

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Buffalo met at the Town of Buffalo office at 6:00 PM on February 13, 2024. Trustees present were Traci Routier, Elizabeth Henderson, Sarah Sabo, Clifford Claypool, and Larry Blankenbaker, Elizabeth Wilcox as secretary, and Ryan Smith - Public Works.

GUESTS: Judy Butler, Randy Routier, Isaac Cadet, Bryce Matthews, Stephanie Smith.

President T. Routier called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

AGENDA: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Sabo, 2nd Blankenbaker. All approved – motion passed.

MINUTES: A motion made by Henderson, 2nd Sabo, to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2024 regular board meeting. All approved – motion passed.

BAR REPORT: The City Bar needs some lights replaced and the refrigerator replaced. The ice machine has been fixed and the toilet and flooring in the men's restroom have been replaced.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT: None to report.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion made by Henderson, 2nd by Sabo to approve the monthly bills. All approved – motion passed.

December payroll:

Public Works Supervisor, Finance Office -\$9,583.33, Dump attendant -\$1,088.00, Rec Center Cleaner -\$201.25, Attorney- \$458.33 Officials - \$750.00

December Bills:

Badger Meter – Fees \$243.47; Buffalo Hardware – supplies, \$494.58; Elan Financial Services – Supplies \$1111.20; Grand Electric – utilities \$4473.38; NWSD Regional Landfill – services \$3237.30; Black Hills Pioneer – publishing \$270.93; Olson Fuels – fuel \$180.44; Town of Buffalo – Ginsbach Services \$76.22; Town of Buffalo – clinic utilities \$78.96; Town of Buffalo – postage/petty cash \$204.00; John Carter -services \$220.00; WRCTC – utilities \$271.69; Servall – services \$289.95; Amazon – supplies \$406.56; Olson Shop – supplies \$69.71; Midcontinent Labs – services \$73.50; G&O Paper – supplies \$70.20; SD Association of Townships – fees \$226.50; Olson Propane – services \$4,024.19.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

AGENDA ITEMS:

Judy Butler voiced concerns with her water bill due to some recent mistakes in the previous months. All errors were corrected.

Discussion was held about the increase in water and sewage rates. It was shown that water was increased 4% in 2023, so the 2024 rate was readjusted to show a 4% increase instead of an 8% increase. Sewer rates remain at an 8% increase.

Randy Routier had a question about the new sewage line that was dug in at his new residence. Traci Routier recused herself during the discussion. Randy was wondering if the town would be willing to pay the difference in cost of digging to connect the sewer line between the 395 ft. it took to connect to the nearest sewer line, and the 205 ft. it would have taken if the town's infrastructure supported his lot. He is asking for the cost of digging, not materials. Sabo motioned to table until next month to do some research on the matter. Seconded by Henderson. Motion carried.

The dump rates/fees resolution was determined as follows: increase standard single-family unit to \$15, increase qualifying senior citizens to \$10, and increase commercial rate to \$26. The increase in solid waste fees will be reflected in the March 2024 utility bills. If the solid waste rates continue where they previously were set, the solid waste fund would be short \$9,600 by the end of 2024. Motion by Sabo, second by Routier to pass Resolution #24-01. Motion carried.

Bids were received for the 2005 Chevy Trailblazer.

Greg Ginsbach, \$1800.00

Bryce Matthews, \$2551.00

Paul Comes, \$1850.00

Joyti Lermeney, \$3050.00

Motion by Claypool, second by Blankenbaker to accept bid from Joyti Lermeney. Motion carried.

Discussion was had about the combined election agreement and the election date of June 4th. Motion by Sabo, second by Claypool to agree and sign combined election agreement. Motion carried.

The following Board of Trustees positions will become vacant due to the expiration of the present term of office of the following members: Traci Routier; three-year term, Elizabeth Henderson; three-year term, Sarah Sabo; two-year term, Clifford Claypool; one-year term, Larry Blankenbaker; one-year term.

Ryan Smith discussed the PFAS test and that all three active wells for Buffalo have been tested for PFAS. All wells tested negative.

Discussion was had about the renewal of SDPAA insurance. 3 vehicles need to be removed from the policy. Motion by Sabo, second by Claypool to renew insurance policy. Motion carried.

Discussion was had about the documentation needed to provide the DANR about any current loans the Town of Buffalo has.

Discussion was had to officially remove Rick Balcom from the P&Z board. Discussion was had about finding replacement board members through social media and news ads. Motion by Sabo, second by Henderson to remove Balcom from the P&Z board. Motion carried.

Blossoms and Brew requested a refund of \$150 for the temporary liquor license they purchased for Mona Hight's party. The dance was cancelled, and their services were no longer needed. Motion by Sabo, second by Henderson to refund Blossoms and Brew. Motion carried.

Ryan Smith discussed concerns with the Town of Buffalo posting minutes, ads, and other items directly to Facebook due to personal information being posted. Discussion was had about posting

links of these items to Facebook that will take citizens directly to the Town of Buffalo website instead.

Sarah Sabo discussed the first cat clinic for 2024 has filled up quickly. She will be taking cats to the Metzger/Holcomb Animal Clinic February 28th to be spayed and neutered. She also discussed other ways to control the source of stray cats in the Town of Buffalo.

Sarah Sabo discussed Artemis House and the conversation she had with the director. There will be a cookies and coffee event on the kitchen side of the rec center March 6th, 2024, from 5-7PM. The director, Kelly, will host an open house to meet with women in Harding County and discuss what the Artemis House is and the resources they can provide.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS:

Ice Rink Improvements – No information was gathered and will be tabled until the following board meeting.

Buffalo Streets – Ryan Smith discussed the costs of chip/sealing streets of Buffalo that are currently graveled, as well as adding curb and gutter to streets that don't have them. Other options to maintain the streets were discussed as well.

Executive Session: Motion by Routier, second by Blankenbaker to enter executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel at 7:40pm. Motion carried. The board was declared out of executive session at 7:59pm.

MISC:

The board discussed putting cameras in the town office for the safety of the Finance Officer. More information will be gathered and presented to the board at the next meeting. Motion by Sabo, second by Claypool to approve placement of cameras. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, T. Routier declared the meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM. Motion to approve adjournment made by Henderson, 2nd Sabo. All approved – motion passed. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be March 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Town of Buffalo office.

SIGNED: _____/s/ Traci Routier
Traci Routier, President

ATTEST: _____/s/ Elizabeth Wilcox
Elizabeth Wilcox, Finance Officer