

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING  
OCTOBER 8, 2015  
7:00 P.M.  
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

**Open Meeting:** Mayor Vujovich opened the October 8, 2015 Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Commission Present:** Vincent, Bourk, Palmerton, Pine and Bancroft

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Minutes of the September 2015 Meetings:** The Commission reviewed the minutes of the September 2015 meetings. Bancroft made a motion to approve the minutes. Vincent seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Katie Coyle, business owner at the Lone Elk Mall, stated she does children's art education in which over 100 kids participate during the winter months. She picks the children up after school and walks them down to her business. She stated much of the walk is without sidewalks. She described the route she takes and of an incident in which, she feels, sidewalks would have made a difference. She spoke further of sidewalks being constructed for safety reasons. She reiterated that she walks children on a regular basis and sidewalks help insure their safety.

Judy Herrick stated her Mother is in Madison Valley Manor and she strongly supports the sidewalks being constructed. The sidewalks would offer much more ease in getting her Mother, who is in a wheelchair, to get an ice cream or visit the new Senior Center.

Lisa Roberts told the Commission the goal with sidewalks was to join the community together, not have it be contentious. She spoke of when sidewalks first came into conversation and consideration. She feels the Commission, with the earlier projects, decided for the greater good of the community. She went on to say the group that is against the sidewalks is advocating that "no" sidewalk is safer than a sidewalk and she thinks that attitude is absurd.

Robin Blazer stated she is a proponent for the sidewalk project and asked the Commission to please listen to the compelling reasons being cited. She also told the Commission that since the sidewalks went in downtown their business on East Main Street has increased a great deal with the foot traffic increase. She gave many reasons she supports the "Y" area sidewalk project.

Blazer also asked the Commission to put a discussion on a future agenda about speed limit signs around the school.

Blazer told the Commission that a year ago they had a semi-truck crash into their business and due to that she sees the need for more visual devices or signage while driving into Town to inform vehicles of the slower speed limits. She asked the Commission to consider this request.

Sharon Christensen stated she appreciates the support of the sidewalks but wonders if these sidewalks may potentially kill some businesses while benefitting others.

**Street Maintenance on Madison Avenue:** Dave Hajny spoke with the Commission regarding the street maintenance fee assessment on Madison Avenue. He contends that Madison Avenue should not be a part of the street maintenance district as the residents of that street paid to have it

paved and he believes that at the time of the paving the Town agreed to do the future maintenance. He referred to a letter he got from Duane Martian, who he says spearheaded that project, in which Duane states the Town agreed to do general maintenance.

Hajny said the residents on Madison Avenue are being penalized and he feels this is double taxation.

Bancroft stated he feels it is fair for Madison Avenue to be a part of the street maintenance district as everyone in Town uses all streets not just the one they live on.

Mayor Vujovich said it is a town wide maintenance district and stated that, when needed, Madison Avenue will be chip sealed.

Pine asked for clarification on the supposed agreement.

Vincent stated there really is no “agreement”. If an agreement was reached it would have been done at the time the paving project was being worked on. Vincent went on to explain what can and what cannot be done in a street maintenance district.

Hajny stated that previously the Commission told him to bring something in writing that verifies Madison Avenue should not be a part of the street maintenance district. He told the Commission “I brought it to you”, referring to the letter from Duane Martian.

The Mayor, again, reiterated this is a Town wide maintenance district that everyone pays into regardless of what was done on Madison Avenue.

Hajny stated the Mayor is wrong. He went on to say there is an agreement and they paid already. He said the residents on Madison Avenue are being taxed twice. One time to pave and now again for this street maintenance district.

Bancroft stated if there is, in fact, a written agreement okay, otherwise they need to pay.

Attorney Greenbaum stated and RID was formed for paving the street and cautioned any further action being taken until the file on the project is fully reviewed. He suggested this be continued until such a time as a review is done.

Bancroft agreed that it should be put off until next month after a review is done.

**Ambulance Matters:** Dr. RD Marks, who asked for this agenda item, was not present at the meeting.

The Mayor referred to a letter the Commission received from Dr. Marks and told the Commission some Ambulance members are here tonight to speak with them regarding the Ambulance Service.

