

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council
September 8, 2022

- I. The meeting was called to order by Dave Fox at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:
Roll Call:
Kyle Taylor-Present
Matt Stewart-Present
Travis LeMaster-Present
Dave Fox-Present
Chuck Briede-Present

The roll was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

II. **Minutes**

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2022, meeting as written. Mat Stewart seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of September 8, 2022, as submitted. Kyle Taylor seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- Mark Holt of 403 Hubert Street gave an update on the research he has done on the drainage and flooding issue around his property. Mark indicated he would be willing to pay for a probe of the storm line in the area. Kyle said if there is a storm line in the area the town would consider installing a catch basin to ameliorate the flooding.

V. **Department Reports**

Police Department – Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance

- Ryan said the department had responded to 135 calls the two weeks past.
- Ryan plans on getting the rifle parts tomorrow morning. Subsequently he will have a mount installed in the newer Tahoe.
- Douglas Wilber II was hired as a deputy.
- Ryan has completed and logged his mandated training. He said Corey still needs to complete his training; but if he decides not to do so, Ryan feels he is adequately staffed.
- Ryan reported that the old sign in front of Jan's can be removed.
- Ryan said he had not yet reviewed the proposed amendments to the animal control ordinance.

Maintenance Department - Michael McKinstry and Patrick Alvord were in attendance

- Michael provided a brief update on progress on remedial work at the treatment plant. He said the wasting process is going well and the fine screen has been repaired.
- Kyle reported American Pump is waiting on parts for the backup pump they took for repairs.
- Kyle discussed the proposed Evapar Generac maintenance agreement. He summarized the cost and the coverage of the agreement. Council agreed to have him proceed.

- Michael said we are now doing our own daily testing.
- Kyle said Jeff reported a new wire is needed for the flow meter.
- Innovative Systems will be using water from the treatment plant for the sewer line televising and cleaning project.
- Michael reported B.L. Anderson will need to reprogram the system so the blowers come on automatically.
- Patrick reported the catch basin at the northeast corner of Church Street is leaking and needs to be replaced. After discussion it was decided to contract for the job rather than attempting ourselves.
- Patrick said he will get the mowing done prior to the Harmony Music Festival.
- Patrick has received a quote for a new salt spreader.

Parks Department—President Steve Kelley was in attendance.

- Steve said he had a plan to repair the buckled asphalt on the trail.
- Steve introduced Eagle Scout Riley Kirby. Riley did the work on the dog park shelter. Steve presented him a golden spike keepsake in recognition of his contributions.
- Steve recommended that we put a lock on the gate to the burn pit and only grant access after storms or to preauthorized users. Council authorized him to proceed.
- Steve said supply chain issues have delayed delivery of the bicycle repair station.

VI. Continuing Business

- Kyle reported on the meeting with the Oak Hill Superintendent about the possibility of the school connecting to the town sanitary sewer system. Matter tabled pending further developments.
- There was a brief discussion of Michael McKinstry's interest in becoming our treatment plant operator on a full-time basis. Currently he is working under a temporary contract.
- Kyle is working on developing descriptions of job duties and responsibilities of the street department.
- Chuck said there is no new information on the timing of the Bragg Street property demolition.
- Travis updated the council on the search and assessment of project management tools for the town.
- Chuck reported he had attended the local quarterly review with INDOT and drafted the report for the second quarter. It is with Flies & Vandenbrink for review.
- Chuck reported on some of the issues residents have experienced with obtaining replacements for damaged or missing trash cans from Republic Services.
- Clerk reported first reading of the proposed 2023 budget will be September 22, 2022.

VII. New Business

- Kyle reported the quote for the new salt spreader is \$9,248. The unit is polymer instead of metal. Kyle reported we will have to order road salt and find a new storage method for it.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to make Kyle Taylor purchasing agent for the purchase of the new salt spreader for \$9,248, with funding from the Local Roads and Streets fund. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
 Matt Stewart-Aye
 Travis LeMaster-Aye
 Dave Fox-Aye
 Chuck Briede-Aye

- Stu Savka of Triad presented a proposal to develop an asset management plan for the town treatment plant. The plan is a requirement to qualify for future project funding. Stu discussed and distributed a proposal with the scope of the project and a description of the end result. Triad and Steve Brock would work as a team on the project and the plan would become part of the Preliminary Engineering Report for the sewer lining project application.

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to accept the proposal from Triad to develop an asset management plant for the town treatment plant. Dave Fox seconded the motion.

Kyle Taylor-Aye
Matt Stewart-Aye
Travis LeMaster-Aye
Dave Fox-Aye
Chuck Briede-Aye

- Stu will follow-up with the Town of Nappanee on their possible interest in purchasing the town camera system.
- Kyle initiated a discussion of contracting to have an income survey conducted. If the household median income in the town is below a certain threshold the town could possibly be eligible for more grant funding for some projects. Matter tabled.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Potter
