

**Town of Twisp  
Council Minutes 08/25/09  
7:00 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Mayor Hickman.

Council Members Present:      Tom Gehring  
   Vicki Hallowell  
   Tom Mulgrew  
   Tina di Rienzo

Council members absent:      Clint Estes

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Hickman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SWEARING IN OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Mayor Hickman swore in new Planning Commission Members Carl Hubert and Tarrie Darwood. Peter Day was sworn in earlier in the day because of a scheduling conflict that kept him from attending the Council meeting. Mr. Hubert and Ms. Darwood were welcomed by Council.

**REQUEST FOR ADDITIONS &/OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Additions: Census Bureau 2010 Update

Changes: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Richard Tingelstad was present to discuss noise issues. Mr. Tingelstad explained that he lives near Hwy 20 and the Idle-a-While Motel and the motorcycles with their modified exhaust systems and the music at the Twisp Pub are nuisances. Mr. Tingelstad stated he understood the economic reasons for these activities and the people they attract, he just really appreciates his normally quite neighborhood.

Mr. Tingelstad also asked if the police department could patrol the crosswalks more because people are not giving the pedestrians the right of way.

Dan Johnson was present to discuss the Two Rivers Pow Wow and other musical events as it relates to the recent noise issues. Mr. Johnson explained that his property abuts the Twisp Park on the side where the band shell is located. Mr. Johnson claims that the band shell was erected without notice to the surrounding neighbors and that he is unhappy with the noise of some events.

Hanna Kinzle, a resident in the same area where Mr. Johnson lives, pointed out that attempts to muffle noise should be made by event planners and businesses. Ms. Kinzle also pointed out what may be one person's noise may be pleasant to another.

Larry Smith a previous resident of Twisp Avenue shared his thoughts regarding noise being controlled by time of evening.

## **MINUTES**

### **MOTION:**

Council Member di Rienzo moved to approve the August 11, 2009 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mulgrew and passed. Council Member Gehring abstained from voting because he was not present at the August 11, 2009 meeting.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

Not present.

### **Randy Johnson, Public Works Superintendent**

Public Works Superintendent Johnson reported on the following:

- Update on the Hilltop Booster Station Project – going well.
- Well #2 is still inoperable – Foremost Pump is going to pull the pump again to determine the problem
- Wastewater Treatment Plant – Working with RH2 Engineering and the Department of Ecology to determine what is causing spikes in the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) tests. RH2 Engineering suggested running another type of test, Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD). This test would be done daily and would identify chemicals that could potentially threaten the operation of the treatment plant in time to possibly track the source. Tests could then be taken at other locations to pinpoint the source. Council Member Gehring suggested keeping track of expenses and man hours that the new test requires, explaining if a source is identified it could become a violation issue and the Town would need the backup documentation.
- Reported damage to approximately 15 sprinklers in the park; a police report was filed.
- Glover Street Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Steve Gorcester and Gloria Bennett from the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) attended the ceremony on August 25, 2009 at 10:00 am held on Glover Street. Mayor Hickman, Johnson and Admin Asst. Moriarty attended additional ceremonies in Okanogan and Omak for similar street projects supported by TIB funds.

### **MOTION:**

Council Member Mulgrew moved to approve the equipment expense of approximately \$3,600 to begin conducting the Chemical Oxygen Demand tests at the wastewater treatment plant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hallowell and passed unanimously.

**Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms presented Council with current Water/Sewer Fund year-to-date budget information and a grant spreadsheet showing the status of the 26 grants and loans the Clerk's Office is currently supporting.

Storms reported the Methow Watershed Council (MWC) 2009-2011 grants are bringing in approximately \$36,000 per year to support administrative staff salaries and the new Methow Recovery Council grant in the amount of \$418,000 will bring in approximately \$17,000 per year to support staff salaries.

Mayor Hickman also had Clerk/Treasurer Storms report on some good news learned that day. She was able to recover \$5,028.04 in administrative expenses and \$3,120.88 in auditing expenses from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Project grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation.

