

City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2023 @ 7:30 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

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

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the April 12, 2023 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeff Siewert seconded by Holly Aamold; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$3925.45
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$978.51
12814	Melinda Schonert	\$195.00
12815	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$267.94
12816	Meyer Group	\$2200.00
12817	Midco	\$48.79
12818	Mike Hovet	\$316.67
12819	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12820	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25
12821	Hillsboro Banner	\$140.91
12822	Xcel Energy	\$14.63

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

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, reviewed the current year to date budget comparison.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council he had reached out to Nilson Brand Law. They have contacted ECRWD's lawyer although no response has yet been received.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed that the city roll-offs were still on schedule for this coming Saturday, May 13th. He has seen many trailers loaded. Mayor Soderberg spoke to two property owners with yard issues and let them know that availability of the roll-offs on Saturday and encouraged them to utilize them. Jackie Siewert advised the council that there had been a few requests from out of town to use the roll-offs. They were advised that the roll-offs are for city residents only. Keaton Flanagan and Jeff Siewert stated that they would be available to help.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that there that been a complaint received of several divets left from snow removal. He went over the area with his box scraper which helped a lot. Mayor Soderberg stated that ground never froze before the snow which made the ground more susceptible for this to happen. There are some other areas that he is going to fill as well.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the park board had a meeting and has agreed to replace the basketball court. They want to have it completed by Buxton Big Day which is scheduled for July 15th. They have approved two quotes. Brock Brend Construction submitted a quote for \$31,500.00 to pour the concrete for the new basketball court. Florian & Son's Excavating submitted a quote of \$9,085.00 for the removal of the existing basketball court, building up the site approximately 6-8 inches and post construction dirt work. The project would use almost all of the park board's funds. Mayor Soderberg stated that the park board had reached out to American Crystal Sugar for a possible grant or donation. Dan Fuglesten, park board president, had told Mayor Soderberg he was also going to reach out to a city resident that has previously expressed interest in helping the city and park board in writing grants. The Traill County Economic Development Commission currently has a grant for public spaces available for up to \$5,000. Mayor Soderberg said that he would look into submitting an application for that grant. The council members also discussed what amount the city could donate to the project. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to donate \$10,000 to the Buxton Park Board for the construction of the new basketball court; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she emailed Thomas Beadle, ND State Treasurer Office, inquiring if the installation of the generator at the lift station would be an eligible project for use of the Prairie Dog Funds. She received an email back stating that after checking on some of the historical interpretations of "infrastructure" they believe that the generator would qualify under this program. Jackie is going to re-confirm that that would also include that concrete pad and fencing.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he reached out to Stewart Signs for a quote for an electronic sign. The representative stated that on an average a 5' x 8' sign is \$18,000 to \$20,000. It is the same company that Climax-

Shelly used for their school sign. Travis requested a quote that would include the sign and installation. He also reached out to Indigo Signs. They said they had sent a quote but it was never received. They are re-sending a quote.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he spoke to Mike with Stone's Mobile Radio. He questioned if we tested the siren system from the fire hall. Travis said he preferred to do all the testing at the same time to avoid multiple messages to the residents. Mike is booked up a few weeks out. He will notify Travis when he is able to come to Buxton.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, asked the council to re-establish a tornado shelter for the residents at the trailer court and anyone else that may wish to seek shelter during severe weather or a tornado warning. Immanuel Lutheran Church has been used in the past. It was questioned whether the fire hall could be utilized. Jackie Siewert will reach out to the Buxton fire chief, Jeremy Billings.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she had received a couple of requests in regards to posting an employment ad on the city Facebook page. Originally, the city Facebook page was set up for informational purposes for the residents. After a brief discussion, Jeff Siewert made a motion that the city Facebook page stay as informational purposes only and post no employment ads; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that a letter of intent for centralized county assessor was received from the Traill County Equalization for assessment year 2024 for \$7005.00. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to accept the letter of intent for centralized county assessor for 2024; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, spoke to Glenda Haugen, Traill County Auditor, in regards to what would be the required steps the city would need to take to absorb the Buxton Park board into the city. Glenda advised Jackie that the city needs to pass a resolution in which our attorney could assist with writing. She also provided the proper wording that can be used to put on the June 2024 for the public's vote. Jackie Siewert will reach out to the city attorney, Cassie Tostenson.

Mayor Soderberg staked out an area for the concrete pad that the lift station backup generator and LP tank would be placed. Mayor Soderberg also received three fencing quotes. The fencing companies suggested mounting the fence to the concrete. Greenworks fencing quoted \$3998 and \$4219 for a mounted fence, Forks Fence quoted \$3900 for a mounted fence and Dakota Fence quoted \$5994 and \$6420 for a mounted fence. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to accept Forks Fence quote for \$3900; Holly Aamold seconded the quote; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg stated that a complaint was received for an unleashed dog at 603 Broadway. Mayor Soderberg talked to the resident about the leash law.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that she received a notice from Van Diest Supply Co that they will be holding their 2023 Spring Mosquito Workshop in Grand Forks May 17th. Steve Larson will bring our mosquito fogger in to get calibrated. Mayor Soderberg also asked Jackie to schedule the JD gator and sprayer to get serviced at the Farmer's Union Oil.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he has been receiving text and calls in regards to vandalism at the park. Kids are tearing down the bricks on the monument that is located there. The council encourages residents to please report any vandalism or suspicious activity they observe at the park. Please call the Sheriff department if they witness any vandalism.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he put up the last set of US flags. Jeff Siewert made a motion to purchase 2 more flags US flags; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Keaton Flanagan inquired if the lagoons are still being treated. Mayor Soderberg stated he has been treating the lagoons all winter through the lift station and now he goes to the lagoons.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, stated that she continues to hear good comments on the tree/compost area.

Mayor Soderberg stated that he is going to inquire on quotes for fencing at the city lagoon just to get an idea of what the cost would be.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed the next city council meeting will be held June 14, 2023 at 7pm at the Buxton Fire Hall.

Jeff Siewert made a motion to adjourn; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor