

COLTON TOWN HALL MINUTES
September 6th, 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, Gary Riedner, David Council, Stillman Norton via phone, Clerk Jenni Straughan and Steve Bremer.

Minutes Sam Keller 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 Cory Cucchiara and a second by Scott Miller. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

Salary and Benefits

Warrant #904858-904867for: \$10,963.52

Warrant #'s 911153-911168 for:

General: \$ 5,060.36

Streets: \$ 1,444.52

Real Estate Excise: \$

Cemetery: \$ 500.00

Water/Sewer: \$ 21,532.80

Subtotal: \$28,537.68

Grand Total: \$ 39,501.20

New Business:

Gary Riedner:

Gary told the council that he was there to answer any questions about the proposed agreement between the town and the American Legion. Since the town's attorneys did not agree with the proposed Christmas decorations being left on the agreement, the council agreed that Gary should contact the town's attorney to discuss further.

David Council:

David told the council that he was there to discuss leveling the property on the town's right of way. The council told him that they had no problem with him doing that, but reminded him that it was town right of way and if the town needed to access it, they could and it would be the homeowner's expense.

Sewer Rate Increase:

The council discussed increasing the sewer rate \$20.00 a month. The rate will likely have to increase to at least \$45 a month, when the town begins paying on the monthly DOE loan installment. It was suggested to send out a newsletter explaining the cost of the new sewer system and why the rates have to increase. Jenni will begin to work on this.

Power Spike:

Steve told the council that when he was on vacation there was a power spike and the sewer system powered off. The flapper needed to be replaced. Steve contacted KME and they told him that the flapper is obsolete and can't be purchased. KME is going to attempt to make several to replace the broken one and is hoping that they will work.

Emergency Cell Phone:

Steve told the council that he needed to purchase a cell phone through Inland Cellular, so that he has service when he is out of town. Inland Cellular covers outlying areas that his personal phone doesn't cover. The phone costs \$400 and the monthly cost is \$40. The council agreed that this was a good idea, so he could be reached if something happened to the water/sewer systems.

ARPA Bonus:

The council had approved a 10% ARPA bonus for Jenni and Steve a couple of months ago. After Jenni researched this further with the town attorney and MRSC, she found out that the State of Washington has rules and that the ARPA money could not be used to pay employees retroactively. She said that most cities and towns that gave ARPA bonuses in the State of Washington had extreme staffing turnover and they used it for retaining their current employees. Since the town did not experience that type of turnover, there was concerns about using the ARPA money for those bonuses. The council agreed that all of the ARPA funds should be used to upgrade the sewer system.

Ongoing Business:**Stillman Norton:****Water System:**

Stillman told the council that it would cost about \$19K to do a water capacity analysis. The council decided to focus on the town's sewer system at this time.

Flashing Speed Zone Signs:

Steve told the council that one of the flashing speed zone signs has come in. He will contact WSDOT to determine where he can place them.

Sewer System:

Stillman suggested that the town apply for funding now for the sewer project. The project is projected to cost 3.3 million to upgrade the sewer system. If the town received the DOE funding, 1.1 million would be forgiven. The cost for Keller and Associate to complete the loan application will cost about \$1,500 to \$2,000. Sam Keller motioned to move forward with the loan application and Dot Sharp seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

More Inappropriate Stickers on Light Posts:

Mayor Weber said that more stickers were placed on the light poles. Steve has removed them.

Whitman County Recycling Center:

Dot Sharp told the council that she has been in contact with David Nails and that they have reserved one recycling bin for the town.

Town's Old 38 Revolver:

Sam Keller told the council that Ken Darby is interested in purchasing the old 38 revolver, but that it has to go through a gun shop. Cory Cucchiara motioned to allow Ken to purchase the 38. Scott Miller seconded the motion. The vote was carried by voice and passed by all.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Sam Keller and seconded by Ken Darby. The meeting closed at 9:12 p.m.

Approved By Mayor

Attested By Clerk