

Minutes of Sweetser Town Council  
August 10, 2023

I. The meeting was called to order by Kyle Taylor at 7:00 pm; the roll was called as follows:

Roll Call:

Charles Myers-Present

Matt Stewart-Present

Travis LeMaster-Present

Kyle Taylor-Present

Chuck Briede-Present

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

II. **Minutes**

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2023, meeting as amended. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

III. **Bills**

After discussion, Travis LeMaster made a motion to approve the Bills Docket of August 10, 2023, as submitted.

Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

IV. **Public Forum**

- No comments

V. **Department Reports**

**Police Department** – Marshal Ryan Hornback was in attendance.

- Ryan reported:
  - 180 calls in the two-week period. He said there have been 2,234 calls year-to-date.
  - He has hired Stephanie Conrad for the crossing guard position.
  - The school zone lights were not working. He called INDOT and they are now working.

**Maintenance Department** – Operations Manager Patrick Kendall was in attendance.

- Patrick reported:
  - That they have been trimming trees along main street
  - They have been striping the crosswalks at the school. They will also be striping the crosswalks on the trail.
  - He ordered the repair parts for the vac truck
  - Vac truck had another bad cylinder. They removed it and took it in for repairs.
  - They moved the salt spreader out of the shop and to the bay where the salt was.
  - They sprayed the weeds at the corner of the convenience store.
  - A representative for B.L. Anderson was here to check on the blowers. One of the blowers needs a new motor. Patrick is waiting for a quote.
  - The pickup trucks will need new tires before winter.

- The town hall council chamber ceiling will need to be investigated by a contractor.
- They are waiting for repairs to the bucket truck to be completed, and then they will be able to work on the flags.
- Kyle asked Patrick for an update on replacing the dump truck. Patrick said its sufficient for now.

**Parks Department**—President Steve Kelley was not in attendance.

- No report

## VI. Continuing Business

- No update on the Sidewalk Project
- No update on the credit card policy proposal. Charlie mentioned their auditor recommended against using debit cards.
- Chuck reviewed again the CCMG applications that he worked on with Beth Johnson of USI Consultants. The applications were submitted and:
  - The 2023-02 CCMG Call for Mill and Fill Projects: Estimated total project cost of \$203,500, town match of \$50,875, was accepted with no comments
  - The 2023-02 Call for Material costs for chip sealing & crack filling operations: Estimated total project cost of \$10,000, town match of \$2,500, was returned with a request for more detail
- There has been no resolution to the Dollar General storm water issue. Town counsel Michael Hotz said he would follow up with another letter to the company.
- Stu Savka of Triad and Associates said there were not yet any updates from SRF on the status of the town's application and nothing has been awarded yet to anyone. Stu said the town may want to consider applying to Rural Development, although the process is arduous. Stu also floated the idea of combining with Swayzee to apply for a project. He said this would score high in Regionalization points.
- Since the SRF project status is still uncertain, council decided not to engage Kleinpeter and Associates for an Environmental Study at this time.
- Matt reported that there are six residents who are raising chickens. He has collected the \$25 permit fee from three of the six. He said there is one inspection pending.
- Matt reported that he reached out to Habitat for Humanity about the Bragg Street property and that they have expressed interest.
- Kyle resumed discussion of upgrading the town's storm siren. The plan would be to place one large siren behind the telephone company that would provide coverage to the entire town. Matter was tabled.
- Kyle resumed discussion of selling the Church Street property.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to approve selling the Church Street property. Charles Myers seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye

Matt Stewart-Aye

Travis LeMaster-No

Kyle Taylor-Aye

Chuck Briede-Aye

Motion carried. Michael will research and report to the council on the current zoning of the parcel.

After discussion, Matt Stewart made a motion to recall the approved motion to sell the Church Street property. Travis LeMaster seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-No

Matt Stewart-No

Travis LeMaster-Aye

Kyle Taylor-No

Chuck Briede-Aye

Motion failed.

**VII. New Business**

- Kyle said the lift station at State Road 18 and 300 West is owned by the town. The lift station is enclosed by fencing. The town has an opportunity to make the fencing available for advertising and collect some revenue. Kyle will gather more details and report to the council.
- Matt reported that he has been investigating installing a recycling collection location on land at the treatment plant. The site could serve western Grant County. The town would receive, bale, and store the recyclables. The town could then sell the baled materials. Matter was tabled.
- The Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department submitted the proposed fire protection agreement for calendar year 2024. The proposed fee is \$12,716.30.

After discussion, Chuck Briede made a motion to approve the Pleasant Township Volunteer Fire Department 2024 fire protection agreement of \$12,716.30. Matt Stewart seconded the motion.

Charles Myers-Aye  
Matt Stewart-Aye  
Travis LeMaster-Aye  
Kyle Taylor-Aye  
Chuck Briede-Aye

Motion carried.

- Kyle said we received a letter from the county election board. Since the town does not have any contested positions, the election board asked if the town wanted to waive the election and save the associated expense. The council agreed to waive the election.
- Chuck said he does not wish to serve on the Area Plan Commission in 2024 and thus the town will need to appoint another representative.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 7 pm.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Potter

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