

Town of Eaton
March 14, 2023
Regular Meeting

The Eaton Town Council met in a regular meeting. In attendance are Daniel Blankenship, Roger Wells, Teresa Welsh, Dustin Reese and Meghan Deckman.

President Daniel Blankenship called the meeting to order.

Roger Wells made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 14, 2023 Special Meeting and February 14, 2023 Regular Meeting. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Jason Crabtree stated that the new compact excavator is here.

Fire Chief Newby presented the Council with an estimate from Move Over Outfitters to install lights and mounts on 2023 Ford F350 when ready for \$13,404.00. Discussion followed. Teresa Welsh made a motion to approve the invoice for \$13,404.00 with Move Over Outfitters. Fire Chief can use a PO or purchase the equipment until needed. Dustin Reese seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Newby presented the Council with a quote from Alexis for twenty strut mounts and one cribbing for \$3,250.00. Discussion followed. Teresa Welsh made a motion to approve the quote for \$3,250.00 from Alexis. Dustin Reese seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Newby stated that he needs to purchase himself new boots.

Clerk-Treasurer DeWees asked the Council to pay the MacQueen invoices for the new truck equipment out of the remaining loan obligations they total \$4,316.51. Roger Wells made a motion to approve the payment of the balance of the loan. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Newby stated that they tested five hydrants on the west side of Town. The pressure has dropped drastically. Rachel Runge with Commonwealth is going to get with the Fire Chief and see what happened.

Police Chief Turner stated that all officers are State Certified for Tasers the cost was \$460.00.

Police Chief Turner stated they were awarded the Ball Brothers Grant for \$5,000.00. He presented the Council with a quote from Leap Managed IT for \$4,805.63 to replace three computers, five monitors, two web cams and set up. Discussion followed. Teresa Welsh made a motion to approve the invoice from Leap Managed IT for \$4,805.63 to purchase new equipment. Roger Wells seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Police Chief Turner presented the Council with an invoice from Leap managed IT for \$1,124.95 to purchase a new body camera storage unit with a seven-year retention time. Discussion followed. Roger Wells made a motion to approve the invoice from Leap Managed It for \$1,124.95. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Police Chief Turner would like to take a vacation April 26 thru may 2,2023. Teresa Welsh made a motion to approve the Chief Turners vacation. Roger Wells seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Police Chief Turner stated that the police in the department have completed all but two state mandated courses. They will be completed by mid-year.

Dustin Reese asked about open legal litigations. Discussion followed.

Clerk-Treasurer DeWees asked the Council to approve payment for Smith Insurance Service regarding Town insurance once it is broken down by department. Roger Wells made a motion to pay Smith Insurance Services once the invoices are broken down by the department. Dustin Reese seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Derek Mitchell for EBSA would like permission to have the parade on Harris Street from Center Street to East Union Street on April 22nd at 8am. Dustin Reese made a motion to approve the parade on April 22 at 8am. Roger Wells Seconded the motion. Meghan Deckman abstained. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Derek Mitchell also asked if they could borrow the skid steer to do field work on D2. Steven Foster will be running the skid steer. Discussion followed. Dustin Reese made a motion allowing EBSA to use the Skid steer or the tractor for field work at D2. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Meghan Deckman abstained. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Rachel Runge with Commonwealth would like to set dates for upcoming meetings. The Water Tower work should start near the end of May. The Distribution System work is estimated to start August through September.

Mrs. Runge would like permission for Daniel Blankenship to sign the USDA Guide 5 Budget Report. Roger Wells made a motion to allow Daniel Blankenship to sign the USDA Guide 5 Budget Report. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Mrs. Runge would like permission for Daniel Blankenship to sign the Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. Contract. Dustin Reese made a motion to allow Daniel Blankenship to sign the Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. Contract. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Mrs. Runge stated that they are working on the SRF submittal. They just need the Asset management Plan completed and signed by April 1,2023.

Mrs. Runge also stated the Well Head Protection Plan has finally been approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Roger Wells stated that he has talked with the Town Lawyer and he is drawing up the new contract for John Wollum.

Jessica Lynch with Baker-Tilly Municipal Advisors presented the Council with a contract for the Water Rate Study. Discussion followed. Dustin Reese made a motion to sign the Baker-Tilly Municipal Advisors Contract for the Water Rate Study. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Jessica Lynch went over the Water Rate Study. Discussion followed. The average increase to the minimum is \$5.17/month. This is required by USDA to close the grant.

