

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council

February 8, 2023

Mayor Samantha Burkhead called the meeting to order, Samantha led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Jay Van Horn, Ruth Saffell, Mayor Samantha Burkhead, Cindy Foose, Rod Miller, Police Chief Chris Storm, Fiscal Officer Ricky Burkhead, Cole Antalok

Absent: Carol Merritt, Zach Gaston, Dirk Davis

Guest(s)

Jordan Castello, Stephanie Castello, Phil Castello, Chuck Little, Larry Taylor, Dave Green

Reports

The Fiscal Officer E-Mailed Fund Status, Cash Summary by Fund, Fund Ledger, Payroll, Receipt Register & YTD Appropriation status reports to Council Members, Administrator, Fire Chief & Mayor. Rod Miller made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes, seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Larry Taylor addressed council and discussed the plan of operation for the gas and electric aggregation plans. Two public hearings have been complete. Next Larry has to submit a list for Columbia Gas users to supplies to get some rates locked in. Larry stated that electric is mostly powered by natural gas now and that right now prices are down. Projected prices are going to be \$0.12 per KWH and right now they are \$0.075 per KWH for 24 months. The program for electric would also be an opt out program. Jay discussed the electric supplier and how it would affect the residents on a budget. Larry stated that it should not negatively affect people on a budget. Larry stated that a lot of people are going to get increases without knowing it if we can't get a rate locked in. Larry stated that if anyone has issues opting out of the program, that he would personally assist them. Cindy made a motion to approve the gas and electric plan of governance for Bethesda, seconded by Jay, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.

Rick read the two bids for the sale of the police Charger. Ringwood Motors bid \$840 and Emergency Remarketing bid \$2,278.18 with or without the decals and equipment. Jay recommended we keep as much equipment as possible. Rod made a motion to approve the bid for Emergency Remarketing, seconded by Cindy, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.

Rick presented the Union TWP EMS contract renewal for approval. Ruth made a motion to approve the renewal, seconded by Rod, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.

Rick presented Dirk's monthly report to council:

- Gail Avenue still needs addressed.
- JP gave Dirk an application for extending water lines beyond village limits for the Farrabee project.
- Dirk is looking into voicemails for city building phones.
- No updates on finding a class 2 operator for the sewer plant.
- New water/sewer Rates will be applied to the March 1 bill and will be billed per ten gallons. Theresa is working with billing company to put this in place. We need to have the software company modify the program.
- We are averaging 90k gallons per day and are determining if there is a leak on Maple. Ruth found a pinhole in a copper line and a leak on Grandview was fixed.
- Belomar dues are \$399.63 for 2023 need a motion to approve membership if we want to be a part of it. Rod made a motion to approve the membership, seconded by Cindy, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.
- Sewer plant issues. Dirk sent everyone pictures of the broken aerator shaft in the oxidation ditch. Dave contacted Envirodyne Systems for the price of a new shaft. The shaft is approximately 12 feet long and 6" wide solid steel shaft and costs about \$20,580. The Public Works crew is making sure measurements are correct and are trying to find shop plans for the measurements of the shaft. Plans have not been found as of yet, and they may be missing. Dave and Dirk are going to meet with Jeff Vaughn from the county so he can help us to get this job done correctly. Dirk is getting estimates for a crane and to have the installation done. This is something we cannot do ourselves. The insurance company has been notified since the day it broke. EPA was notified on February 1st by phone and letter on Feb 2nd. It could take up to 12 weeks to get a new shaft then it will take time to install it.
- John bates submitted resignation as of 03-31-23 in writing. Dirk thanked John for all of his work. Motion to advertise we are taking bids for the contract to operate the sewer plant motioned by Cindy, seconded by Rod, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes. We will open bids at next meeting March 8th. Bids due March 6th by 5PM.
- Insurance Renewal is \$29,641 and increase of about \$1625 from last year. Motion to approve the renewal 2023-2024 made by Ruth, seconded by Cindy, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.
- Zac Gust had to make a call to fix internet. Zac suggested we update our system the estimate is \$2091.36 Ruth made a motion to make Zac's recommended update, seconded by Cindy, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller - Yes, Cindy Foose - Yes.
- We applied for a \$10,000 grant for sewer tools.
- Dirk would like Zach Gust to be the village IT person on call.

Regular Meeting of Bethesda Village Council (Continued)

February 8, 2023

Cole discussed changing the ordinance committee regarding dilapidated houses and junk ordinances. Cole stated that the ordinance states that the police inspect properties and then turn it over to the village administrator. Cole stated that he would like to know what procedure that council would like to put in place for this. Council discussed that the police would assess the situations and cite violations. Council also discussed that complaints would be brought to council and then voted on before being cited. Cole stated that he would look more into this. Rod stated that there are issues with favoritism with certain residents that id causing issues for the ordinance committee. The new ordinance will remove the administrator portion. Recommendations will go to Police Chief and he will issue warnings and then come back to vote on a citation by council. Cole asked what we want to do with Gail Avenue. Council decided that we do not want Pike to touch it and that we want to get estimates to fix it.

Police Chief Storm stated that the department issued 30 warnings, 24 citations and assisted the sheriff twice. The department also responded to an open door at a local business and everything was checked out and cleared.

Ruth Saffell made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and pending litigation, at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Cindy Foose, Jay - Yes, Ruth - Yes, Carol – Yes, Rod – Yes.

At 8:19 p.m. Mayor Samantha Burkhead declared executive session over.

Cindy made a motion to approve a pay increase for the administrator and increase the monthly salary to \$1,625, seconded by Ruth, Jay Van Horn - Yes, Ruth Saffell - Yes, Rod Miller – Yes, Cindy Foose – Yes.

Chief Storm stated that the police department received \$3,500 in ammunition from an NRA Grant.

Motion to pay bills by Rod Miller, 2nd by Cindy Foose, with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn by Cindy Foose, 2nd by Ruth Saffell, with a unanimous vote.

The next meeting will be Wednesday March 8th, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.

Mayor Samantha Burkhead

Fiscal Officer Ricky W. Burkhead Jr.