

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING  
JUNE 11, 2020  
6:45P.M.  
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

Mayor Leavitt opened the Board of Adjustment meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Members Present: Bancroft, Hardy, Roberts, Ranson and Schroeder.

The Mayor read the notice of the Variance Request submitted by Eloise James.

Roberts made a motion to approve the Variance Request for 410 S. First Street to add a closed in addition to the home. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All Members voted yes. Motion approved.

Motion that the prior Variance Request from James to allow an RV to be put on the lot be rescinded was made by Roberts. Schroeder seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Members voted yes. Motion approved.

The Board of Adjustment meeting was adjourned.

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING  
JUNE 11, 2020  
7:00 P.M.  
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

**Open Meeting:** Mayor Leavitt opened the June 11, 2020 meeting.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Minutes:** Minutes of the March 12, 2020 Board of Adjustment meeting were reviewed. Bancroft made a motion to approve the minutes. Ranson seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Minutes of the March 12, 2020 Commission meeting were reviewed. Bancroft made a motion to approve the minutes. Schroeder seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Minutes of the March 19, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes. Bancroft seconded the motion; Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Marshall Bettendorf (Ennis Chamber) asked the Commission to move forward with a vote on the 4<sup>11</sup> of July parade and the consideration of No Parking on Main Street the day of the parade.

It was noted that the Town has not received a plan from the Chamber. Bettendorf responded that two Commissioners and the Board of Health were advised of the plan.

Cindy Gockel asked that the Chamber plan be explained to those who are not privy to it. Bettendorf went over the current plan from the Chamber.

Gockel asked how the Chamber plans to encourage social distancing during the parade and what about after the parade. She asked if the people will just be turned loose. Bettendorf stated that post parade the Chambers duties have ended.

Commission Discussion: Bancroft stated the main concern is for the citizens of Ennis and this opens up the possibility of the virus being spread.

Ranson said she believes it should be left up to the Board of Health.

The Mayor stated the problem is the Board of Health had put off having their meeting until after the Town Commission meeting and the Chamber has the need to know whether to move forward or not.

Schroeder stated he has talked with many people and some are for the parade and some are against. He also would like to see what the Board of Health has to say at their meeting on Tuesday.

Hardy said he agrees with Schroeder and would like to hear from the Board of Health. He questioned if the parade route had been lengthened to aid in social distancing.

Roberts stated she had spoken with as many Chamber Board members as possible. She stated she does not understand why we would give up our advantage with no current cases in the County. Sixty plus year olds are prevalent in Ennis and many have said they just want normalcy to return. The Manor is still under lockdown and the residents need to have their doors reopened to visitors. She feels there should not be a parade this year but to make next year's bigger and better than ever. She also stated that the nine volunteers the Chamber has to help with social distancing cannot control a crowd of 5000+ people. She suggested a joint statement be put out by the Town & Chamber there will not be a parade but come visit Ennis.

Schroeder stated there have been no big effects from Covid-19 in Madison County in these 3 months and we need to remain cautious.

Bettendorf thanked the Commission for their comments. If there is not to be a parade a second campaign will go out to draw people to Ennis. The Chamber would like direction tonight if possible, regarding the parade so they can concentrate on other upcoming events.

The Mayor stated he hopes we are out of this phase by the time other events come up. Also, other events are not the magnitude of the 4th of July.

Mayor Comments: He said he loves that citizens are this compassionate on this matter. This has been extremely difficult. He thanked the Chamber for their planning. He stated Ennis is fortunate, a lot because we are a small community. He wants to keep Ennis healthy and able to maintain. The Governor's order states no more than fifty people at a gathering. He knows of five businesses that will close if the parade happens.

He spoke with the Mayor of Virginia City and he agrees that we should make the 4th bigger and better next year. He spoke of the crowd Ennis would have and the possibility to become a hot spot for the virus.

The Mayor said the Town's insurance carrier also stated that violating the state order increases liability.

Ensuring the safety of everyone is the #1 priority. He does not want to alienate people who have done this event for years.

With this being said the Mayor stated he will not sign the permit unless we are completely out of Covid-19 restrictions according to the State of Montana.

Bettendorf said he appreciates the leadership on this and the Chamber looks forward to working together on events to come.

The Mayor also stated he was somewhat disappointed that the Board of Health would not step up and make this decision.

The Mayor announced that there will be a County wide meeting on Monday the 15th at the Hospital at 1:00 p.m. and explained more of this matter to the Commission.

**Department Reports:** Library: Karen Ketchu read the Library report and said it includes two new policies for the Library.

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

Police Dpt.: John Moore submitted a written report for review. The Mayor stated that with the upheaval in this country our LEO's are appreciated and there was some discussion on ways to show our appreciation to them.

Moore reported that the FEMA grant was denied for the hand washing stations so he is going to apply to the CARES grant. Moore also gave some statistics on the WIFI use at the various parks in town.

Public Works: A written report was submitted for review. Roberts asked if our wastewater can be tested for Covid-19 like Bozeman is doing. John Moore stated it was being done by MSU.

Schroeder asked if work was being done on the water pump on First Street. Dan Dedman told him that a new isolation valve was installed.

The Commission was told that Tony Forsythe went back to work for Madison County so an ad has been placed for a 3rd person.

Zoning: No report.

Clerk: A written report was submitted for review. A budget work session was scheduled for the 25th at 5:30 p.m.

**Commission Comments:** Hardy said a CPA was found to serve on the Finance Committee.

Schroeder said, with budgeting coming up, he is interested in increasing parking in Town and has looked over areas he believes will work.

Roberts said we got the Big Sky grant so there is now \$40,000 for the Comprehensive Plan so an RFP needs to go out. The walk audit report has been distributed to the Commission through email. They issued some renderings of ideas for the demonstration project this s u m m e r .

The Commission was asked to submit ideas so the needs can be adjusted and added to the project.

Roberts stated the first meeting with Gilmore's team was basically an introduction call.

Schroeder reminded that he wants a discussion on having a City Attorney. \*It was put on the agenda for the work session on the 25<sup>th</sup>!

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Blake Leavitt, Mayor

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Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer