

TOWN OF FIFIELD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Minutes of December 19, 2023

The meeting was brought was to order on December 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Fifield Town Hall.

ROLL CALL: Present: William Felch, John W. Smith, Ann Sloane, Kelly Kleinschmidt, Crystal Cowling, Ted Fleming and 25 others.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC POSTING: This agenda was posted at the Town Hall, Fifield Post Office, Pike Lake Fire Hall and on the Town of Fifield's website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: A resident questioned the agenda item of consideration for officers in charge under FD#2 and why FD#2 was not notified of this item. This resident also questioned the status of hiring a HR person. Another resident spoke of his letters regarding buoy placement and Ordinance 28, this is later on the agenda. This resident also stated that the PLCLA would cover any costs to make changes to these ordinances. A third resident questioned last month's meeting date change. A fourth resident complimented T. Fleming and road crew on recent road repairs.

APPROVE MEETING(S) MINUTES: November meetings minutes were reviewed, with a revision made to November 7, 2023. A **MOTION** was made by J. Smith and seconded by A. Sloane to approve and accept the minutes from the November meetings. Motion carried.

CEMETERY REPORT: Report reviewed and accepted.

CLERK/TREASURER: November financial reports were reviewed. Fire payroll was completed and with the mistake in QuickBooks from July's fire payroll, we were short less than \$30 on FICA taxes. A **MOTION** was made by A. Sloane and seconded by J. Smith to cover these taxes . Motion carried. After reviewing FD#1 budget, they are short an estimated \$4,500. A **MOTION** was made by W. Felch and seconded by A. Sloane to transfer \$1,700 over from FD#1's reserves. VV 3-0. A **MOTION** was made by J. Smith and seconded by A. Sloane to do a budget amendment for the Town to move an estimated \$2,800 from the Town's reserves to cover the balance of FD#1's expenses. VV 3-0. After reviewing FD#2's budget, they are an estimated \$3,200 short. A **MOTION** was made by A. Sloane and seconded by J. Smith to transfer that estimated amount from their reserves. VV 3-0. After reviewing the Town's budget, it looks to be an estimated \$8,000 short. A **MOTION** was made by A. Sloane and seconded by J. Smith to transfer that estimated amount along with the \$2,800 for FD#1's expenses from the Town's reserves. The Clerk informed the Board the audit process will be starting in January.

The Shed Agreement has been signed and received. The second half of the Flex Grant was received in November and a check was made out to Pomsal for FD#2's new EMS vehicle in the amount of \$147,293.00. List of election inspectors was presented for approval for the 2024/2025 term, a **MOTION** was made by A. Sloane and seconded by J. Smith to approve the election inspectors list. Motion carried. Clerk noted the IT Tech recommended more security on all computers and WIFI passwords. This will be tabled until January 2, 2024 meeting. A **MOTION** was made by A. Sloane and J. Smith to approve C. Cowling as Clerk/Treasurer effective January 1, 2024 with appointing K. Kleinschmidt as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Motion carried. Final salary will be determined at the January 2, 2024 meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

FIRE #1 REPORT: 11 EMR calls and 2 fire calls.

FIRE #2 REPORT: 1 EMR call, 1 fire call and noted 10 members passed the driver's operator course. They winterized their equipment and vehicles. Chief stated they want to allocate their reserve funds to replace Engine 340 and purchase a used mini pump for easier access into driveways. They are starting to look at prices for used mini pumps. Chief noted they would be using Fire Inc. funds as well.

Residents have questioned the response and skills of FD#2. The possibility of creating a fire commission board to look into these matters will be discussed at a January meeting.

TOWN CREW REPORT: Road Superintendent T. Fleming reported winter has been mild so far. Town crew has been cutting trees for the cemetery, brief discussion of billing the cemetery, this is tabled until January 2, 2024 meeting. While working at the cemetery they found garbage that was dumped, the Sheriff's Department was notified. T. Flemming mentioned logging some town property behind the hall. He will gather more information and present that at the January 2, 2024 meeting. Letter from Santa's Elves requested their alley be plowed, T. Fleming agreed to do that.

TRANSFER SITES REPORT: T. Fleming noted that all is going well, J. Smith noted he donated a small body camera to whomever wanted to use it at the site.

ORDINANCE #43: ordinance was reviewed. The owner of the mobile home moved in by the PO needs to apply for a permit from Price County Zoning. Price County Zoning has sent them a certified letter.

ORDINANCE #99: M. Ida of PLCLA, formally requesting the Board to consider moving two buoys listed in this ordinance. After brief discussion W. Felch noted he would contact the DNR Recreational Officer for more information and request her presence at a January meeting.

ORDINANCE #28: After reviewing M. Ida's, of the PLCLA, request and information he gathered regarding this ordinance, a **MOTION** was made by J. Smith and seconded by A. Sloan to remove the speed limit but keep the current skiing hours. Motion carried. There will be consideration for adding Amik, Rice, and what is now called Amber Creek to this ordinance after checking with the DNR.

CORRESPONDENCE: Board general correspondence was reviewed. Reviewed a letter from DNR regarding a resident's application to dredge. W. Felch will call water management specialist regarding this matter. Notice from Price County Zoning for conditional use permit regarding short-term home rental. 2 Cooperative Agreements with the Forest Service were reviewed.

REVIEW PAID INVOICES: Paid invoices were reviewed and accepted.

ADJOURN: A **MOTION** was made by A. Sloane and seconded by J. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM; motion carried.

These minutes are a draft until approval at the next scheduled regular board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly E. Kleinschmidt
Town of Fifield Clerk/Treasurer

12/21/2023