

**Town of Twisp  
Council Minutes 04/08/08  
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Nations.

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Stephanie Hickman  
Clint Estes  
Tom Gehring  
Vicki Hallowell  
Tina DeRenzo

Council members absent:

**Additions and/or Changes to the Agenda**

Superintendent Gary McConnell requested time to discuss the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Street Project.

Council Member Gehring led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Janni Boosman, a 5 year old resident of Painters Addition, was present to ask the Council to change the rules in regards to allowing chickens to be raised in the Town Limits. Janni's mom interjected that chickens provide food, compost for gardens and Janni shared that chickens make good eggs. Bill Boosman stated that the Conditional Use Permit is too expensive and they would like to raise chickens this season; 4 or 5 to be exact. Mayor Nations shared that the Planning Commission would be reviewing the zoning ordinance and it would be discussed during that time.

**MINUTES**

**MOTION:**

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the March 25, 2008 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed. Council Member Hickman abstained because she had been absent at that meeting.

**MAYOR NATIONS UPDATE**

Mayor Nations reported to the Council that he spent a 9 hour shift riding with Chief Balam in the patrol car. Mayor Nations encouraged Council Members to do a ride-along with an officer, stating he found it quite interesting.

## **DEPARTMENT HEADS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Rick Balam, Police Chief**

Chief Balam reported that on June 21, 2008 at approximately 9:00 a.m. there will be a mock bus crash with multiple injuries and fatalities. Balam shared that the planning group has been meeting weekly to plan this practice exercise and will do a trial run on June 3, 2008 to confirm each participant knows his/her responsibilities.

Chief Balam reported that there had been some vandalism on Glover Street with damage to several flower boxes as well as some private property.

Chief Balam went over the March police stats and answered questions.

Chief Balam reported that Officer Matt Moen, currently attending the Police Academy in Spokane, was doing well in the classroom and scoring high in the physical portion of the academy.

### **Gary McConnell, Public Works Superintendent**

Superintendent McConnell shared with Council that he had enrolled in a college computer course being held at the Liberty Bell High School and that classes are Monday and Wednesday evenings.

### **Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported she is currently working on the following: the 2007 preliminary financials to get them off to the State Auditor's Office by April 15th, 2008; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Street Project bid process; the USDA loan application process; and consumption records and Wastewater Treatment Plant conservation with Attorney Scott DeTro.

### **Keith Comstock, Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Keith Comstock discussed the maintenance costs related to the Fire Department's rescue vehicle. Comstock reported that currently, as licensed, when the rescue vehicle is called out an EMT and certified Jaws of Life person have to be on board. Comstock stated that restricts the availability of the vehicle for any other fire department personnel to use it for anything else and, to his recollection, the vehicle had not been needed in the Town limits. Comstock relayed that neither Fire District #6 nor Aero Methow is interested in sharing the maintenance costs for the vehicle. Comstock feels the vehicle is an unnecessary expense and would like to research the possibility of housing the Jaws of Life and other equipment currently on the rescue vehicle on the fire engine.

Council Member Gehring brought up the possibility of a consolidation with the County and Chief Comstock stated the issue was still on the table in his opinion.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**AIRPORT ENGINEERING SERVICES/RIEDELSENG ENGINEERING, INC.**

Morgan Smith, Airport Manager, was present to discuss airport improvement issues. Smith reported that the Airport Association had been working on a \$2,000 irrigation expansion project and hoped to have it up and running by this summer. Smith reported that the board had been reviewing the current airport lease in regards to lot assignments and building specs. Smith shared that a meeting would be held on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 12:30 pm including Eric Johnson, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Division, representatives from Riedesel Engineering and the Airport Board to discuss airport improvements and grants. Smith reported that Riedesel Engineering failed to provide complete design work by the deadline to acquire a construction grant, according to the WSDOT Aviation Division. The Airport Board needs some direction from the Town as to how to proceed with WSDOT and the engineers. Smith commended Mike Palm on volunteering his time and equipment for recent projects at the airport.

Mr. Smith announced that he was officially resigning as Airport Manager effective April 30, 2008 because of time conflicts, but requested that he be considered for a position on the Airport Board. Mayor Nations gave Smith a draft copy of the revised airport lease the Town attorney has been working on.

**ORDINANCE #592 – ADOPTING NEW WATER AND SEWER RATES**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms discussed Ordinance #592 adopting new water and sewer rates. Storms explained that the Council needed to address the base rate, excess rate and the sewer rates. Council began discussion on Classification of Users; Gehring questioned how RV Parks would be classified and why there were rates for un-metered services. Superintendent McConnell announced that there were no un-metered services. Clerk Storms explained that if there were temporary meter outages, we needed to have language regarding how charges would be calculated. Council discussed briefly whether to determine commercial sewer rates according to water usage or by flat rate; they decided keeping the flat rate made the most sense at this time.

Janice Timbers, owner of the Horseshoe Trailer Park was present to discuss the impact of the new rates on her business. It was decided that until meters were installed for each individual manufactured home there was no way to determine who was conserving and who was overusing.

Scot Domergue questioned raising the base rate in the summer; Council Member Estes stated that most of the base rate revenue goes to infrastructure not cost of water.

Superintendent McConnell reported that the Department of Health had some good conservation educational information on their website.

Mayor Nations asked Clerk/Treasurer Storms if the cost of the MVID irrigation lease was recovered by summer overage revenues. Storms will research and report back to Mayor Nations.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Estes moved to adopt Ordinance #592 showing a base rate per month for water of \$29.00; a tier (October-June only) of \$1.50 for each additional 100 cubic feet after 800 cubic feet; a tier of \$1.75 for each additional 100 cubic feet after 1,200 cubic feet; a tier of \$2.00 for

each additional 100 cubic feet after 3,000 cubic feet; and during the months of July, August and September all users would not be charged an excess water charge until they went over 1,200 cubic feet. The Council also passed a basic 6% increase to sewer rates and new language regarding classifications to help staff interpret charges more equitably. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

### **SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CHARGES**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms explained the process in which she had arrived at the system development fees on the spreadsheet she shared with Council. Storms explained that she has worked with Skip Rand of Rural Communities Assistance Corporation and he had provided a spreadsheet to figure infrastructure equity after depreciation. Superintendent McConnell had provided information regarding the current infrastructure to figure out the equity. Council agreed to discuss this issue at a future meeting.

### **WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS**

Superintendent McConnell reported that pump changes were made and diffusers have been put on the screens and the water pressure was great. McConnell also relayed that the Okanogan County Prisoners had painted the tanks that were placed at the treatment plant and they would soon be installed.

### **ORDINANCE #593 – CONCURRENCY MANAGEMENT**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported that Ordinance #593 had been prepared by Town Attorney Scott DeTro and reviewed by the land use attorney, Carol Morris, with Association of Washington Cities. Storms explained that if a short plat or planned development was submitted to the Town for approval, staff would need to determine if there were sufficient services to approve the submission. If the plat was approved, the new lots were vested for services. Then, prior to actually installing a meter, a building permit would need to be submitted to the Building Inspector and approved. Storms shared that short plats do not expire, but planned developments can. Superintendent McConnell stated that he would like more direction from the Council regarding the availability of water to approve the concurrency applications. Council agreed they would have a process where they gave direction to McConnell regarding water availability. A question was raised about whether there would be a waiting list if there are applications received, but no services available. The Mayor and Clerk Storms said they were under the impression from dealing with the attorney that if there were no services available there should be no waiting list kept by the Town.

### **MOTION:**

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve Ordinance #593 adding a new chapter 14.10 to the Twisp Municipal Code entitled “Concurrency Management”, which provides the necessary regulatory mechanism for determining development to insure adequate public facilities and acceptable levels of service are available to support a development’s impact. The motion was seconded by Council Member DeRenzo and passed unanimously.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> AVENUE STREET PROJECT**

Superintendent McConnell discussed the two remaining issues regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Street Project. McConnell stated that in the first case George Wooten had concerns regarding his actual

property line and how much the project would take of his front yard. McConnell reported that unfortunately Gary Kominak, a resident with concerns about the slope of the sidewalk and drainage has not been satisfied with any of the many concessions the Town officials, staff and engineers have suggested. Council felt that every effort has been made to accommodate the residents along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and that the project should proceed as planned.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SHORT COURSE PLANNING WORKSHOP**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms announced that a Short Course in Planning Workshop was going to be held on Thursday, April 10, 2008 at the Winthrop Barn from 6:00 to 9:00 pm if anyone was interested in attending.

### **PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Council Member Gehring, also a member of the Forest Service Task Force, passed out information regarding the development of a Public Development Authority (PDA) in anticipation of purchasing the Forest Service Compound. Gehring reported that the group is going to need a resolution from the Town after they finish some preliminary work. Gehring explained that after the establishment of the PDA the Town of Twisp would have no liability for the day-to-day operations and meeting debt service of the project. Council Member Gehring shared that May 1, 2008 the Forest Service would be releasing a minimum bid and that bidders would need to prove that they possessed 10% of the minimum bid in the form of a bid bond. Gehring asked for Council input regarding the number of persons on the PDA board, whether they would want to dictate other requirements like area they live in, and if several groups should share in appointing members. Council Member Gehring announced that a meeting would be held on Friday, April 11, 2008 at 2:30 pm at the Town Hall to review the feasibility study progress and to discuss a strategy to appoint members. Gehring explained that the PDA would need to be in place by June 1, 2008. Council Member Estes stated he would like to hear comments regarding appointing the PDA from the current Forest Service Task Force.

Council Member Gehring announced that he was developing a vision statement for the PDA and would like input from the Council when it is completed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council Member DeRenzo stated that a sprinkler had been broken allegedly by a Town snowplow during the winter on her park property located on Glover Street and she would like it to be fixed.

Mayor Nations reported to Council that a couple of individuals, including John Cramer the surveyor, had expressed interest in serving on the Planning Commission.

### **ROUTINE APPROVALS**

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing, which has been made available to the Town Council.

The following voucher/checks are approved for payment by a majority vote on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008:

<b>Cashmere Valley Bank</b>	<b>ACH #84108</b>	<b>\$1,254.99</b>	<b>04/07/08</b>
<b>Voucher/Checks</b>	<b>#25225 - #25258</b>	<b>\$59,951.81</b>	<b>04/08/08</b>
<b>Payroll</b>	<b>#25259 - #25267</b>	<b>\$9,200.00</b>	<b>04/15/08</b>

**MOTION:**

Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the current accounts payable and current payroll and benefits and to disburse payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member DeRenzo and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Gehring moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Mayor Vern Nations

ATTEST:

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Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms