

**City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes**

October 11, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey, Dan Fuglesten, Tammi Ensign, Cole Short and James Martin

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the September 13, 2023 meeting were read. Keaton Flanagan reiterated that Brian Schanilec is not on the board of Federal Surface Transportation Board. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ben Hershey; seconded by Jeff Siewert; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	United States Treasury	\$976.14
Direct	Waste Management	\$4444.64
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$950.35
Direct	Visa	\$10.80
12881	Central Valley All-School Reunion	\$500.00
12882	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$240.78
12883	Farmers Union Oil Co	\$109.05
12984	Hillsboro Banner	\$263.20
12985	Ironhide Equipment	\$65068.00
12886	Midco	\$48.82
12887	ND Sewage Pump Lift Station Svc Co	\$400.00
12888	Nilson Brand Law	\$380.00
12989	North Star Mutual Insurance	\$88.00
12990	TEAM LAB	\$1032.00
12891	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12892	Traill County Auditor	\$750.00
12893	Waste Management	\$548.71
12894	Xcel Energy	\$23.70
12895	Ben Hershey	\$153.28
12896	Holly Aamold	\$153.28
12897	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25
12898	Jeff Siewert	\$153.28
12899	Keaton Flanagan	\$153.28
12900	Travis Soderberg	\$692.62

Ben Hershey motioned to approve the bills, Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, presented the current year to date budget comparison. She stated that there were no concerns.

Dan Fuglesten, General Manager of Central Valley Bean, presented the council with plans to construct a 60' x 180' metal storage building valued at approximately \$900,000.00 and an application for a 100% property tax exemption for the 5 years. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to accept the application for 100% property tax exemption for the 5 years; Ben Hershey seconded the motion; upon a roll call vote. Ayes: Jeff Siewert, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey. Nays: None. Absent: Holly Aamold. A preliminary motion was carried.

Mayor Soderberg stated that updated snow rates had been received from Anderson Excavating. Jackie Siewert, city auditor presented the council with the updated rates including the amount of the increase from last year's rates. Ben Hershey made a motion to accept the updated snow removal rates from Anderson Excavating; Jeff Siewert seconded the motion; motion pass unanimous.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he has been monitoring the progress at the old Hardware store located at 317 Broadway. There hasn't been much change.

Mayor Soderberg presented the council with mower quotes from True North Equipment of Grand Forks and Valley Plains Equipment of Hillsboro. The quotes were both for a John Deere 1550 Terraincut Commercial Front Mower. True North Equipment's quote after the trade-in of our current mower was \$7950.00. The quote received from Valley Plains Equipment after the trade-in was \$16,210.00. The mower will paid with allocated funds on the 2024 budget. The cost will also be split with the Buxton Park Board. Mayor Soderberg was advised that if we order now we may receive it by May 2024. Ben Hershey made a motion to accept the quote received from True North Equipment for \$7950.00; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Mayor Travis Soderberg advised the council that Stewart Signs is updating their quote to include the blue cabinet and the sign to just state City of Buxton and no logo.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he has received fewer complaints within the last month in regards to blocked crossings. Any recent instances when there have been trains for extended periods the crews have broken them apart so that the crossings are not blocked. Mayor Soderberg also advised the council that he did have a phone conversation with Senator Kevin Cramer. Senator Cramer understood our concerns and the threat to public safety. Mayor Soderberg did also update Senator Cramer with the recent efforts by BNSF to prevent blocked crossings. Senator Cramer asked Mayor Soderberg to keep him updated and asked us to continue to monitor and document any situations.

Mayor Soderberg stated that the replacement sealer has been received. He and Keaton Flanagan have started on the north end of town applying the crack sealer. They both agree that it seems to be working great. Keaton suggested that we look for any larger cracks that can be filled right away in the spring when they are at their largest.

Mayor Soderberg was impressed with the great community support for the Ponytail Tom Benefit. He stated that everything seemed to go well. There were no issues that he was aware of. Great job to all who put it on!

Mayor Soderberg stated that he received a lot of positive feedback for the fall clean-up. It wasn't as busy as the spring but many residents appreciated it. Mayor Soderberg cleaned out the city shed at the same time. Mayor Soderberg stated that during the fall clean-up he did learn from a resident that they still have a broken mailbox from last year's snow removal. Travis will reach out to Anderson Excavating.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the Bobcat Toolcat has been delivered. Travis pushed up the compost pile and some trees. He also showed Steve Larson how to operate it. They were able to pull out a metal stake that Steve has been mowing around. Mayor Soderberg stated that this is going to be a multi-purpose tool. The snow blower isn't in yet but Ironhide Equipment will deliver it once they have it in stock.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he received a quote from Burley's Tree Service for tree removal of the trees growing up on the bank of the north drainage ditch along Rosholt Ave. He stated that the ditch is working but with the trees removed it will be easier to clean and maintain the drainage ditch. The property line/right of ways is 26 feet from the north edge of the road. Mayor Soderberg will reach out to the landowner to discuss options for tree growth to protect the north edge of town from inclement weather. Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the flapper on the north culvert needs to be repaired. It was damaged during the spring ditch clean out.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Waslien Electric is working on the wiring of the lift station generator. Waslien will also be installing a powerline to supply power to the City Holiday Tree that will be automatically controlled by a photocell.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed the next city council meeting will be held November 8, 2023 at 7pm at the Buxton Fire Hall.

Jeff Siewert made a motion to adjourn; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor