

**PUBLIC HEARING  
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2015  
6:00 P.M.  
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

**Open Public Hearing:** Mayor Vujovich opened the Public Hearing for the Town of Ennis Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 at 6:00 p.m.

**Commission Present:** Bourk, Pine and Bancroft.

**Public Comment:** No public was in attendance so there were no comments made.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:02 p.m.

**BUDGET MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2015  
6:05 P.M.  
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

**Open Meeting:** Mayor Vujovich opened the Budget Adoption Meeting for the Town of Ennis at 6:05 p.m.

**Commission Present:** Bourk, Pine and Bancroft.

**Comments:** Ginger Guinn explained a question regarding sidewalk funds that were brought up at the last budget meeting.

**Resolution 520-2015:** Bourk made a motion to adopt Resolution 520-2015 which sets the budget for the Town of Ennis for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Resolution 521-2015:** Bancroft made a motion to adopt Resolution 521-2015 which sets wages for employees of the Town of Ennis for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. Bourk seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Adjourn:** Bourk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

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Becky Vujovich, Mayor

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Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015  
7:00 P.M.  
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

**Open Meeting:** Mayor Vujovich opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Minutes of the August Meeting:** The Commission reviewed the minutes of the August Town Commission meeting. Vincent made a motion to approve the minutes. Bourk seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Public Comment:** Town Attorney, James Greenbaum, introduced himself to the public present and stated he wanted to tell everyone of an encounter he had in which he drew the conclusion that John Bancroft is a great grandfather.

John Heckler told the Commission he represents several people on the proposed, upcoming DOT sidewalk project. He stated they have been trying to get modifications and improvements made to the plans for these sidewalks since January 2015. People that attended a meeting in Helena were told to wait for the plans to be completed. He stated he and his group have tried to get on the Ennis Town Commission meeting agenda since then as they believe the Town Commission are the only ones that can make changes to the plans.

He stated he and the group of people he represents are requesting to be on the next two months Commission meetings agenda to present specific requests for changes in the sidewalk plans regarding safety, etc.

Mr. Heckler gave a packet of information to the Commission which he stated contains information from the meeting here with the Department of Transportation and the engineers. He stated no changes were made as a result of that meeting.

Sue France stated with the sidewalk plans she is concerned about safety for children and adults and is upset that business owners will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the sidewalks.

Chris DiMichelle said he is also concerned about safety and that the business owners responsibility includes liability. Where the sidewalk is proposed to go it will invite people to walk closer to traffic.

Joel Shows said he supports this group because he still has questions on funding. More needs to be done for safety matters and he feels they have legitimate concerns that need to be addressed.

Heckler left a copy of a letter from the School.

**Subdivision Regulations:** Representatives from Great West Engineering were present and spoke with the Commission regarding adoption of the County Subdivision Regulations during the interim of getting the Town of Ennis Subdivision Regulations updated. A report showing the rationale of doing this was given to the Commission.

There was discussion and questions regarding this matter. There is a six month estimated time frame for the Town's updated regulations to be completed.

The Commission instructed the Ennis Planning Board and Great West to continue work on the modifications of the Subdivision Regulations.

**Stears/Pasley Alley:** Mayor Vujovich went over a letter received from Mr. Stears in which he asks that the matter of whether the alley is open or closed be put on hold until their attorney investigates this matter for them.

Pat Clancey told the Commission he feels the Town should never abandon an alley or public access. It should stay open for safety reasons and public access.

Lincoln Roberts stated that he has been a resident of Ennis for 9 years and uses the access in question all the time to go to the river. He stated he searched the cadastral for this property and it shows the access as open.

**Alley Closure Form:** Mayor Vujovich told the Commission of the reason to develop a form for alley closure requests.

Vincent said he thinks this will give the impression that it is possible to close an alley just by filling out the form.

Bancroft said he does not believe the Town should do anything.

Attorney Greenbaum suggested the form because Mr. Stears has given the Town a petition for closure of the alley behind his house. He stated this is a way of handling such requests, not advertising that alleys can be closed. The Town needs some sort of process in place.

The Mayor spoke of some specific information in the form.

The information given to the Commission at this meeting is meant to be an introduction and will be discussed at later meetings.

