

**Town of Ellenburg
Office of the Town Clerk**

**Minutes of the Town Board
Regular Board Meeting
March 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM**

Supervisor, Jason Dezan, opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for friends that have passed on, Service men and women and first responders.

Roll Call:	Jason Dezan	<u>Yes</u>
	Debra Grogan	<u>Yes</u>
	Neil Trombley	<u>Yes</u>
	Deryl Gregory	<u>Yes</u>
	Nathan Bombard	<u>Yes</u>

The first item on the agenda was old business.

Supervisor Dezan then opened the floor to old business

- Jason stated that there is a reminder to refrain questions and comments until the end of the meeting.
- EMS Update: Jason is hoping that next month we can have a full report. Since January 1st, we have had 38 calls. Average time of response is 9.8 minutes for all calls. Average of 2 minutes from the time 911 is called to the time the ambulance leaves the station. Tori stated they are still waiting for a piece of equipment and that will be in soon.
 - April 22nd and 23rd there will be an open house at the EMS Station for the Town to come and view and ask questions.
- The crematorium is getting a new smoke stack. We have to have a contractor open the ceiling to put it in. There was an inspection done and the floor needs to be redone and a wall needs to be replaced. Jason provided a bill to the board, it will be \$22,152.70 to fix all of the things that need to be done and pay for the smoke stack. The gentleman that inspected stated it has been 12 years since we have been inspected and any repairs made. These repairs should carry us at least that far next time. Jason stated there is a lift purchase in the vouchers tonight from that scenario.
- The Salt shed update: BCA said we have received agreements and contracts for work to be done. Work will start in late April as long as everything goes well with the weather. The grant must be fully utilized by April 2024. Liz

Tedford has advised us that we need to jump on the bond through Community Bank for \$1.3 million dollars before interest rates go up.

Supervisor Dezan then opened the floor to new business

- Mr and Mrs Copal are here, they are purchasing the old funeral home and would like to purchase a piece of the property that connects to them that we own at the mausoleum. Jason will get them a price after meeting with the board.
- New Leaf Wind Energy is here. Debbie stated that they are here to discuss the windmill they would like to put up on Kevin Carpenter's land that is behind Tricia and Matt Brassard's property.
 - Dave from New Leaf stood to introduce himself and the members from his company that are with him. He stated about five years ago, NYSEG and national grid allowed solar into small distribution lines instead of only on large ones. This project would be a single wind turbine which would go into the NYSEG lines. NYSEG has to act as the broker to purchase this power directly. The town could opt in but that is for a separate discussion. A turbine like this can produce enough power for 1200 homes in the span of a year. There are only a few options for the turbines, Vestas and GE are at the top of the list. They pay through PILOT program or will go on the tax roll for county, town and school taxes. Generally speaking, they like to do HOST agreements. They do not expect the town to spend any money for engineering or legal fees for this project. They are open to any questions. Skip Francis stood from Creighton Manning Engineering, on behalf of New Leaf. They sent for area variance, use permit and preliminary documents. The property is Kevin Carpenters property at 109 Brandy Brook Road, the tower would sit behind it and there was a map presented with the property piece. It is an unoccupied structure, so there is not an impact to water, sewer or wetlands. Other reports such as visual impacts, noise and flickering are being conducted but are not final yet. He is here to hear the thoughts from the board on the process and answer questions about any information that we need as a town. They will be at whatever meeting we need them to be at. Deryl asked about the access roads to the piece of property. New Leaf representative stated they are doing access studies now to determine who they need to work with to get those pieces in place. Deryl asked about the noise studies being done because the proximity is close to the Center of town and we want to make sure that noise isn't going to effect all in the town. New Leaf stated that the new turbines are

quieter. There is 50 decibel limit in the bylaws for the property lines and those studies are being done. These turbines are going to 600 feet. The models are being done and there are processes in place that if it was too loud they would have to take it down or mitigate it in some way. The process of connecting to the local lines, does not require a substation. New Leaf pays for any upgrades needed to the lines. This is done through a land lease. Skip asked Debbie if they could draft the seekers and send to Debbie and Patrick so they will be doing that next.

- Swim Program will be going on at the school this year. Jason asked Neil to see if there are any grants out there for equipment that is needed. Debbie is going to check for donations with the windmill companies. Jason asked if anyone knows anyone who wants to be a lifeguard for them to get certified and they could work the program.

The resolutions are the next topic of discussion:

Resolution 23-39

To pay vouchers 83 to 115 in the General Fund in the amount of \$34,155.28.

Motion: Neil Trombley Second: Nathan Bombard

Vote: Trombley-Yes, Dezan-Yes, Grogan-Yes, Bombard-Yes, Gregory-Yes

Resolution 23-40

To pay vouchers 43 to 58 in the General Fund in the amount of \$39,843.18.

Motion: Deryl Gregory Second: Debra Grogan

Vote: Trombley-Yes, Dezan-Yes, Grogan-Yes, Bombard-Yes, Gregory-Yes

Resolution 23-41

To accept grant for Complete Streets for the Town of Ellenburg and to allow the supervisor to execute the CCHD Grant documents.

Motion: Deryl Gregory Second: Neil Trombley

There was a motion made to table this resolution after further discussion

Motion: Neil Trombley Second: Nathan Bombard

Vote: Dezan-Yes, Grogan-Yes, Bombard-Yes, Gregory-Yes, Trombley-Yes

Resolution 23-42

To hold a public hearing to discuss the local law of opting out of the exemption in section 487 of the real property tax law.