Daniel Blankenship introduced Ordinance 2023-3-3 amendment regarding the rates and charges assessed to users of the Town Waterworks Utility.

Jessica Lynch presented a contract with Baker-Tilly Municipal Advisors to do a rate study for the Wastewater Utility to see if it is able to decrease any to offset the water increase. Dustin Reese made a motion to sign the Contract with Baker-Tilly Municipal Advisors for the Wastewater Rate Study. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

The Council was presented a Loan Resolution for \$5,291,000.00 through USDA. This coincides with a USDA Grant in the amount of \$12,208,000.00. The Clerk-Treasurer had a question about the grant amount listed on the loan. Discussion followed. Roger Wells stepped away from the meeting. Dustin Reese made a motion to allow Daniel Blankenship to sign the loan resolution with USDA pending the Clerk-Treasurer calls and talks with Craig McGowan at USDA. Meghan Deckman seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

The Council was presented with an Assurance Agreement from USDA. Discussion followed. Teresa Welsh made a motion to allow Daniel Blankenship to sign the Assurance Agreement. Dustin Reese seconded the motion. Vote was 4/0. Motion carried.

Daniel Blankenship introduced Ordinance 2023-3-2 Feral Animals.

Linda Hines, not present, is asking the Council for an adjustment to her utility bill. Her outside spicket was on when she came home from vacation and 3,300 gallons of water was used. Discussion followed. Teresa Welsh made a motion to adjust her utility bill by 3,300 gallons. Dustin Reese abstained. Meghan Deckman seconded the motion. Vote was 3/0. Motion carried.

Meghan Deckman stated she was looking over the Animal Control Ordinance and wants to discuss some changes. Roger Wells rejoined the meeting. She thinks the first offense for allowing an animal to stray should be \$25.00. This will be at the discretion of the officer. She would then like them to hand out a flyer outlining future fees. She suggests each subsequent offense in a 12 month period be \$25 for

second offence and increase by \$25 for each additional occurrence. Redemption of an animal will be \$25.00 plus \$15.00 for each day while the animal is impounded. The redemption fee will increase by \$25.00 for each additional occurrence. Example fourth occurrence will be \$100.00 plus \$15.00 per day. She would also like a vicious animal or potentially dangerous animal section. First Offence \$100.00, second offence and further will increase by \$50. Example: third offence would be \$150.00 fine. After the first offense the home owner will be required to post a warning for sign for potentially dangerous or vicious animal. Failure to post \$50.00 fine. She would also like a definition of vicious or potentially dangerous animal in the ordinance. discussion followed.

The Council was presented with a Legal Services Agreement for USDA. It is an agreement between the Town of Eaton and Brooke & Struble, PC for the USDA Project. Dustin Reese made a motion to sign the Legal Agreement. Teresa Welsh seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Teresa Welsh made a motion to sign the claim dockets. Roger Wells seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Kelly Martin of 314 Mar-Fran Court has a drainage easement behind his home and would like it closed. The Council asked about IMP having lines running through it. Discussion followed. The Council will check with the Town Attorney.

Nick Beckham and Casey Bluhm asked about her water bill. Discussion followed. David White will run a profile every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for a couple weeks to see if it occurs again. Mrs. Bluhm is to pay the average this month.

Fire Chief Newby asked what the Town is going to do with the bell that was removed from the roof of 108 East Harris Street. Discussion followed. They would like it on a cement slab in Veterans Park.

Roger Wells congratulated the guys for getting out and salting the other morning. He also stated that North Elm Street needs work on the road.

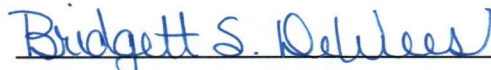
Teresa Welsh would like to spend \$75.00 on a plaque for Retired Police Chief Liggett, to be placed on the outside wall of the Police Department building. Dustin Reese made a motion to approve the plaque for \$75.00. Roger Wells seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.

Teresa Welsh is going to make a list of things she would like done for cleaning the Community Center and then we will recontract for it.

There being no further business to be brought before the Council at this time Teresa Welsh made a motion to adjourn. Dustin Reese seconded the motion. Vote was 5/0. Motion carried.


Daniel Blankenship, Council President
4/11/2023

Attest:


Bridgett S. DeWees, Clerk-Treasurer
4/11/2023