**Keith Comstock, Fire Chief**

Fire Chief Comstock reported the clean up at the Fire Hall has continued with the help of a community service person.

Comstock reported District #6 will be hosting a FF1 state certified training session September through November; testing will be held in Moses Lake. Comstock reported approximately half of his volunteers were participating in the training.

Comstock reported to Council he and his crew's involvement in the Oden Road Fire on the Loup and offered sources for updates on the fire.

**Sarah Schrock, Town Planner**

Not present.

**Public Development Authority Update**

Council Member Gehring reported the PDA is trying to recover the lawn and landscaping. Gehring shared they are scheduling a work party/open house and that all volunteer hours can be counted towards required matching funds for future grants.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF RENEWING THE GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND METHOW RESOURCE RECOVERY**

Mary Thompson, volunteer and previous Director of Methow Resource Recovery (MRR) was present to discuss the renewal of the Ground Lease Agreement between the Town and the MRR. Ms. Thompson shared the following history with the Council:

- Donations back to non-profits in the Valley of \$12,000 last year.
- Reused materials good for the valley; save on landfill use and environmental waste
- They are now working as a sub-organization to The Cove, so donations are tax deductible.

Ms. Thompson requested three changes to the current lease: 1) renew agreement for 5 years; reduce annual fee from \$500 to \$300; and grant permission to add power to the site at their own expense.

Council Member Gehring thanked them for their service to the community.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the Ground Lease Agreement with The Cove dba Methow Resource Recovery for 5 years, give them permission to add power to the site at their own expense, and decrease the annual fee to \$300. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hollowell. Council Member Mulgrew asked that the motion be amended to decrease the annual fee to \$250 based on the fees collected by the Town on other ground leases and the fact this organization is providing other community value. Council Member Gehring and Hollowell agreed with the amendment and the motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION #09-445 – EMS LEVY**

Cindy Button, Manager of Aero Methow gave Council a brief history regarding contracts, services provided and community outreach. She explained that Aero Methow, because of the Twisp contribution, provides a lot of emergency services to the Town's citizens that are not billed to them. They also provide training like first aid and other support services at events. Ms. Button explained the levy can be done three ways, on a 6 year, 10 year or permanent basis. Ms. Button explained she felt that a 6 year levy makes the agency more accountable to the community and the funding shares do not decrease to such a low level before there is a renewal (because of the Eyman initiative capping increases on all taxes at 1% per year, the rate per \$1000 shrinks).

Ms. Button shared they are working on a building project that would provide space for administrative uses and restore the current offices back to sleeping accommodations for staff.

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported to Council if the Resolution was passed it would be put on the ballot for election on February 9, 2010.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Gehring moved to approve Resolution #09-445 providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the Town at an election to be held within the Town on February 9, 2010, of a proposition authorizing the levy of a property tax in the sum of \$.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation of each year for six consecutive years beginning in 2010 for the provision of emergency medical services. The motion was seconded by Council Member di Rienzo and passed unanimously.

**AWARD OF GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Clerk/Treasurer Storms reported Council Members Hollowell and Mulgrew and Superintendent Johnson met to review and rate the proposals received from engineering firms that answered the request for qualifications. The committee gave Council a list of companies they recommended as qualified to receive specific requests for proposals in the future. Council Member Hollowell explained based on her review she would like to retain RH2 Engineers for general engineering services for the next year.

## **MOTION:**

Council Member Hallowell moved to award a general engineering services contract to RH2 Engineering and to approve the consultants' list as presented for a period of one year. The motion was seconded by Council Member Mulgrew and passed unanimously.

## **PRESENTATION FROM CENSUS BUREAU 2010**

Steve Pasco, representative of the 2010 Census Bureau was present to impress upon Council the importance of everyone in the town being counted during the upcoming census. Mr. Pasco presented the Council a 2010 Census Partner Proclamation for their consideration. Mr. Pasco shared that by participating as a partner of the Census Bureau the Town officials would be setting an example to the citizens and could participate by distributing educational information showing the importance of citizen participation.

