

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING
MAY 14, 2020
6:45 P.M.
ENNIS TOWN HALL**

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

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

Variance Request: The Variance request from Eloise James for a setback from 25 feet to 17 feet on the street facing portion of the lot which is located on the corner of First and Hugel Streets.

The Mayor read a letter from James giving the reason the variance is being sought.

Discussion: Roberts asked if there should have been a sign placed on the property giving notice of the variance request. *It was found that a notice was supposed to be physically posted on the property.

Zoning Administrator, Art Behar, gave a short brief. He stated he thinks the proposed addition will make the property look better.

Roberts asked what constitutes a hardship. Behar gave his view of how this property, being so small, constitutes a hardship.

The variance request was continued until next months meeting after the physical posting has been placed on the property for the allotted time required.

The Board of Adjustment meeting was closed.

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 14, 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

Zoning Report: Behar told the Commission there have been no permits for Single Family Dwellings in the month of May. There have been some problems with signage and he will be meeting with the Daily Grind. The Gravel Bar/Brewery has erected a sign without a permit. Lone Mountain Property Development made initial contact. They have purchased Blocks 4 & 6 of the North 40 Development and are inquiring about permits for building boarding house type buildings. (Dormitory/Pod types.) Behar believes this is beyond his means to review so he thinks it should go to the Planning Board for review.

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

The March 19, 2020 minutes were reviewed by the Commission. Bancroft made a motion to approve the minutes. Ranson seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Public Comment-Non-Agenda Items: The Mayor read some questions from Cindy Gockel regarding the 4th of July activities. *At this time: Pancake Breakfast is cancelled. Lion's BBQ is not cancelled. Rodeo has not been cancelled and the Chamber is still planning for the parade.

Corrina Christensen asked if the Rest Area at Lion's Park is going to be opened. *That is part of what will be covered under the Covid-19 agenda item.

Chamber Request for Funds: The Chamber of Commerce submitted a request for \$600 from the Town to help cover repairs and updates to the banner signs.

Roberts made a motion to approve the Chamber request for new brackets, flags, etc. in the amount of \$600 to be taken from the Commission Projects budget. Motion seconded by Schroeder. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Master Fund Planning: Roberts gave an explanation of projects going on through Montana Main Streets. She gave a definition of a Master Plan and how it is used by a community. It is essentially a list of what a Town wants to do. We currently have \$15,000. (\$5000 from the County and \$10,000 from Montana Main Street Program.)

Roberts gave more information on how the Master Plan is built and what benefits are achieved for the Town.

Roberts made a motion to approve \$4000 for the Master Plan. Schroeder seconded the motion.

The Mayor stated he feels this is a good thing but it needs to be kept moving along.

It was noted the map to follow will be there for future Commissions.

There was more discussion on items that can/should be put into the Master Plan.

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

COVID-19: The Mayor stated he wants open the Rest Area and Town Hall on Monday, May 17th.

It was asked what needs to be done to open the Rest Area. The possibility of getting a lock for the inside of doors was discussed.

There was discussion on how the Town will monitor and follow the COVID situation.

Karen Ketchu asked if the Library can mandate masks to be worn in the Library. It was noted they would have to supply masks to those without one and Ketchu said they would supply masks to patrons in need of one.

The signs the Town procured were talked about and the Mayor said there are people on both sides. Pros and Cons.

Kelly Elser said some signs from Grandma Ennis Park were found in the garbage.

Discussion on if the sign language should be changes or to hold off doing more until the first of the month.

There were public comments on the signs. Cindy McKitrick said there is too much information. They are too busy. All you see, primarily, is the WHOA! and are instantly turned off. Dulcie Clark said the signs need to be simplified.

Roberts is going to work with the designer and make changes to the signs.

Department Reports: Library: Karen Ketchu said the Library would like to open on a “limited hours” basis to start with and see what needs to be done and/or can be done. Ketchu went over a 3 Rivers offer for upgrades and the summer plans including outdoor projects, etc.

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

Police: John Moore submitted a written report to the Commission for review. He answered questions regarding the “Your Speed Is” signs and a goat complaint that Behar is working on.

Public Works: A written report was submitted to the Commission for review. Roberts asked Kelly Elser if the dirt/gravel can be swept from the side of the streets. He said he would add it the “to do” list but it would not be a priority.

Clerk: Ginger Guinn submitted a written report to the Commission for review. There was discussion on the Finance Committee and what members are needed.

Mayor Report/Comments: The Mayor, speaking of COVID-19, reiterated that common sense is going to get us through this. He further stated he is proud of our community and how, so far, they have handled these difficult times.

Commission Comments: Hardy told the Commission he met with Chad Coffman regarding planting trees in the triangle by Town Pump and that should be happening soon.

Roberts said the information from the “Walk Audit” today will be put together and brought back to the Community.

Claims: Hardy 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. Ranson seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Blake Leavitt, Mayor

Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer