again on Sunday. He told the council that when the town decides to do the sewer project that the piping and manholes need to be replaced in that area. He said that it is about 1200 to 1500 feet of piping that is in very bad shape.

Police Department:

Ken Darby told the council that he did some research on police positions in the area. It sounds like the only option, if the town can't find someone who has already been through the academy, would be for the town to send someone through the academy, which is expensive and then more than likely the town would probably have to employ them fulltime. Sam Keller told the council that he spoke with Whitman County Sheriff Brett Myers and he gave the town some options the county offers. For 20 hours a week, the town could contract with them for \$50,000 a year, for 10 hours a week, it would cost \$25,000 and 5 hours a week would cost \$12,500 a

year. With that contract, the county also gets all revenue on traffic tickets. Brett Myers said that he feels that radar signs do help and that the town could purchase them through the Sheriff's office. Scott Miller motioned to approve the purchase of 2 solar speed signs from Whitman County and Ken Darby seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all. The council was not interested in paying the county to do the policing. The county would respond via 911 for all calls without paying anything. Jenni will contact Brett Myers to have them ordered. The council also discussed once Marshal Keller retires from the town that they will see how it goes without an officer for a few months and then make a decision. Marshal Keller said he would **consider** helping from time to time when the town needs an officer.

Spring Clean-up:

Spring Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 9th. Steve will be there to monitor.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Scott Miller and seconded by Ken Darby. The meeting closed at 8:48 p.m.

Approved By Mayor

Attested By Clerk