

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
7:00 P.M.
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

Open Meeting: Mayor Pine opened the September 14, 2017 Town Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Commission Present: Vincent, Palmerton, Roberts, Leavitt and Bancroft.

Pledge to the Flag.

Minutes: The Minutes were reviewed by the Town Commission. Palmerton made a motion to accept the Minutes. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion passed.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: Mark Odegard stated he believes the wage for the Zoning Administrator is too low.

Kenton Irvine told the Commission a short-term rental fee was just passed in Bozeman and asked if the Town has thought of doing this. Irvine explained his reasoning.

Roberts said this may fall into the Business License ordinance re-write.

Kenton Irvine told the Commission he was shocked at what is being charged for rent. He suggested an apartment of comparable size would be \$850-\$875 a month. He thinks the Town should bring it more in line with going rental rates.

There was discussion on why the rates are lower and other matters.

The Mayor asked if the Commission wants this addressed and there was not commitment either way.

Library Wages: Roberts asked for this agenda item and said she thinks more research needs to be done for clarification on how Libraries work.

Karen Ketchu told the Commission she attended a seminar at the Local Government Center in Bozeman and learned a lot. She stated Library Boards are unique in Montana. She explained what powers a Library Board has and that those powers are set by State Law. She gave the Commission a packet of information that she received at the seminar and went over the contents of the packet.

Leavitt spoke of how he thinks wage increases should be handled.

There was some discussion that included: *Certification(s) that could be identified and pre-determined for increases. John Moore spoke of what it takes to get certifications and are they equitable when considering an increase for the different departments in the Town. *Discussion on the Policy and Procedures in regards to the Library took place.

Ketchu stated she does not want to have anything occur to discredit the Library with the public.

Department Reports: Library: Ketchu submitted a written report for the Commission to review. She presented, also, some Library statistics.

Ambulance: Patti Austin submitted a written report to the Commission for review.

Law Enforcement: John Moore submitted the written report for the Ennis Police Department to the Commission for review and answered questions.

Public Works: The written report for the Public Works department was submitted by Dan Dedman. He answered questions regarding the report and the sewer problems coming out of Madison Valley Manor.

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

Mayor's Report: Mayor Pine told the Commission about an invitation to go to True Value for an open house that is being held in appreciation of Emergency Service Workers.

Pine told the Commission the roof estimate came in at \$13,700.

Pine stated he wanted to remind the Commission they need to be professional in public and when speaking of Town employees.

Commission Comments: Leavitt told the Commission he did some research on what the Town agreed to do for the Senior Center when they were starting out. The information he referred to is in the minutes of the April 2, 2015 meeting.

Roberts told the Commission there was a Montana Main Street Program presentation today. She explained what the program does/offers, etc. She told the Commission she will be attending the Montana League of Cities and Towns convention in Great Falls the end of this month. She will also be going to Helena in October to present on the Varney Bridge project. Roberts wanted to clarify some possible misconception on the Stears case. The case came to be by Stears suing the Town of Ennis. She stated this Commission is here to serve "all" citizens in Ennis.

Roberts gave an update on the Zoning re-write and said hopefully they will be ready to start presentations next month.

She updated the Commission on talks about the "bump-out" and crosswalks on Main Street.

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

Adjourn: Bancroft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vincent seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. All Commissioner voted yes. Motion passed. Adjourned @ 8:10 p.m.

Larry Pine, Mayor

Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer