

**TOWN OF ENNIS
PUBLIC HEARINGS
NOVEMBER 12, 2020
6:30 P.M.**

Setback Variance Request/Suzuki

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

Mayor Leavitt opened the public hearing for the Variance application submitted by Kevin and Kaye Suzuki for a 5-foot variance of the 25-foot setback requirement for a garage at 765 S. Second Street.

The Commission reviewed the Variance application and had discussion on it.

Roberts made the motion to approve the 5- foot variance bringing the setback to 20 feet at 765 S. Second Street. Hardy seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Annexation Request/3 Rivers Communications

Art Behar explained what 3 Rivers is planning to do with the property. Water and sewer are already present on the lot. They plan to build a nice fence to shield what is being stored.

Jason Petrillo (3 Rivers) also explained what 3 Rivers plans are.

The remainder of the discussion on this will be concluded at the regular Commission meeting when the agenda item comes up.

TND Development/Greg and Leslie Lindstrom

Art Behar explained the Lindstrom's application for building 5 single residence cabins on 2 lots. Behar went into more detail with other matters concerning the lots.

Discussion: Roberts stated she has nothing major but is concerned about landscaping and would like to see some landscaping incorporated into the plans. She also stated some of the neighbors have concerns regarding the increase in traffic.

Ranson asked about the possibility of having on unit as a long-term rental and if the Town can even require that.

Roberts reiterated her concern for landscaping and gave suggestions of what they may do. She spoke of the "dark skies" criteria.

Leslie Lindstrom spoke about the project and what their plans are. She spoke of her long family history in Ennis. She spoke about the landscaping and said they have plans to retain healthy trees and remove the trees that are not healthy. The rest of the landscaping will be in line with what is currently in the neighborhood.

There was discussion about sidewalks and Leslie Lindstrom asked for more information on what the sidewalks would need to be. (i.e., width & length) Greg Lindstrom stated they would be open to this idea.

There was more discussion regarding the project.

Roberts made a motion to approve the Lindstrom's application on West Steffens Street upon receiving and approval of a 1) Landscaping plan, 2) Lighting plan, 3) Install a 6 foot sidewalk running the length of the property of which can be on Town Right of Way and 4) A statement from Emergency Services entities stating there is adequate room for ingress and egress of their equipment in an emergency.

Schroeder seconded the motion.

No further discussion.

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

**ENNIS TOWN COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

Open Meeting: Mayor Leavitt opened the November 12, 2020 Commission meeting.

Pledge to the Flag.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: Robin Blazer, Owner of Willie's Distillery, spoke of the semi crash that happened early Saturday morning. This has been to the Commission multiple times to gain assistance from the Town to get something done with the East entrance to Town. She maintains her opinion that this is a Town matter and is tired of the Town's lack of action and passing it off on other agencies. She is also tired of hearing, from the Town, there is no budget but the Town is able to fund and conduct a study no one wants. Blazer made a formal request to have this matter on the December 2020 agenda and each month after until this problem has some solutions.

Minutes of the September 1, 3 and 10, 2020 Meetings:

The Commission reviewed the Minutes from the September meetings.

Bancroft made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020 meeting. Roberts seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2020 meeting. Roberts seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Ranson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Resolution #556-2020/Intent to Annex/3 Rivers Communications: Mayor Leavitt read the Resolution of Intent to Annex Block 1, Lots 12-13, Comley Addition by 3 Rivers Communications.

Roberts made a motion to approve Resolution 556-2020. A Resolution of Intent to Annex certain property to the Town of Ennis. Bancroft seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Headwaters RC&D Update: Joe Willauer and Julie Jaksha gave an update of what is going on at Headwaters RC&D including how COVID has had an effect.

Julie said there have been 40 training sessions done for small businesses. There is still \$5000 emergency funding available for small businesses. Headwaters helped to put in for some funding for the V.C. Ice Rink. December 3rd there will be a food producer presentation. The Tourism Grant has a November 30th deadline and there is still \$300,000 available in Brownfields funds.

Joe and Julie encouraged people to reach out to them at Headwaters RC&D for assistance.

Madison Valley Medical Center/Transfer of Ambulance Ownership: The Mayor said this has been in the works for over a year.

Allen Rohrback and Maura Davenport were present, representing Madison Valley Medical Center.

A Memorandum of Understanding was presented that states that on May 1, 2021 Ennis Ambulance Service will terminate operations and Madison Valley Medical Center will begin operations of an Ambulance service.

Rohrback stated it is getting difficult to maintain a Volunteer service. The Medical Center will operate a paid service 24/7/365. Crews will, perhaps, be on 12-hour shifts. He spoke of funding, expenditures, a mill levy and gifting the Ambulances and equipment to Madison Valley Medical Center.

Commissioner Hardy asked about Ruby Valley Ambulance and their transition to Ruby Valley Hospital.

Mayor Leavitt spoke of the need of Medical Professionals to manage the service and also spoke of liability issues.

It was noted that EMT's, etc. will be trained in other applications so they can work in the Emergency Department and Hospital. They are also hoping to initiate para-health services in the community.

Roberts made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Madison Valley Medical Center. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Discussion: It was asked if the Ambulance will continue to cover community events such as the 4th of July Rodeo and school sporting events. Rohrback answered in the affirmative.

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

The “Asset Agreement” was reviewed by the Commission. In the agreement the Town of Ennis will turn over tangible assets to the Madison Valley Medical Center such as 2 Ambulances, equipment for the Ambulances, etc.

Roberts made a motion to approve the Asset Gift Transfer Agreement. Ranson seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: All Commissioners voted yes. Motion approved.

Madison Valley Medical Center has started plans for marketing and public knowledge and involvement.

There was some discussion regarding Ambulance housing. It will be further discussed when needed.

Comprehensive Master Plan Responses: The Commission reviewed four responses from the request for proposal advertisements. They discussed each of their preferences after review and decided to have virtual interviews with three of the applicants.

Department Reports: Library: Karen Ketchu sent a written report for review of Library activities.

Police: John Moore submitted a written report for review. He told the Commission that he feels the first step that would help with the semi-truck accidents would be to light up the entrance to Town. There was some discussion on this suggestion.

Public Works: No report.

Zoning: No report.

Clerk: Ginger Guinn submitted a written report for review. She told the Commission the Audit has been completed and can be reviewed at any time.

Mayor’s Comments/Report: Mayor Leavitt stated the semi wreck will be on the December agenda and he will check to see if a Department of Transportation employee can be present at the meeting.

He stated he is going to issue a mandate for masks to be required for all Government buildings.

Commission Comments: Hardy said he, after talking to Headwaters RC&D, would be excited about a Farmers Market.

Roberts said the Montana Main Street Grant may have lighting as an eligible expense and will check on that.

Bancroft stated he thinks we need lighting at the crosswalk by Town Hall as, when it is dark, you cannot see pedestrians standing at the crosswalk.

It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce has applied for funding for restrooms in the community park on Main Street.

Claims: Hardy made a motion to approve claims. Schroeder 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.

Blake Leavitt, Mayor

Ginger Guinn, Clerk/Treasurer