Nici Haas, Captain of Ennis Ambulance, discussed the letter and told the Commission there is some agreement with what he said. The Ambulance wants to meet with Dr. Marks and get clarification on his expectations and tell him what Ambulance members expect of him as Medical Director of the Ambulance.

The Mayor weighed in on the Ambulance and their responses. She stated the Town supports them. They are doing a great job. They need an active Commission member to be attentive and help them.

Nici spoke of long term goals but first the need to get things figured out with Dr. Marks. She spoke of how various Ambulance/Rescue systems operate. The Ambulance has two certified trainers and one is working on becoming a master trainer. Ennis Ambulance has twenty-one people on their roster of which two are paramedics.

John Moore answered a question on the difference between and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and a Paramedic.

There was a question about what the Ambulance does for continuing education. It was stated they fully pay for one conference a year and do in house training two nights a month.

The Mayor thanked the Ambulance personnel for presenting how they operate and repeated the need for Commission support and involvement.

Nici Haas closed by saying the Ambulance and Dr. Marks need to meet, work together and see what they come up with for the future of Ennis Ambulance Service.

There was more discussion on the Ambulance Service such as how it is run, what may change and what they have tried.

Donna Evans, Ambulance member, told the Commission the Ambulance personnel are like a family.

**Resolution 522-2015:** A Resolution to increase revenues and expenditures in the Ambulance fund (5510) due to the award of grants from the American Heart Association and the Montana Department of Transportation.

The Commission reviewed the Resolution.

Vincent made a motion to adopt Resolution 522-2015. Bancroft seconded the motion.

Pine asked where the money comes from for Ambulance operations. It was explained the Ambulance is an Enterprise fund. They make their own money through charges, etc. and in turn spend their own money.

Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Lot Renter Eviction:** Attorney Greenbaum told the Commission what he has done so far with this matter. He has contacted Connell, checked the County tax records (which show Connell). Also, the bank shows Connell as the owner of the mobile home. Connell has stopped responding to communications. If the Town wants to proceed they will need to authorize the town attorney to proceed with the law suit.

There was discussion on the particulars of the suit. The discussion included how much time it would take, the banks role in this matter and mobile home laws.

Vincent made a motion to move forward with getting the process going. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Bancroft, Pine, Vincent and Bourk voted yes. Palmerton voted no. Motion approved.

**Department Reports:** Library Molly Aagard, Librarian, submitted her written report to the Commission and reviewed it with them.

Law Enforcement John Moore submitted his written report to the Commission and answered a question in regards to whether the “Your Speed Is” sign has done any good. Moore said it has helped to a point.

Ambulance John Moore submitted his written report to the Commission.

Public Works Kelly Elser submitted his written report to the Commission. He stated the contractor has been slow at returning to pick up the chips off the streets from the chip seal but hopes it will be done next week.

Zoning Art Behar told the Commission that zoning has been slowing down. He is working on closing open permits and has had a lot of questions regarding zoning.

Clerk Ginger Guinn submitted her written report to the Commission.

Attorney James Greenbaum told the Commission he attended the Montana League of Cities & Towns today. Some of the sessions he attended had information on signs and the public duty doctrine. He described what the public duty doctrine is and told the Commission about two cases, covered in training today, that were used as examples.

**Mayor’s Report:** The Mayor told the Commission that the training session for them has been scheduled for January. She spoke of what she envisions for the training.

She told the Commission that Mr. Heckler is receiving everything he asks for, if we have it, in regards to the DOT sidewalk project.

**Commission Comments:** Pine said he met with Heckler last week regarding the sidewalk project.

Vincent said he was able to tell the Senior Center about the award of the CDBG grant for the Senior Center facility at their grand opening. There was discussion about the grant project management, administration and, as the grant was awarded to the Town, how to make sure the Town is protected through this process.

**Claims:** Vincent made a motion to pay claims. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Adjourn:** Bancroft made a motion to adjourn. Palmerton seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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Becky Vujovich, Mayor

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Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer