

**Town of Twisp
Council Minutes
02-13-2007
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by Mayor Nations -- Adjourned at 8:45 PM

Council Members Present: Mayor Vern Nations
Sam Hanan
Jackie Moriarty
Clint Estes
Stephanie Hickman
Shari Brown

Council members absent:

Request for additions or changes:

Change: Move "New Business" before "Old Business"

Addition: Old Business: Resolution 07-394 approve long-term MVID water rights lease

New Business:

Council Member Hanan led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Minutes:

Council Member Hanan moved and Council Member Moriarty seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 1/23/07 meeting with 3 corrections for continuity. None opposed; motion passed.

Mayor Nation's Update to Council:

- He met with Forest Service representatives last week. They plan to sell the complex in Twisp by next spring. They would like to divide it up to get the highest price. He said he and Gary felt like the Town should approach them about securing a road and utility right-of-way down the middle of it out to Hwy.20 to possibly extend Lincoln St. The plan is to set a minimum bid, then auction it on the Internet. They can keep the proceeds of the sale locally and construct new buildings at the smokejumper base with the money. They discussed the problems with the water moratorium and zoning with them. They also said they don't recognize local zoning, but understand it would affect any potential buyer.
- There was additional discussion and questions from Council on this sale. The Council was surprised to hear that the complex has only two water hookups currently. Vern said that hookup fees would apply to any new construction.
- Don Willson also met with them.

Department Heads & Committee Reports:

➤ **Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent**

- He had 7 people freeze up (waterlines) recently and one is still frozen up.
- There will be a guy running a camera down the sewer lines to check for problems on Thursday.

- Gary reported that he was hit by a car in the Town's pickup the past week also. He ran up a snowbank to try and avoid the hit, but was hit in the driver's door.
- **Don Willson, Planning** – he passed; he will be discussing the draft Comp. Plan later.
- **Dale Hutson, Fire Chief**
 - He announced that the Fire Department had received a grant from FEMA's AFG program for over \$27,000 to cover the costs of 15 new sets of gear and two airpaks.
 - He said that should get all the volunteers geared up. They probably only have about 3 legal sets of gear currently.
- **Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer**
 - She said they are still in a waiting pattern in our negotiations with the Sheriff's office, awaiting their response.
 - She said that Gary had worked on and advertised a Request for Qualifications for engineering and other types of consulting services. Sixteen responses were received and Gary said he planned to do an evaluation of those to develop a consultant's list. Sam Hanan and Jackie Moriarty, the Council representatives for Public Works, said they would help with the evaluation.
 - She is still working on completing the accounting on 2006. Progress has been slower than she hoped as old set up errors were still showing up in the latter part of 2006. She plans to put in some extra hours and keep pushing ahead so she can bring accurate reports for the year back to Council.

Public Comments:

- Mark Edson, resident and business owner
 - He asked whether there was going to be an opportunity for public comment before the Council on the Comp Plan.

New Business:

- Okanogan County Bus Transportation request
 - The President of the Okanogan County Seniors, Chris Zaferes, explained that they were approaching each town/city served by the bus system to request money that's necessary to replace buses as they reach the end of their lives.
 - The buses in use at this time all have in excess of 200,000 miles on them and need replacement. Each has wheelchair transport ability.
 - Washington Department of Transportation pays 80% of the bus replacement cost on a biannual basis.
 - To purchase two new buses every two years, our County needs a total of \$14,000 for the match. The County Commission has committed to covering \$7,000 of that amount and they are asking each city to commit \$1,000. He said so far that Tonasket, Oroville, Omak and Winthrop have agreed to contribute.
- AWC's 75th Anniversary submission request: the Council did not have any firm proposal for a submission, so they agreed to decline participation in the anniversary book.
- (Later, after Old Business) Approve contribution to Okanogan County Transportation for bus replacement.
 - Council Member Hanan moved and Council Member Estes seconded a motion to approve supporting the bus replacement program with \$1,000 per year from the 2007 and 2008 budgets. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Don Willson presented the draft Land Use part of the new Comprehensive Plan
 - He explained that this draft land use map and section represents many hours of work on the part of the Planning Commission with Highlands' help.
 - There have been 3 public forums where the public gave direct input into the process, as well as open public meetings for nearly a year.
 - There are several changes in the proposed map and he showed those on overhead slides.
 - The Planning Commission does not want to move on to the transportation, park and recreation and historical sections until it is assured that the land use section meets with Council's approval.
 - They are asking for the Council to give an indication at the next meeting whether the land use part is acceptable.
- Approve membership in State Buying Cooperative through the State General Administration.
 - Clerk Storms presented the Coop's membership document. She explained that for a \$200 annual membership fee we could purchase from the State contract list without having to obtain other bids.
 - Mayor Nations said that the savings on the truck alone was probably \$4,000 to \$5,000.
 - Council Member Moriarty moved and Council Member Hickman seconded a motion to approve Twisp's membership in the Coop. Motion passed unanimously.
- Authorize the Mayor to enter an order for the Ford 550 Cab and Chassis truck for Public Works through the State of Washington Buying Coop
 - Mayor Nations presented the invoice and options selected by Gary McConnell and himself for the truck purchase. The estimated cost of the truck was approximately \$34,000.
 - Council Member Moriarty moved and Council Member Hickman seconded a motion to authorize the Mayor to order the truck through the State Coop. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approve applying for LOCAL funds through the State of Washington for up to \$34,000 to finance the truck purchase.
 - Clerk Storms presented some options for financing the truck purchase. The Town has the option to spend up to \$14,000 of reserved funds towards the purchase, and finance the balance. She said she understands that the street sweeper needs replacing soon also. The rate of financing should be in the 4.25% rate and we currently are earning 5.3% on our reserves.
 - She explained that the Street Budget is pretty much balanced without debt service from that fund. It is possible and common for general government to cover a shortage in the Street Fund, but it's been unnecessary in the past year because of increased gas tax revenues. If we finance the Street portion the debt service would likely require a general government contribution.
 - Gary McConnell said he would not like to see us use all of our reserves because of the age of other equipment. He said the street sweeping might be handled by hiring it out instead of replacing the sweeper. He felt like hiring it out twice a year and touching up with the old sweeper might work.
 - Council Member Moriarty moved and Council Member Hickman seconded a motion to approve application for up to \$34,000 in LOCAL funds to finance the purchase of the truck. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approve the Town's entering into an agreement, that Scott Detro will draft, for tourism promotion services with the Methow Valley Community Center who will operate the Twisp Visitor's Information Center (VIC) at their Center. Annual compensation under the agreement will be dependent upon the amount of funding available from Hotel-Motel tax each year.
 - Council asked that it state clearly that the Information Center should be operated at the Community Center.
 - Council Member Moriarty asked that we assure we will receive services through the year, especially since the County has quit contributing to the VIC.
 - Council Member Brown moved and Council Member Hickman seconded a motion to approve an agreement be drafted between the Town and the Methow Valley Community Center to operate a tourism promotion Visitor's Information Center for the Town. Motion passed unanimously.
- Authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement for services with Highlands Associates for 2007, effective January 1st through December 31, 2007.
 - Council Member Moriarty asked if staff was satisfied with the services received this past year. Clerk Storms said that we have been satisfied and that we've had very few complaints. Don Willson has learned a lot about the Town's rules in the past year and services should have continuity if we keep a contract with them.
 - Council Member Moriarty moved and Council Member Brown seconded a motion to authorize the Mayor signing an agreement with Highlands for planning services for 2007. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approve Resolution #07-394, authorizing the water rights lease with the MVID.
 - Clerk Storms reminded the Council that they had approved making a proposal to MVID back in September of 2006. The lease details were worked out and MVID has signed it.
 - Council Member Hanan asked what would happen if DOE did not let us convert the water rights. Clerk Storms responded that the contingency paragraphs in the lease require that DOE authorize the conversion and the Town be successful in its efforts to get financing.
 - Council Member Estes moved and Council Member Hanan seconded a motion to approve Resolution #07-394 and the water rights lease with MVID. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- Mark Edson
 - He said he has information for the Council regarding statutory issues about the Comp. Plan and asked that he be allowed to comment before they vote at the next meeting.
 - He said he has some interesting points and information from the RCW's and statutes to share.
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Routine Approvals:

The bills and previous payroll draws and taxes were briefly discussed.

Motion to approve the current accounts payable and disburse payment was made by Council Member Brown and seconded by Council Member Hickman. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the current payroll and benefits was made by Shari Brown, seconded by Clint Estes and approved by majority. Jackie Moriarty abstained.

Council Member Brown moved and Council Member Estes seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attest: _____

Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms

Mayor Vern Nations