

COLTON TOWN HALL MINUTES
November 7th, 2022

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jerry Weber, Cory Cucchiara, Sam Keller, Ken Darby, Dot Sharp and Scott Miller, Mike Thomas, Art Schultheis, Jenni Straughan and Steve Bremer.

Minutes Scott Miller 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 #904880-904889 for: \$10,752.54

Warrant #'s 911179-911193 for:

General: \$ 12,838.90

Streets: \$ 2,347.56

Real Estate Excise: \$

Cemetery: \$ 107.90

Water/Sewer: \$ 7,212.05

Subtotal: \$22,506.41

Grand Total: \$ 33,258.95

New Business:

Public Hearing on 2023 Budget:

The Meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jerry Weber, Cory Cucchiara, Sam Keller, Ken Darby, Dot Sharp and Scott Miller, Mike Thomas, Art Schultheis, Jenni Straughan and Steve Bremer.

Jenni reviewed the 2023 budget, Mayor Weber read Ordinance #530. Sam Keller motioned to close the Public Hearing and Scott Miller seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all. The Public Hearing closed at 7:41.

Steve Bremer:

Scott Heitstuman Property:

Steve told the council that the water service line is on Steptoe Street on Post Office side of town and Union Street on the other side of Trimble's shop. It is 150 feet from the property and it can't be dug, it must be bored from Union side. He figured it would cost upward of \$2,000. Sam Keller suggested that they get a price to do it and then bring it back to the council. He said that he would not be opposed to cost sharing the project.

Discharging:

Steve told the council that the discharge is ready to go. The flow meter has been calibrated.

Newsletter:

Jenni told the council that she will work on a newsletter for winter reminding people to remove their trailers, etc. from the street, so that the town can be plowed.

Resolution #810, Sewer Rate Increase:

The council discussed Resolution #810, increasing the sewer rate \$20, increasing the school's .70 cents per student/faculty member and increasing the sewer hook-up fee \$2,000. The new sewer rate would be

\$69.83, the school's rate would be \$2.45 per student/faculty and the sewer hook-up fee would be \$2,500. Mayor Weber said that the newsletter that was sent to all the residents about the potential increase was received positively. He said that people understand that the town has to increase the rates to help cover costs to update the sewer system. Jenni said that she has not heard any concerns from town residents. Dot Sharp motioned to approve Resolution #810 and Cory Cucchiara seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

DOE Loan Application:

Mayor Weber reviewed the DOE loan application. The loan amount has gone up substantially from the cost estimate on the sewer plan amendment. The application has been submitted.

Ongoing Business:

Audit:

Jenni told the council that she just had the pre exit audit meeting. The town's procurement resolution needs to be updated. Jenni told the council that she has contacted the town's attorney to help with this. The town has always used its engineers to ensure all procurement procedures were followed. The auditors found several issues with procurement. She also told the council that a policy needs to be written for EFT transfers and for water and sewer protocols. The final exit interview will probably be after Thanksgiving and the mayor and a council member will also need to attend.

Vision Software:

Jenni told the council that she has called all Whitman County towns to find out what kind of software that they use for utility billing, budget and payroll. She explained that the town's ASP software is obsolete and that the town needs to find a new one. After talking with other towns and getting prices, and speaking with the auditor about the different software, she thinks that the best option is to go with Vision. Vision is the company

that took over ASP, and the total price for Budget and Payroll software and training, etc. was \$12,000. The annual cost for maintenance and assistance is \$2,000. She said that she wants to keep the ASP billing at this time, it works fine and saves the town about \$9,000. In the future, the town can change the billing over to Vision as well. Sam Keller motioned to approve the purchase of the Vision Software and Dot Sharp seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Legion Park Agreement:

Mayor Weber said that the Legion Park agreement has been signed.

Flashing Lights:

Steve told the council that the flashing speed zone lights are up. Sam Keller said that he has had residents thanking the council for doing this.

Truong's Tree:

Mayor Weber wanted to let the council know that Jeff Druffel will be taking down the tree in front of Truong's home.

Ordinance #530, 2023 Budget:

Cory Cucchiara motioned to approve the 2023 Budget and Scott Miller seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Treasury Account:

The town has a treasury account with 262K in it. Jenni said that the bank called to let her know that interest rates have gone up substantially and a 6 month CD interest rate would be 4.3%. She wondered if the town council wanted to add another \$200K to it, since the rate was so good. Sam Keller motioned to approve adding \$200K to the current CD. Ken Darby seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Cory Cucchiara and seconded by Sam Keller. The meeting closed at 8:46 p.m.

Approved By Mayor

Attested By Clerk