Motion: Debra Grogan Second: Deryl Gregory

Vote: Bombard-Yes, Dezan-Yes, Trombley-Yes, Gregory-Yes, Grogan-Yes

Resolution 23-43

To hold a public hearing on April 4th immediately following the first public hearing at the Town Hall to discuss the HOST agreements between the Town of Ellenburg and Bull Run Energy LLC contingent upon lawyer and engineering attending if needed second date will be the next town board meeting on April 18th.

Motion: Debra Grogan Second: Deryl Gregory

Vote: Grogan-Yes, Dezan-Yes, Gregory-Yes, Bombard-Yes, Trombley-Yes

Resolution 23-44

To hold a public hearing at 5:30 on April 18th about the New Leaf Energy Project

Motion: Debra Grogan Second: Neil Trombley

Vote: Gregory-Yes, Trombley-Yes, Dezan-Yes, Grogan-Yes, Bombard-Yes

Resolution 23-45

To accept the audit at the courts that was done by Debra Grogan and Deryl Gregory

Motion: Neil Trombley Second: Nathan Bombard

Vote: Grogan-Abstain, Dezan-Yes, Gregory-Abstain, Bombard-Yes, Trombley-Yes

Supervisor Dezan then read the monthly financial report for February 2023.

Motion: Nathan Bombard Second: Debra Grogan

Vote: Dezan-Abstain, Bombard-Yes, Gregory-Yes, Trombley-Yes, Grogan-Yes

Supervisor Dezan asked for a motion to pass the minutes from the February regular meeting.

Motion: Debra Grogan Second: Neil Trombley

Vote: Grogan-Yes, Trombley-Yes, Bombard-Yes, Gregory-Yes, Dezan-Yes

Supervisor Dezan called for the town clerk's report. Bethany Fortin stated that she has no report at this time.

Supervisor Dezan asked if the Highway Superintendent had anything to report, Bradley was absent this meeting.

JCEO report was next on the agenda. JCEO report was not provided prior to this meeting. There is a new hire at the office. She is doing three days here and two in Altona per week. She is going to attend the next meeting and introduce herself.

Supervisor Dezan then asked for the code officer's report. Adam Trombley stated he had two permits this month. When Adam issued a permit to a gentleman for

garage replacement, Mr. Gokey, he donated a \$300 check to the fire department. He was appreciative of the ECFD when he had a fire.

Supervisor Dezan then called for the Historian's report, Joan Hobbs reported she and Debbie are working on getting the flags up in May. Jason stated that he ordered the flags for the cemeteries. Debbie is going to talk to Terry about the donation from the VFW.

Supervisor Dezan stated that the Youth report was that they are working on the swim program and basketball is going on.

The next item on the agenda were council member reports:

Deryl Gregory – Deryl Gregory reported the following:

- Deryl reported that he and Jason met with some tax payers about vouchers and hopefully resolved those issues.
- Deryl went to the alternate energy meeting on the 1st and the engineer for the project, Sandy Sayyeau and Eric Gustafson the attorney was there and basically from the major players, what he understood is that they tried to take the agreements from the prior wind companies, take the best things from each agreement and make this one. We are now setting up hearings to hopefully pass ours.
- Deryl stated he went to the school board meeting to keep updated on what is going on at the school.
- Deryl stated the boys basketball team had a lot of talent this year and did well and we should be proud of them.
- This Sunday the senior serenaders are playing at the church hall from 1-4.
- Today Deryl met with the superintendent at the school and tried to put the final pieces together on transition the KofC building to the school
- On April 11th there is a blood drive at the church hall and please bring your ID.

Nathan Bombard – Nathan Bombard reported the following:

- Nathan reported he is still working on the lights.
- Last month he was not able to make the fire departments meetings but he did just make one at the Center Fire Department. They have some raffles going on. They also need smoke detectors at the fire department. There will be a Father's Day Breakfast on June 18th from 8:00-12:00 PM.

Debra Grogan – Debra Grogan reported the following

- Debra reported she has no report this month.

Neil Trombley – Neil Trombley reported the following:

- Neil reported through the Hazard grant program he is getting ready to put in the generator program grant, they will pay for 75% of it and we would have to cover the rest. Neil wants to know if we want to proceed with this. It would cost the town around \$2,000, this would enable the highway garage to always have power. This would be propane powered. The board has decided that we should proceed with it. Neil also successfully executed a grant to replace LED lights at the town buildings and they have been started on and look great.
- Neil asked about internet service and where we were with that. Jason stated that we need to get together with the other towns and get this done. We need to get everyone together to know who is interested.

Jason stated he would like to do a mailer for the town with hours for the town officials and contact information. Jason asked the board to send him information that would go in the mailer.

Supervisor Dezan then opened the floor to questions and comments:

- Jason Dezan and Joan Hobbs stated that there is now a Yoga class going on during Monday nights and there is a flyer with more information on it. It would be great for the community to come out and support.
- A town constituent asked the New Leaf representative about the effect on bees. She also asked about the length of the contract on the windmill. External shadow tests should be back next week and it was discussed that we can put those reports online and they will be accessible to anyone in the town. She also asked about the decibel limit and if it were to exceed that, what would happen? Would we have to petition? Dave summarized his answer so that everything is set in the bylaw, if a neighbor has a complaint, then the company has to prove that they are not wrong against the processes set, and they would have to make it right.

Supervisor Dezan then closed the floor as there were no more public comments.

Supervisor Dezan asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM

Motion: Debra Grogan Second: Deryl Gregory

There was a motion by Debra Grogan to open the meeting back up and seconded by Deryl Gregory at 7:43 PM

There was a motion to adjourn at 7:44 PM by Nathan Bombard and seconded by Deryl Gregory

The next regular meeting will be held on April 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Bethany Drown Fortin, Ellenburg Town Clerk