

JULY 26, 2023

The Brookston Town Council met in regular session with Pres. Butz by phone.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. CM Girard made a motion to approve minutes. Second was made by CM Hasser. Motion carried.

Bills were examined on the Payable Voucher Form. CM Girard moved to pay the bills listed on the Accounts Payable Voucher Register. Second was made by CM Thomas. The bills totaling 181,379.87 unanimously approved.

New/Old Business

Michel Roy was present asking Council if on 4th St. between wood and South St could be closed for 2-2 ½ hours on August 6th starting at 10:30 a.m. for event for ice cream social and blessings of backpacks. Council approved.

Joe Rogers, Area Plan Director was present requested by Pres. Butz to answer any questions regarding Jack Tatman's single lot property splitting it into 2 lots. Jack Tatman was also present saying he cannot get his permits because someone from Town said there was an issue. Town did not put a hold on his permits. Area Plan has the permits on hold until information is provided on if there is access to his lots. If not then it is considered landlocked and cannot build. There is a road beside his property and not sure if it can be used for it belongs to Railroad Company. After much discussion, Atty. George Loy said the issues Jack is having is between him and the Railroad Company. Town has nothing to do with it. Atty. George said Jack is welcome to come to his office and he will try and help get what is needed for Jack to present to the Railroad Company. Jack Tatman will need to do a title search and lien search. A survey will be needed to locate where utilities lie.

Fire Chief Jason reports: Board of Directors has voted him in as full time fire chief with no benefits. He will do grants; go to district meetings and Town meetings. CM Girard asked how many members on board and who appointed the members. Jason said 5 members and he appoints the members. Right now it's JR Halsema, Matt Lamson, Emmett Olis-Cartmell, Greg Kauffman, Scott Minniear, Cindy Sanders was recently added. CM Girard asked how many runs last year. Answer was 104 runs. CM Girard asked when the full time fire chief takes in effect. Jason said August 1st. Council felt they should have been informed before this happened. JR Halesma said they wanted to make sure they were able to do it and was going to present to Council. Did not intend for the Council to hear of this before this. Pres. Butz said communication is poor and how the fire department has funds to pay 40,000.00 a year when they don't have funds to help with new fire station. He (Joe) has done many hours on getting funds to build fire station and Eng. Ken has also done a lot for the fire station. CM Hasser asked where the funds were coming from for the salary. JR said Prairie Township pays up front and they are improving their funds. This full time fire chief position is a trial basis. If they can't make it work with the funds then there will no longer be a full time fire chief. CM Thomas asked if they have a merit system. Cindy said yes. CM Thomas also asked what the hours are for the salary. JR said 7-4. Monday-Friday. Pres. Butz mentioned maybe hiring another volunteer fire chief. JR Halsema said why, what will that solve. Pres. Butz said the accountability of who they appoint. JR said then the fire department would have to answer to 2 chiefs. Cindy said Jason is who they want as fire chief and will be their fire chief. Atty. George Loy asked if Prairie Township Trustee was involved in their decision. Jason said no just telling him what they need to do. Atty. George Loy said the fire department should of did a reverse and brought their thoughts to the Council to get their opinion on it. Atty. George Loy will look at the contract between Town and Prairie Township. Fire Department announced they are their own entity. After much discussion. Council will have discussion. Pres. Butz is looking at all funds, with prices going up fire department will be paying more.

Supt. Emmett reports: small clarifier at sewer plant working now. Scott's son, Trent is getting things cleaned up. He will work on fence next getting it ready to paint. Have some water maintenance repairs to do. Company got a hold of him regarding pressure wash water tower. This will be the final maintenance. On the 17th he and Terry LaOrange met with IMPA on AMI meters and cost. On the 19th REMC fixed broken pole between Mills St and Brackney St. REMC replaced resister pole north of Town tomorrow. On 18th went to Gutwein for quote for new truck. Should hear something this week. Will also check with Raisor for quote. CM Girard asked if signs were ordered for pickle ball court and heavier nets. He said yes on the

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signs, should be here this week. Emmett said he hasn't heard back yet on the nets. Will call them tomorrow. CM Girard asks if it was possible to spray the poison ivy at Brookston Waugh Park. CM Hasser asked about putting weights on the nets.

Clerk-Treasurer asked if Council wants to continue letting solicitors in Town. Been getting calls from residents not wanting them. Council approved to not allow solicitors selling goods and shall not apply to organizations such as religious, charitable, or educational purposes. May need to put signs up on 43 Town entrances. Will make copy of ordinance already have.

Atty. George sent a draft of trash Kans contract to review before signing. Pres. Butz thought looked good. Atty. George will prepare final contract to be presented and signed.

Eng. Ken reports: paving grant sent in today. Should hear back in mid September. Will get with Emmett on underground utilities before pouring the pad down for the fire station. Should begin pouring August 9th.

Terry LaOrange reports: He saw the 1st draft of cost of service study. There are a couple things to work out. Hope to be done next week. It's going pretty good.

Marshal Yeoman reports: Patrolled 418 miles; 1 case report; 1 animal complaint; 1 domestic dispute; 1 disturbance; 1 vin check; 3 juvenile complaints; 2 ordinance violations; 1 follow-up ordinance violation; 10 other police services. The approved part-time Deputy was a no show. Deputy Aaron still on sick leave from accident. Deputy Bolen getting ready for school hopes to get back on schedule. Still have Deputy Glover. Would still be looking to hire another part-time office. Weed control is still in force.

Clerk-Treasurer presented new salary ordinance for Emmett's pay raise to 27.00, Ordinance #7-2023 amending Ordinance #18-2022. CM Thomas made a motion to accept Ordinance #7-2023, amending Ordinance #18-2022. Second by CM Girard. Motion unanimous.

There being no further business, Meeting to be adjourned.

Pres.

Clerk-Treasurer