**Action: Council directed staff to assign a resolution number to the proclamation and bring it back to the next meeting for consideration.**

## **SALMON RECOVERY AREA**

Chris Johnson of the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) was present to discuss partnering with the Town on the Salmon Recovery area just west of town on the Twisp River Road. Mr. Johnson reported they have recently obtained more property and are currently working with several agencies including the school. Mr. Johnson explained they would like to link their trail system with the Town's future planned trails and possibly use it as a starting point for the Town.

Mr. Johnson shared their following achievements/future plans:

- 2009 brought in \$650,000 in contracted service fees to the valley.
- Currently \$1000 to \$2,000 in restoration wages per month paid out.
- Recently obtained additional property.
- Planning a trailhead parking lot.
- Develop a native plant nursery.
- Possible water rights if Town was to annex the property into Town limits.

Mr. Johnson stated they are not looking for a partner to help with maintenance but rather a partner to share in insurance costs of the trails and to promote the trail systems.

**Action: Staff will research insurance costs related to the trail system.**

## **LIBRARY SUB-LEASE**

Larry Smith, the Methow Valley Community Center (MVCC) Chairman was present to discuss the lease between the MVCC and the Town for library space. There seemed to be some confusion about whether the MVCC board was requesting a year-to-year lease or a lease for a longer term. Mr. Smith explained the MVCC leases are all year-to-year leases with the annual option for renewal and fee increases. After some dialogue with Council, Clerk/Treasurer Storms asked Council if they wanted to consider a 3-year lease with the option to negotiate the lease fee each year.

It was suggested a meeting be set between the Council committee consisting of Council Members Estes and Hallowell, the Friends of the Library and the MVCC board.

**Action: Staff will set this meeting.**

**NUISANCE ORDINANCE**

Chief Balam recommended a committee or public forum to consider options to noise regulation. Council Member Hallowell reported on some research she had done on decibel levels/equipment. Other considerations discussed were distance and hours of operation. Council Member Gehring stated he would like to hear from the public, events organizers and local businesses that have entertainment. Clerk/Treasurer suggested advertising a solicitation of written or verbal comments from the public. Council Member Hallowell suggested making rules that would help people be more considerate and think about their neighbors. It was suggested to hold a public meeting at the senior center and develop a list of topics ahead of time for discussion by the public.

It was decided to plan a series of meetings beginning with a council committee meeting consisting of Council Members Estes and Mulgrew and Chief Balam; a second involving a group of event planners/business owners and residents that are affected by noise where they live; and third a public meeting.

**Action: Staff will schedule these meetings.**

**ALLEY VACATION – NORTH GLOVER/MASSEY-WILLS LANE**

Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson and Hanna Kinzle discussed with Council past and present surveys and neighborhood issues. They feel the Town should try and establish the correct easement boundaries in their area before considering any vacation of the alley.

**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 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2009:

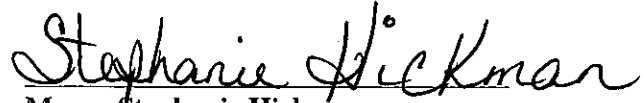
Checks/Vouchers	#26639 - #26664	\$38,209.76	08/25/09
Checks/Vouchers	#26665 - #26673	\$900.00	08/25/09

**MOTION:**

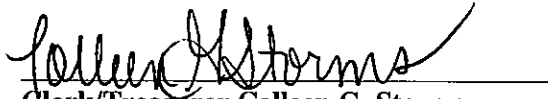
Council Member Hallowell moved to approve the current accounts payable and to disburse payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member di Rienzo and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Mulgrew moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member di Rienzo and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
Mayor Stephanie Hickman

**ATTEST:**

  
Clerk/Treasurer Colleen G. Storms