

**City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes**

January 10, 2024 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Holly Aamold, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey, Cole Short, James Maertens, Nate Berberich and Dennis Reidhammer via telephone

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the December 13, 2023 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ben Hershey; seconded by Keaton Flanagan; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$4403.58
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$1013.42
Direct	Visa	\$90.00
12929	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$246.38
12930	Hillsboro Banner	\$176.00
12931	Midco	\$49.38
12932	Nilson Brand Law	\$207.00
12933	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12934	Traill County Treasurer	\$3155.55
12935	Traill County Auditor	\$750.00
12936	VOID	VOID
12937	Ben Hershey	\$152.38
12938	Holly Aamold	\$152.38
12939	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25
12940	Jeff Siewert	\$152.38
12941	Keaton Flanagan	\$152.38
12942	Travis Soderberg	\$692.62
12943	Anderson Excavating	\$2857.50

Keaton Flanagan motioned to approve the bills, Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the council with the 2024 year to date budget comparison.

Nate Berberich, Ironhide Equipment, presented the council with a program offered through Ironhide Equipment called the Ironhide Municipality Yearly Trade Program. It is a yearly trade program, in which, every year the city would be eligible to trade in the Bobcat Toolcat for a brand new machine with full warranty. The cost is based on the hours on the machine. If the machine has 0 to 250 hours it would be \$4500. Utilizing this program the machine will always be under warranty and maintenance free. Every year a new machine will be delivered. Mayor Soderberg pointed out that it is a very nice machine and has already been very useful, especially during the ice storm with trees and branches blocking the streets. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to participate in the Ironhide Municipality Yearly Trade Program; Ben Hershey seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he had spoken to Mr. Reidhammer, owner of the property located at 317 Broadway. Mayor Soderberg offered Mr. Reidhammer \$3000 for the property. Mr. Reidhammer asked for \$5000. Mayor Soderberg advised him that he couldn't negotiate without the city council's approval. Ben Hershey inquired where the funds would come from. Mayor Soderberg advised him that the funds would come from the buildings and grounds which is funded by the general fund. The council discussed that legal fees could be \$3000 to \$4000. Mayor Soderberg had reached out to Nilson Brand Law and city judge wouldn't be available for city court until the end of February. It was discussed that the biggest concern is of curious kids entering the building and getting hurt. Mayor Soderberg called Mr. Reidhammer. There was no answer. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to offer Mr. Reidhammer \$5000 for the property located at 317 Broadway; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. Shortly after the motion Mr. Reidhammer called back. Mayor Soderberg advised him that council meeting was still being held. Mayor Sodberg also told him that the council made a motion to offer \$5000. Mr. Reidhammer did not accept the offer but asked for 30 days to try and remove what brick he can. Mr. Reidhammer would like the opportunity to also put a bid in to demo the building himself to salvage the bricks. He stated that the bricks are valuable to him. Mayor Soderberg stated that the brick isn't valuable to the city. The city's safety is our concern. Mr. Reidhammer wants time to think of a price he wants for the building. Mayor Soderberg will also reach out to some demo contractors for a firmer price on the demo and clean-up of the building

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that city court would also not be able to be scheduled until the end of February for the unkept property located at 304 Ives Street. If we chose to do a zoom meeting it could be sooner. It was pointed out that many of the fallen branches were picked up, although, none of the other issues have been addressed.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he will reach out to Nilson Brand Law to schedule a zoom hearing with the city judge.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Stewart Signs quote went up to \$21,456. Mayor Soderberg also advised the council that he called the Climax School and asked them for their opinion on their sign that they had purchased from Stewart Signs. It was learned that the sign purchased from Stewart Signs did not hold up in the cold weather. Climax School had to switch out the sign. They bought a sign through Indigo Signs. Mayor Soderberg contacted Indigo Signs and received two quotes from them. The sign would be the similar size. The difference in the quotes was based on the resolution. The quotes were \$37,595 and \$39,680 which included installation. The programming of the sign is web cloud based. It is very user friendly to enter sign information. Mayor Soderberg asked the council if they were interested in Indigo Signs versus Stewart Signs. The council all agreed that they are much more interested in the Indigo Sign, although, there is concern of what additional expenses that could arise from the building located at 317 Broadway. Further discussion of the sign will be tabled for now.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the trailer has been removed from the Buxton Trailer Court. There are still several sheds, the carport, the entryway and the deck as well as the debris from underneath the trailer. Nelson Homes told Jackie Siewert that they intended on only taking the porch and the deck. Jackie Siewert stated that she would reach out the Nelson Homes and advise them that the trailer debris needs to be removed and that the lot needs to be cleaned for the next mobile home that moves in.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the burn permit for the tree pile has been received. The fire department tried to burn it but the trees were too wet.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that with the recent ice storm many trees and branches were down. Mayor Soderberg extended a big thank you to all the residents and volunteers that helped clean up. Paulson Gravel came in and salt/sanded the streets. A bill had not yet been received but it was estimated to be approximately \$1200. Mayor Soderberg expressed again that the Bobcat Toolcat has been very handy to help clean the streets after the ice storm.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she is working on the Municipal Infrastructure Fund Reporting for the city's use of the Prairie Dog Funds. She will submit the cost of the lift station generator installation.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised that council that she received an email that included in the city's December funds received from the state that the city also received \$6280.30 from the Legacy Earnings Highway Distribution Fund. These funds are just like the highway tax distribution but since it is a separate restricted distribution it should be in its own fund. Jackie Siewert asked the council for a motion to open a new savings account. Ben Hershey made a motion to open a new savings account for the funds received from the Legacy Earnings Highway Distribution Fund; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she received notice that the city needs to re-submit an application for coverage for the ND State Insurance Department State Bonding Fund.

Jackie Siewert advised the council that Jeanne Rosholt had reached out to her if the city would have somewhere to plant free pine trees from the Arbor Day Foundation. After a brief discussion the city appreciated Jeanne Rosholt's thoughtfulness but they would need to pass on the trees.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Tom Anderson with Anderson Excavating inquired if the city would be interested in him getting a sander. Mayor Soderberg told him that would need to be his own decision.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed the next city council meeting will be held February 14, 2024 at 7pm at the Buxton Fire Hall.

Holly Aamold made a motion to adjourn; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor