**Town of Ellenburg**

**Office of the Town Clerk**

**Minutes of the Town Board**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**July 18, 2022 at 6:00 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 Yes

 Debra Grogan Yes

 Neil Trombley Yes

 Deryl Gregory Yes

 Nathan Bombard Yes

The first item on the agenda was old business.

Supervisor Dezan then opened the floor to old business

* Jason stated that at this time Morrisonville EMS would give us a quick update.
	+ Melanie Seymour, the Morrisonville EMS business manager stood to give us an update. She is pleased with the numbers, at the end of June, revenues were over $41,000, and at the end of the month we were at $50,000. It is her understanding that we are going to use these funds for an ambulance. The reports she gives to the town are reports on which insurance companies are reimbursing and at what rate. Private insurances pay more than Medicaid and Medicare. Looking at the trends she is optimistic that the Town of Ellenburg should bring in $100,000 by the end of the year.
	+ Jason stated that Lyon Mountain used to do the same thing and the most they ever got at the end of the year was $60,000 and we are already almost at that at the middle of the year.
	+ Melanie stated in her profit/loss for the first three months, the contract that we have in place is covering all expenses it is supposed to.
	+ Jason thanked Melanie for the presentation.
* New Leaf was next on the agenda. They had some changes to the original plan that they wanted to present to the board. Dave Strong stood and stated we originally proposed the wind turbine and had wetland surveys underway. The wetland surveys are back and now we know about the woods to the west of the field that they would like to move the turbine to. With minimal impacts to the wetlands, we can push the turbine a little bit away from the center of town. This pushes the turbine 500 feet away from the original plan. Dave then asked Lydia from New Leaf to stand and speak. Lydia said they have prepared the new revised plan and wanted to get the board’s initial read on the location move and from here provide a complete application to the board. At this point, they are still seeking an area variance since the turbine is taller than what is currently allowed. She would like to discuss the Met Tower application, and are hoping that will go through separate from the other application and move that forward a little faster.
	+ Dave stated they will do photo simulations of the turbine and would love feedback on this new location suggested. They would like those locations soon so they can get those photo simulations. Sound and light flicker studies showed that the new locations would impact the hamlet less.
	+ There were questions from the town constituents and how it would impact different locations in the town.
	+ Jason asked Bill Empsall, chair of the zoning board, if he had any questions. Bill stated that in the past there are other wind and solar companies in town and the zoning board has never been involved with these projects and it has always been at the discretion of the town board. The solar law and wind law are specific that the town board has the power for the variances needed for these projects.
	+ Dave wanted to be clear and decouple the Met Tower from the other application so that we can get that going. We need to get that up. It is up for 18 months to 2 years and then it gets taken down.
	+ Adam Trombley, codes and zoning officer, wanted to ask what the setback is for a 600 foot tower and Jason stated they have to look at that.
	+ There was a question regarding how the tower would effect telecommunications. The first thing they do is conduct a microwave beam path and that study came back clean and also the FAA filing and the commercial broadcasters are notified with the NTAA and there were no impacts identified. Lydia stated that this is something that can be added to the complaint resolution program if there is something that gets effected for satellite.
	+ A constituent asked how long it would take to resolve a complaint. New Leaf responded that everything was responded to within 30 days.
	+ Debra Grogan asked if the studies came back from the Met Tower that there wasn’t enough wind if they would still put the tower up, and Dave answered that that is the risk of the company and they would look at the studies and go from there. You need 12 months minimum to do a study for putting the actual tower up.
	+ Dave asked that the board offer input on where we would want the photos taken from for the photo simulation reports. No specific spots were listed.
	+ The next step will be Adam getting the application for the Met Tower.
	+ The current Host Community agreement with Invenergy states there is a 730 foot setback from property lines for the tower.
* Kelly Donahue from Clinton County Emergency Services stood to discuss the impact from the recent flooding.
	+ Kelly stated that today they did a damage assessment. In our county we have to make $347,000 worth of damage in NYS or $34 million for the entire state for the assistance needed from FEMA. At this point, we have met the state threshold. It will be a few weeks before we hear from FEMA. Kelly stated that we as a town should be proud of Bradley and his crew in the town for the work they have done already. Ellenburg had severe damage in some parts and there are issues and problems that somewhere along the way we need to mitigate. The next step, would be to file officially if we get approved. There will be some challenges but there will be people to help. The hope is that we get a federal declaration about this.
	+ Bradley stated that in this round (month) of bills for the items used for the storm was about $37,000. Bradley stated that the four men that we have on the Highway crew have done an absolutely amazing job with dealing with this storm.
	+ All hours that were spent by the volunteers in the town will go towards our figures of what we will get in assistance.
	+ Kelly suggested while we he was here, that we need to make sure we have 911 numbers in all areas of the town so that first responders can get to where they need to be in case of an emergency.

Jason opened the floor to questions and comments

* Marie Agan from Invenergy stated that we will need to have a resolution for the upcoming meetings that will be required.
* Gina DeCoste stated she has been working on the town website. Gina would like to post team pictures of the town teams on the website, but she will need to give the parents a photo release to sign.
	+ Gina also stated we could put some photos on the website and a thank you to all who helped with cleanup and repair after the flooding.
	+ Gina has been working with Heather Magoon for a printable form on the website for signups for sports.
* Gina asked to schedule a private meeting with Jason about the Sharett road.
* Marie Agan stated they are getting extensions signed for landowners. In doing so, they are asking landowners to donate some of their sign on bonus back to donation to the school for a poll barn. So far we have come up with $3,000 in donations and we just started.

Supervisor Dezan then opened the floor to new business

Supervisor Dezan then read the monthly financial report for June.

Motion: Neil Trombley 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 June regular meeting.

Motion: Nathan Bombard 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 had asked Joan for some help with some old records and Joan was able to help with that which she was appreciative of. Other than that business is functioning as usual.

Supervisor Dezan asked if the Highway Superintendent had anything to report, Bradley reported that when this mess all started he had talked to Jason about having a part time laborer and Jason stated it was fine. Jason said he could get someone temporary. Bradley would like to add him to the town payroll until we can get things done. If we can word a resolution to allow him to have extra help for just another month.

Supervisor Dezan then asked for the code officer’s report. Adam Trombley stated he doesn’t have much. There were a few homes badly damaged and Adam will give Jason that info because there are two people are left homeless and we should be able to do something for them.

Supervisor Dezan then called for the Historian’s report, Joan Hobbs reported she had helped Bethany a little bit and Andre LaBarge had donated some items and George Sheldon also gave Joan some information on the cemeteries. Ada Avery and Robert DeLong brought records from wars that we will be able to have.

Supervisor Dezan stated that the Youth report was that softball and baseball are wrapping up and soccer will be starting soon. Swim program is also wrapping up and that has gone well.

The next item on the agenda were council member reports:

Deryl Gregory – Deryl Gregory reported the following:

* Deryl reported that he forgot to go to the alternate energy meeting.
* On the 10th there was a breakfast to help the House of Prayer building.
* On the 13th they were scheduled to have the K of C picnic. It was at the church hall.
* There is a blood drive on 8/15/23 from 4-7.
* The K of C is selling books for a $10 donation if anyone is interested.

Nathan Bombard – Nathan Bombard reported the following:

* Nathan reported now that the flooding is done he needs to go around and check the polls.
* Nathan has a meeting next Thursday the 27th with the zoning board at 6:00PM.

Debra Grogan – Debra Grogan reported the following

* Debra reported that at the alternate energy meeting, it was reported that Sandy Sayyeau is going to work for a different company but we are going to stay with her.
* Debra stated that a good question that came up is should we get a town camera instead of taking photos with cell phones. It was decided that cell phone photos are adequate.
* Debra gave everyone a copy of the solar HCA for everyone to review.
* PILOT program: she got an email from Rob at AES and they do not want to do one for next year. Next year they want to do taxes on the turbines. Jason asked Debbie to sit down with Stewart and figure out what those taxes are going to be.

Neil Trombley – Neil Trombley reported the following:

* Neil reported he has been helping Jason and Brad about issues that have been happening.

A reminder that that on August 26th and 27th there is a field day at the Ellenburg Center Fire Department and Ranchside Campground is doing fireworks Saturday night.

Bradley stated that the town of Mooers, town of Chateaugay, and town of Clinton have really helped the town of Ellenburg and we should be very appreciative of them. Deryl suggested that we invite them to our town parade and thank them during that.

The mausoleum has done 43 cremations in June and so far they have done over $100,000 in sales.

The Salt Shed is being constructed now and is looking good.

The resolutions are the next topic of discussion:

**Resolution 23-64**

To pay vouchers 241 to 272 in the General Fund in the amount of $38,900.01.

Motion: Neil Trombley Second: Deryl Gregory

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

**Resolution 23-65**

To pay vouchers 121 to 140 voiding 123 in the Highway Fund in the amount of $196,000.04.

Motion: Neil Trombley Second: Nathan Bombard

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

**Resolution 23-66**

To hold a special budget meeting on September 5th at 6:00 PM at the Ellenburg Town Hall.

Motion: Neil Trombley Second: Debra Grogan

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

**Resolution 23-67**

To give authority to the Highway Department to hire an emergency laborer from July 10, 2023 to August 10, 2023 to help with storm repairs.

Motion: Nathan Bombard Second: Debra Grogan

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

**Resolution 23-68**

To temporarily loan the Highway Department $100,000 from General Savings until CHIPS money is received or until the end of the calendar year.

Motion: Debra Grogan Second: Deryl Gregory

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

**Resolution 23-69**

To advertise to hire another full-time individual for the Town of Ellenburg Highway Department

Motion: Nathan Bombard Second: Debra Grogan

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

**Resolution 23-70**

To prepay Swim Program employees and submit voucher at August meeting.

Motion: Deryl Gregory Second: Nathan Bombard

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

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 8:03 PM

Motion: Neil Trombley Second: Debra Grogan

The next regular meeting will be held on August 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM

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Bethany Drown Fortin, Ellenburg Town Clerk