**Chowning Alley Disposition of Agreements:** Mayor Vujovich reported the fence is down and the small tree has been moved. Willie's Distillery moved everything before they were given notice on it. Debbie Meyers is going to get a surveyor and asked for another month to get that process started. (Commission approved extension) Mr. Morgan stated, on a phone call with, they will get the alley cleared at the rear of their property. (To date the Morgan property has not been cleaned up so a follow up call will be made.)

Attorney Greenbaum stated, in regards to the Silvertip Lodge, there has been general information back and forth with Mr. Winkles attorney but no written agreement yet.

The Mayor stated she has received comments regarding the trees on the West end of the alley. She was told it is a double standard to remove the trees on the East end of the alley but not the West end. The Mayor asked for the Commission to weigh in on this. The majority of the Commission stated they would like to go look at the area again before deciding. The Mayor stated she feels Kelly Elser needs to weigh in on this matter also.

**Madison Avenue Street Maintenance:** Dave Hajny, requestor of this agenda item, was not present. The Mayor referred to a letter Mr. Hajny dropped off for their review and stated the letter does not change anything. The Commission concurred.

**City Court Judge Appointment:** The Mayor recommended appointing Arthur Behar to the City Court Judge position for another four years.

Vincent made a motion to appoint Arthur Behar as the City Court Judge. Bourk seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Department Reports:** Library: Librarian, Molly Aagard, submitted her written report and went over it for the Commission.

Law Enforcement: The law enforcement report was submitted to the Commission. Officer Moore was not present as he is away at training.

Ambulance: The written report for Ennis Ambulance was submitted to the Commission for review.

Public Works: Dan Dedman submitted the written report to the Commission.

Zoning: Art Behar left his written report for zoning activity for the Commission to review.

Clerk: Ginger Guinn submitted her written report to the Commission for review.

**Mayor's Report:** The Mayor reported that she has relied on the employees heavily lately as she started a job with the Post Office. She will be working mornings but her afternoons should be free for Town business.

**Commission Comments:** Vincent talked about Mr. Heckler and his request to be on next month's agenda to speak on the upcoming sidewalk project again.

The Mayor stated we don't have to allow them on the agenda.

Vincent discussed what he perceives as these people's need to present their thoughts and concerns to the Commission. He said he thinks they do not feel they are being heard.

The Mayor said, as far as the "plans" they keep talking about are concerned they are being amended at this time from comments that were gathered at the stake holders meeting in July. Until those changes have been incorporated into the site plan and can be reviewed what good would it do look at proposed changes. The new plans are supposed to be completed no later than January 2016, but will likely be done earlier. That will be the time to go over the changes and see what changes, if any, the Commission deems necessary.

There was more discussion and the Commission wants to make sure, if not satisfied, that change can still be requested after the updated plans are reviewed.

The Mayor asked if the Commission wants assurance that the Town can tell MDT to pull a section of sidewalk from the plans. Answer was in the affirmative from the Commission.

It was discussed that, when the new plans arrive, another meeting be set up to listen to concerns and get specifics on what people are asking for as far as changes to the sidewalk plans. It was noted that parameters need to be set up for the meeting. It cannot be a free for all.

Bourk asked who signed the agreement with the MDT. Answer: The Town signed the agreement and the agreement states: \*The Town can change what is in the Town's right of way. \*Changes cannot be made in the MDT right of way, however, recommendations will be accepted and considered.

The Commission asked what the point of no return is. The Mayor stated she will get an answer to that from the Department of Transportation. She will get clarification on: At what point no changes can be made or requested and if the Town can "pull the plug" on this project if deemed necessary. She will report her findings to the Commission when she gets the answers.

Vincent said he does not think people fully understand the process a project like this goes through.

Pine stated he is willing to talk to people individually if it will help.

The Commission was asked if they want the group of people to be on the agenda the next two months as requested or wait to have further discussion with these citizens until the updated plans are completed.

The Commission decided that if it is confirmed that the plans may still be changed it would be best to wait until the updated plans are received, reviewed and given to the concerned people for their review.

Palmerton stated she thinks it will be alright to wait as long as these concerned people are assured they will have a chance to be heard on their concerns and ideas.

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

**Adjourn:** Bancroft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Palmerton seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Becky Vujovich, Mayor

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Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer