

ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 12, 2020
7:00 P.M.
ENNIS TOWN HALL

Open Meeting: Mayor Leavitt opened the Ennis Town Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Commission Present: Bancroft, Hardy, Roberts, Ranson and Schroeder

Pledge to the Flag

Minutes: Bancroft made a motion to approve the minutes. Hardy seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion Approved.

Public Comment: Marshall Bettendorf introduced himself as the new Director for the Ennis Chamber of Commerce.

Cindy Gockel spoke of news on the Corona virus and feels now is the time to be planning. She asked what the Town is thinking. The Mayor stated he is keeping up with CDC postings.

John Moore told Gockel that Madison County has activated a health team. A state of emergency has been declared by the Governor and the County Health Board for Madison County is having a meeting tonight. There is a website put up by the State of Montana. He gave further stats on other diseases and quoted suggested ways to avoid getting COVID 19. There is more information coming out daily and the Town will be monitoring that information.

Gockel asked about how the Town is getting this information out to the public. Karen Ketchu stated the Library will be helping get information out. Moore stated the Town will also have it on the Town website. He stated the County is in charge of this.

Greg Haas spoke with the Commission about the need for training facilities for Ambulance as what is available now is lacking. He stated they need their own space and are asking for assistance in moving toward that direction.

Library Board Appointment: Karen Ketchu told the Commission the Library has a five person board that meets once a month. Judy Freye has been chosen to serve on the Library Board with Commission approval.

Roberts made a motion to appoint Judy Freye to the Library Board. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Tree Board Appointment: Roberts introduced Nichole Baily and stated she is interested in serving on the Tree Board for the Town.

Roberts made a motion to appoint Bailey to the Tree Board. Ranson seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Apartment Rent: Ranson stated that the upstairs apartment at Berkshire Hathaway rents for \$1150 a month.

The last updates on the Town Hall apartment were done 8-9 years ago. Roberts asked if utilities could be split out. Answer: Yes. The Mayor pointed out there are matters of the Ambulance housing, public access to the building so does not feel a large increase should be done.

Roberts stated if an increase is decided on it should take effect with the new fiscal year.

There was discussion on what the Commission feels the increase should be.

Ranson made a motion to increase rent to \$750 per month for the Town Hall apartment. Roberts seconded the motion.

Discussion: Karen Ketchu asked the Commission not to forget their discussion on affordable housing.

Roberts asked if it should be tabled until utilities can be figured out. The Mayor stated the increase is not unreasonable. Bancroft suggested giving it a shot and seeing how it goes.

Schroeder made a motion to change the amount to \$700 per month. Hardy seconded. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes to amend the motion.

Roll Call Vote for increasing the apartment rent to \$700 per month: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

In House Training: There was a letter from MSU on possible classes available. We are to check on available dates for a full day training.

Roberts brought up getting read only access for department heads on Black Mountain Software. We are to check Black Mountain Software for training. John Moore explained security issues with letting the software being let out too much.

Department Reports: Library: Karen Ketchu submitted a written report to the Commission. She stated 2 policies have been approved by the Library Board and 52 patrons have asked about COVID-19. She requested she also receive the information the Town gets regarding the virus.

Schroeder asked if the Community room at the Library would work for Ambulance training. Answer: For some classes but others are messy so carpeting doesn't work.

Ambulance: Patty Austin submitted a written report to the Commission. Patty told the Commission they got a new manikin that came from Region 1B funds that were found. There was training with the Hospital for COVID-19 last night. The Mayor stated that on April 16th the County will have a meeting to start the conversation on forming an Ambulance District. Austin told the Commission she has already been working on mapping an Ambulance District and has/had plans to go to the County with a proposal and then go for a Mill Levy. There was discussion on who can manage the Ambulance Service(s) and various ways management can be done.

Police: John Moore submitted a written report to the Commission.

Public Works: Kelly Elser gave the Commission a verbal report of matters in Public Works. He told them he went to Idaho today and looked at a snow plow, the UV station has been cleaned, the "Your Speed Is" sign will be up soon, meter readings were estimated by an employee and there has been quite a bit of grief to the office staff due to this. Elser stated there is

now a full crew in public works with 3 certified operators and numerous things have been caught up.

There was discussion regarding the drainage issue at the school.

Pot holes have been filled to get by until cold mix is available.

Hardy asked about the radio read meters. Elser stated they are going in new construction and places that need a meter replacement.

Clerk: Ginger Guinn submitted a written report to the Commission and spoke about the upcoming budget.

Mayor Report/Comments: Leavitt said everything he has on the Corona Virus was already covered.

There is a telephonic scheduling call that is to take place March 23, 2020. A meeting will be held at the Hospital tomorrow regarding the Corona Virus. The Walk-Audit is scheduled for April 23rd from 2-4 pm. They will gather information on Ennis and a design will be done for a demonstration project and a final report done by October.

Commission Comments: Roberts: On March 30th at 12 pm there will be a Success Through Cooperation meeting at the Library Community room on recommendations o Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

Roberts attended a meeting in Gardner and found out, as they are not incorporated, they face a lot of challenges.

Roberts stated she applied for the Big Sky Trust Grant for 15,000 for the updating of the Master Plan. Madison County has pledged 5,000 for this project.

Schroeder stated he thinks we should get a City Attorney. They should be writing our Resolutions and Ordinances. Contact was made with Newland P.C. to see what they would charge to review the audit.

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

Adjourn: Bamcroft voted to adjourn the meeting. Hardy seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Blake Leavitt, Mayor

Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer

**EMERGENCY ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 19, 2020
6:00 P.M.
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

COVID-19

Open Meeting: Mayor Leavitt opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Present: Bancroft, Hardy, Roberts, Ranson and Schroeder

COVID-19: The Mayor read the Emergency Declaration for COVID-19.

Schroeder asked if this means we are going to put, say, social distancing in place.

John Moore explained the Emergency Declaration is primarily for us to be eligible for Federal and State funding.

The Mayor spoke more on what he is doing and following the School, County and State.

The Mayor spoke of the availability to have virtual meetings with the Commission and others attending the meeting by "Go To Meeting".

The Commission then went into Executive Session to discuss the Armitage Alley litigation.

Blake Leavitt, Mayor

Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer