

HATCH TOWN BOARD MEETING

September 20, 2023

Town Board Present: Mayor Jim Kabonic, Jon Spendlove, Kurt Sawyer & Andrea Barney

Staff Present: Betty Kabonic, Jacie Torgersen & Tyler Mendenhall

Public Present: Gary Goble, Kerry Barney, Curtis Ludvigson, Camrin, Matthew, Kate and Hannah Barney

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Kabonic welcomed everyone to the meeting, which started at 7pm. Betty Kabonic offered an opening prayer and Mayor Kabonic led those present in the pledge.

2. Approval of August 17, 2023 Previous Minutes

Councilor Spendlove motioned to approve the minutes and Councilor Sawyer seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous.

3. Review August Invoices, checks & financial report

Councilor Sawyer motioned to approve the expenditures and Councilor Barney 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous.

4. Public Hearings

5. Petitions, Remonstrations and Communications

5.1 Appoint New Councilmember

Ben Neilson had talked to Jacie Torgersen about possible signing up to be a council member but did not come to the meeting. Mayor Kabonic had also talked to Duane Barnhurst about possible filling the vacancy in the council. Betty Kabonic suggested that Gary Goble sign up to do it. At this time, there was not anyone willing to be appointed to fulfill the vacancy on the council.

6. Ordinances

7. Report of Officers – boards – committees

7.1 Water Department – Water Usage

August 2023 usage was 146,200 gallons from well #4. Tyler Mendenhall presented three bids for an air vac that needs to be replaced near the Barney's home.

Peterson's \$388.75

Southwest \$549.81

Scholzen's \$664.00

The council told him to go ahead with the cheapest bid from Peterson's. Ben Neilson suggested that the town get Rick Sawyer to help install the flow meter since there will need to be a welder on site. It is estimated that it would be around \$500 for the welding. Mayor Kabonic suggested that they have Kade Iverson do the welding since he is already in town and should be able to do that. It might save the town some money to have him do it. Councilor Barney motioned to approve to have the flow meter installed as long as it is not

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over \$500 and Jon Spendlove 2nd the motion. If it is going to be more than \$500 the council would like to receive notification by email or text.

7.1.b Possible Radio Read Meter Grants – Curtis Ludvigson

Mr. Ludvigson from the Rural Water Association come to discuss some options with the town. He think that the town pursuing radio read meters is a good idea. He can contact David Welch from Hydro Specialists to come do a presentation to the town on BADGER meters, which are good meters. Sometimes they have a set up program where they can get 10 meters to try to see if they work well. Mr. Ludvigson's estimate for the computer program and meters is \$100,000. This does not include installation.

Mr. Ludvigson said grants are really hard to get right now but he thinks the town could easily get a loan. He talked to Michael Grange with the Division of Drinking Water and he said they are not accepting any new applications until June 2024. It would be possible to apply for a loan from USDA but the town already has one from them. Based off the 2020 census it is showing that the median household income in Hatch is \$86,250. The state median adjusted income shows \$45,500 that is a big discrepancy. In order for the town to qualify for grants at the state, they would have to be below \$41,280 to qualify. The water bill would have to be raised \$10/month to apply for a grant. At times, it is easier to pay back a loan than to qualify for a grant.

Mr. Ludvigson had a few questions about the town's water fund. Based on the figures that he got from Jacie Torgersen the town is in the hole. There were \$150,000 in expenses and only \$80,000 in revenue. The town is not bringing in as much as they are spending. He said the town definitely needs to account for depreciation and save for that.

Councilor Barney asked if the town could just replace out meters as they break with the radio read meters. Mr. Ludvigson said it would create a bit of a problem to have some that were manual read and some that were radio read. Tyler Mendenhall said that the town is losing money on the old meters. Mr. Ludvigson said that there are several different kinds of radio read meters such as Zenner and Census and the price varies with the brand.

Mr. Ludvigson feels that the town could adjust their overage steps and would like to do a rate review for them. He can do it through the rural water association free. The town confirmed that there is a secondary water in town with about 100 shares. This will have an effect on the water rate review.

Mr. Ludvigson suggested that the town combine several projects if they are going to apply for funding. The council said that some updates to the water system were needed.

7.1.a Water Study Report – Richard White

The council had Richard White on a conference call to discuss the water study report. He presented two option. The town could increase the sizing of the pipe and that would be around \$750,000 or increase the size of some of the pipes and add a booster pump and that would be about \$650,000.

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Mr. White did apply for a grant for the town within the last month. It was a grant for water infrastructure projects. The grant had to be less than \$250,000. He submitted an application for an upgrade on the north end of town for \$240,000. If the town gets this grant then it would knock some off the costs.

There would be more operating costs for the booster pump but it would probably only have to run when the town was fighting fires. It is cheaper to do the project this way than the piping. Mr. White said he could help the town come up with a proposal for the drinking water board and CIB. They make the decision on how much grant/loan the town can afford. With the town's water account belly up they should be able to see that they can't take on any more loans. Mr. White said the town just needs to decide which route they want to take – piping or the booster pump.

Councilor Barney wanted to know why Riverside was annexed in for the town to take over a small private water line that is going to cost a lot of money to replace. Mr. Ludvigson counseled the town to stay away from the booster pumps. They work better if they are used. He will look for funding options along with Mr. White. He suggested combining the radio read meters with piping upgrades. Upgrading the pipes is more important than the radio read meters but he thinks they could be included in the same project.

91 7.2 Fire Department-

7.3 Road Department-

7.3.a Snow Plow Bids

The bid for the snowplow from that state contractor Mountainland was \$9,237. The only other bid the town was able to get was from Utah Outdoor Power and it was for \$11, 312. Councilor Sawyer motioned to go with the bid from Mountainland for a new plow and Councilor Barney 2nd the motion, the vote was unanimous. Jacie Torgersen will contact Mountainland and have them order the plow.

7.3.b Town Road repair

Councilor Sawyer said he is frustrated with the county concerning the roads and he has been in and called several times. Kerry Barney suggested that the town hire someone to fix the trouble spots in town. It has only been a few years since the chip seal was completed so not all of it needs to be done again. It would be good to get some bids on it. Councilor Sawyer would like to get some bids for a Tractor and have it on the next agenda. The town could get a detachable backhoe and attachments to mow the side streets.

Councilor Spendlove asked if there was anything that could be done with the drainage problem in front of his house. It was suggested to slope the road north so the water will go into Barney wash. Councilor Sawyer will work on it.

7.4 Parks & Recreation-

Councilor Barney asked for a report on the 24th. Betty Kabonic said we made good money. Councilor Barney said numerous people walked away because the shirts were too expensive at \$20 and there were quite a few left over. She feels like next year the town should sell them at

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\$15 and sell more shirts so they would still be making a good profit. The shirts at cost were around \$9.

7.4.a Halloween Party

The Halloween trunk or treat will be at 5:30pm on Tuesday October 31st. Councilor Barney suggested maybe just giving every kid \$1 who dressed up instead of having a costume contest. Councilor Sawyer said his daughter Aimee would be willing to help so Councilor Barney will contact her. There are lots of decorations up in the shed to use for the party. The town usually has a dinner after trunk or treat. In the past they have had pulled pork sandwiches, chips and drinks. The council decided that the budget for the Halloween party would be \$500.

7.5 Grants-

7.6 Planning & Zoning Commission

7.7 Cemetery

Councilor Barney has recently been up to a service at the cemetery and says it looks bad. The weeds are really tall in the parking lot and you can't tell that it is supposed to be a parking lot. She would like to see a sign put up showing that it is a parking lot. Betty Kabonic will see about getting a sign for the parking lot. Mayor Kabonic told her that the weeds had been sprayed earlier this summer.

The cemetery is not getting a grant to help with the new map but Arthur Lebaron is helping do a map in trade for some plots in the cemetery. Once the map is completed the book, old map and headstones are going to need to be compared. There are many discrepancies right now that make it hard.

8. Public Input

9. Unfinished or New Business

The next meeting will be held on October 18th.

10. Adjournment

Councilor Sawyer motioned to adjourn and Council Barney seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Jjt