

City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Jeff Siewert, Holly Aamold and Keaton Flanagan

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the February 12, 2025 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Keaton Flanagan; seconded by Jeff Siewert; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

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| Direct | Waste Management | \$4453.63 |
| Direct | Xcel Energy | \$1210.05 |
| Direct | Visa Card | \$868.00 |
| 13110 | East Central Regional Water Dist | \$236.64 |
| 13111 | Happy Grass | \$2052.00 |
| 13112 | Hillsboro Banner | \$434.40 |
| 13113 | Midco | \$49.57 |
| 13114 | Nilson Brand Law | \$59.00 |
| 13115 | Thomas Moe | \$150.00 |
| 13116 | Xcel Energy | \$27.27 |
| 13117 | Jaqueline Siewert | \$1616.13 |

Jeff Siewert motioned to approve the bills; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the council with the 2025 year to date review.

Jackie Siewert advised the council in preparing for the meeting she learned that the city received \$57,751.04 in Prairie Dog Funds. She read to the council the definition and list of eligible projects using the Prairie Dog Funds. It was discussed to do more research on classifying construction of a new fence around the lagoon cells as an infrastructure project.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the city sewage system had a backup last Monday (3/10/25). The elevator's sewer was backed up. They had called a plumber who in turn said it wasn't their sewer it was a city issue. Mayor Soderberg called Anderson Excavating to assist in locating the man hole for that area. In the meantime, Dan Fuglesten found a map of the manhole locations on some construction plans. A manhole cover on Broadway was lifted off and the water level was high. Travis called Jet-Way to come and flush the lines. Jeff Siewert went to the lift station. It was plugged from the last manhole to the lift station. Jet-Way cleaned it. Travis called ND Sewage Pump & Lift Station. Jeff Siewert met ND Sewage Pump & Lift Station the next day. There was a T in the line in which was cut-off. It was full of rags, sanitary products, diapers and Q-Tips. ND Sewage Pump & Lift Station is going to give us a quote for a trash basket on rails to help catch larger items in the sewer lines and prevent future issues. The cleaning of the basket will be a part of our annual lift station inspection. They will also be giving us a quote for rubber isolation pads to increase flow and efficiency. Jackie Siewert will inquire with the State if these upgrades would be qualified for the use of Prairie Dog Funds. Jackie stated that she will include something in the upcoming Buxton Beat to only flush human waste and toilet paper. On a positive note the alarm system worked on the lift station when it was overwhelmed by the clean-out performed by Jet-Way and the water level reached a high point.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Cassie Tostenson, city attorney, prepared and emailed a purchase agreement for the city lots. Mayor Soderberg emailed the purchase agreement to Bill and Mary Miller for their review. There was a commencement requirement and reversion clause included in the purchase agreement which states that after two years if no building has started the property would go back to the city at the expense of the Miller's. The purchaser would also pay all closing costs and abstract creation. Mayor Soderberg stated that Bill Miller inquired about a power pole being moved. Travis will reach out to our local Xcel contact.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he is near completion of the City's new webpage. He reviewed the updates and changes that have been made.

Mayor Soderberg reached out to Cassie Tostenson, city attorney, inquiring if there was anything that the city had to do to finalize the dissolution of the Park District into the city. Cassie prepared a resolution for the Park District approving the transfer into the City as well a quit claim deed for the Park District's property. A resolution for the City of Buxton accepting the transfer of the Park District into the city was also prepared and it reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUXTON ACCEPTING THE TRANSFER OF ALL PARK DISTRICT PROPERTY AND ASSETS IN CONFORMITY WITH A PLAN FOR DISSOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Buxton City Park District (the "Park District") has determined that it is in the best interest of the community to dissolve and transfer all of its property, assets, and responsibilities to the City of Buxton (the "City"); and **WHEREAS**, the Park District has developed and approved a Plan for Dissolution (the "Plan"), which provides for the orderly transfer of all Park District-owned real and personal property, improvements, facilities, and assets to the City; and **WHEREAS**, the City recognizes the importance of maintaining and operating the parks, facilities, and recreational services previously managed by the Park District for the benefit of the residents of Buxton; and

WHEREAS, the Park District has executed all necessary agreements and documents to facilitate the transfer of ownership and control of its property and assets to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the Plan and finds that accepting the transfer of Park District property and assets is in the best interest of the City and its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUXTON AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 – ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER

The City of Buxton hereby accepts the transfer of all real and personal property, parklands, facilities, equipment, funds, and any other assets of the Buxton City Park District as outlined in the Plan for Dissolution.

SECTION 2 – ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon transfer, the City shall assume full responsibility for the maintenance, operation, and administration of all transferred parklands, facilities, and assets and shall continue to provide public access and recreational services as appropriate.

SECTION 3 – AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS

The Mayor, City Manager, City Clerk, and other designated City officials are hereby authorized and directed to execute all deeds, bills of sale, assignments, agreements, and other documents necessary to effectuate the transfer and to take any additional actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

SECTION 4 – ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS AND LIABILITIES

The City shall accept all funds transferred from the Park District and shall utilize them for park and recreation purposes in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The City shall also assume any remaining obligations or liabilities of the Park District as provided for in the Plan for Dissolution.

SECTION 5 – EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and approval, and the City shall take all necessary actions to finalize the transfer of property and assets as soon as practicable.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Buxton on this 19th day of March, 2025.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUXTON

Upon a roll call vote. Ayes: Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan, Holly Aamold. Nays: None. Absent: Ben Hershey. Motion carried. Jackie Siewert will forward the signed order to city attorney, Cassie Tostenson.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that a quote was received from Happy Grass for weed control for 2025 for the park and baseball diamond for \$2052.00. Jeff Siewert made a motion to accept the quote from Happy Grass for \$2052.00 for the 2025 weed control for the park and baseball diamond; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg presented the council with a quote from United Masonry to re-build the monument at the park for \$3075.00. Mayor Soderberg also stated that there is \$1492.00 that was raised from a fundraiser to save the monument. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to accept the quote from United Masonry for \$3075.00 to re-build the monument at the park; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he emailed the ND Forest Service inquiring about the availability of grants for trees. A representative with the ND Forest Service drove to Buxton and met with Travis to drive around and see what is needed. He made some recommendations and also left Travis with information on many different tree types that are available. There is a \$1500 dollar match grant through the state and also a \$25,000 federal grant. The plus side of the \$1500 match grant is that you can re-apply every year. The deadline for that grant is April 17th.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she received email confirmation from Jesse Smook, Grand Forks Waste Management Operations Manager, that May 17, 2025 is confirmed for our spring clean-up roll-offs. Jackie said that she will get some signs made and posted at the local businesses. She will also include it in the upcoming Buxton Beat and on Facebook.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she had received the gaming license renewal application for the Buxton Daycare for their gaming sites at the Barn N Grill and Triple VVV Lounge. Holly Aamold made a motion to accept and approve the renewal of the Buxton Daycare's gaming license for the gaming sites located at the Barn N grill and the Triple VVV Lounge; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he was advised by the State that the Triple VVV's liquor license was no longer valid after the owner passed away. After discussing it with the State and Sheriff Steve Hunt, Mayor Soderberg allowed a celebration of life be held at the Triple VVV for Tom Gerstenberg. The Triple VVV will remain closed until a new liquor

license can be obtained through the state. At that time a new liquor and beer license would also need to be obtained from the city.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he will begin the process to obtain a burn permit for the tree pile.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed that Tax Equalization meeting will be held April 9th at 7pm at the Buxton Fire Hall with the city council meeting to follow.

Jeff Siewert made a motion to adjourn; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor