

REGULAR MEETING THE TOWN OF WINNETT HELD January 28th, 2025

THOSE PRESENT– Leo Tarplee–Mayor
Levi Johnson, Tom Tiarks, Pam Bevis- Council
Jake Kramlich – Director of Public Works
Savannah Moore – Clerk & Treasurer

Denise Manley, Nikki Rife, Sam Murnion, Brad Olson – Guest

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:** Leo called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Review and Adopt Agenda – No revisions.
- II. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Minutes:
 - Tom made a motion to approve the December minutes, Pam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Claims:
 - Levi made a motion to approve the December claims, Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Public Comment**
 - a. Welcome Visitors – Opportunity to allow public comment on any public matter not otherwise on the agenda and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency. MCA-2-3-103.
 - Sam brought up for discussion that the school will be needing a bigger propane tank due to cost and general usage; one possible option would require closing a street. At this time there is no definitive plan, when engineering is complete it will be added to the agenda for further discussion.
 - Sam said the school is also considering irrigating out of the creek to water the football field.
- IV. **Communications** - no communications
- V. **Reports**
 - a. Pool
 - b. Snowy Mountain Development Appointee
 - New Appointee Needed – Denise is possibly interested in this position, she will let the council know.
 - c. Conservation District Appointee, Urban Supervisors – absent, nothing to report.
 - d. Sheriff Department – Absent
 - Sheriff Dan resigned; no new sheriff at this time.
 - e. Fire Department – Absent, nothing to report.
 - f. Public Works – Jake Kramlich
 - A new propane tank for the generator will be \$4,385; Hell Creek Electric forgot to turn in a bid for this project.
 - Cody Ahlgren inspected the City Hall fire extinguishers for free, the only charge will be if an extinguisher needs replacing which he will do at cost.
 - Discussion is had on cleaning up the city shop, specifically large dog crates – the council recommends doing a surplus sale for anything Jake doesn't need and organizing the shop however works best for him.
 - Renting equipment and oil to patch the streets for 2 weeks would be just under \$5,000. Jake has talked to Levi, Jeremy Scheer, and Ed Hanson who

are all willing to help and show him how to run the equipment; he believes this would save money and he could get a lot more done so would prefer to do this in the spring/summer vs hiring Hardrives.

- Hawkins worked on well injector – working good again.
- Water tank was cleaned by Midco, there was a lot of debris – Jake recommends going back to a 3 year cleaning scheduling and then reevaluating how much time to go in between cleanings.

g. Clerk – Savannah Moore

- The council received the revenue to actual budget report, expenditure to actual budget report, and cash reports in their packets, as well as bank statements for 1st Bank & STIP for previous month.
- Levi made a motion to order more stamped envelopes, Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Utility billing adjustments: Cameron Barnes bill adjusted using leak policy, Dave and Janie Calvert's adjusted – possible broken meter, Bill Lowe's account had a \$3.00 credit, removed credit and applied it to Hanson's (who inherited his house) to deactivate his account, Kaly Maetche had a \$3.20 credit – refunded with deposit and zeroed account out.
- The Town was awarded a grant from Larry Carrell to get all new debris covers for the water system.
- The ending checking account balance for December was \$143,307.60.

h. Council:

- Levi: Nothing to report.
- Tom: Nothing to report.
- Pam: Nothing to report.
- Nikki Rife presented a letter of interest for the vacant council position. Levi made a motion to appoint Nikki, Pam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Discussion is had on reorganization of the council and president duties; no one is appointed at this time.

i. Mayor – Leo Tarplee

- Talked to Jordan Brinkerhoff, Stockgrowers President, about a carport on one side of the city shop; there was no objection to this request.

VI. Old Business

a. Chlorinator Shed Project

- The valve house and the blower house were the buildings that needed new siding and a new door; this project appears complete – Savannah will confirm with Jake.

b. MT Main St Program

- Aces were awarded a grant for \$82,760 toward the courthouse project.

c. Park Improvement Project – no updates.

d. Courthouse Meter Pit – not ready for a new meter pit yet.

VII. New Business

a. Morrison-Maierle

- RPR for Generator Project
 - The council would like Morrison Maierle to do the RPR.

- Discussion is had on the generator project; following SRF funding requirements will require additional engineering costs and possible additional contractor costs – the council unanimously agrees to keep moving forward with this project.
- b. Stahly Engineering – no updates.
- c. Town Lease: Bid Opening
 - Savannah opened and read the sealed bid.
 - Levi made a motion to accept Ryan Obrigewitch's bid for \$125 per year to lease the Town Park, Pam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Resolution 2026-01
 - Levi made a motion to pass resolution 2026-01, discussion is had on rates and Tom specifically asked Savannah to check his rate to ensure it matches his special agreement with the Town, Pam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- e. Personnel Policy
 - Levi made a motion to change the pay schedule in the personnel policy from monthly to semimonthly, Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- f. Street Drainage Project
 - Dygert Construction LLC submitted an estimate for two drainage jobs totaling \$9,500 – job 1 behind school \$5,300; job 2 by football field \$4,200.00. Discussion is had. This will be paid for with gas tax.
 - Tom made a motion to accept Dygert's estimate for street repair, Pam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Dygert also submitted an estimate for valve replacements to be able to start applying for grants.
- g. City Shop Car Port
 - Discussed in Mayor report; need cost estimates for grants and to pursue this project further.
- h. Street Sweeper
 - Discussion is had on a used Street Sweeper Leo and Jake looked at; asking price is \$15,000, they have given the Town a 10% discount lowering it to \$13,500.
 - Discussion is had on how often the street sweeper would be used and funding sources – The \$10,000 Carrell grant originally applied for dump truck has been approved to use for a street sweeper, the remaining would come out of gas tax.
 - Levi made a motion to purchase the street sweeper, Tom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Items for Next Agenda

- a. Charging base rates to absentee or unused pits.

IX. Adjourn Meeting 6:45 PM.

- a. Levi made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 PM, Pam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

X

Leo Tarplee
Mayor

X

Savannah Moore
Town Clerk & Treasurer

Claims Paid:

#3152	Rural Development	\$845.00
#3153	DEQ WWOC	\$140.00
#3154	Winnett Transportation	\$332.05
#3155	Breaks General Store	\$289.74
#3156	Utilities Underground Loc	\$14.00
#3157	Larry Ahlgren	\$400.00
#3158	Volunteer Fire Dept	\$394.34
#3159	US BANK TRUST	\$3,643.29
#3160	Mid Rivers	\$236.91
#3161	Jones Law Firm	\$60.00
#3162	Stahly	\$1,431.00
#3163	Casino Creek	\$1,127.75
#3164	Hell Creek Electric	\$696.30
#3165	Fabian's	\$342.00
#3166	John Deere Financial	\$1,057.73
#3167	Tripp & Associates	\$3,800.00
#3168	Mid State Signs	\$161.25
#3169	Fisher's Technology	\$66.05
#3170	LGS	\$1,300.00
#3171	MRWS	\$352.00
#3172	FNBO	\$478.65
#3173	Leo Tarplee	\$129.78
#3174	Hawkins	\$1,801.48
#3175	Aqua Tech Lab	\$25.00
#3176	Grainger	\$29.09
#3177	Snowy Mountain Dev	\$805.73
#3178	Energy Lab	\$251.00
#3179	Fergus Electric	\$1,547.83
#3180	Kaly Maetche	\$203.20
#3181	USA BlueBook	\$91.59