

City of Buxton
Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Buxton Fire Hall

Present: Travis Soderberg, Holly Aamold, Keaton Flanagan, Ben Hershey, Jackie Merrigan, Sara Mack, Dennis Riedhammer, Cole Short and James Martin

Recording: Jackie Siewert, Auditor

Meeting called to order by Mayor Travis Soderberg

Meeting minutes from the August 9, 2023 meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Keaton Flanagan; seconded by Ben Hershey; motion passed unanimous.

The following bills were presented for payment:

Direct	Waste Management	\$4402.04
Direct	Xcel Energy	\$947.44
Direct	Visa	\$418.13
12868	A2Z Road Blading	\$593.00
12869	East Central Regional Water Dist	\$239.59
12870	Farmers Union Oil Co	\$1588.06
12971	Full Service Insurance Agency	\$1646.00
12972	Hillsboro Banner	\$629.60
12973	Holiday Outdoor Décor	\$1387.00
12974	Jet-Way Multiple Services Inc	\$2160.00
12875	Midco	\$48.82
12876	Nilson Brand Law	\$866.50
12877	Thomas Moe	\$150.00
12878	True North Equipment	\$173.51
12879	Xcel Energy	\$45.20
12880	Jaqueline Siewert	\$1385.25

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

Mayor Soderberg noted that no residents that were sent certified letters for their past due quarterly billings were present at the meeting. The residents will have until September 30, 2023 to pay any past due balance. Any unpaid balances will forwarded to the Trail County Auditor to be placed on the residents next property tax bills.

Jackie Merrigan and Sara Mack attended the meeting on behalf of a benefit that is being planned for Ponytail Tom, owner of the Triple VVV. A meal and silent auction is being planned for Saturday, October 7th 4p-8pm. The meal will be served at the Buxton Fire Hall and the silent auction will be held at the Triple VVV. A dart tournament is also going to be held Sunday, October 8th starting at 11am. The Triple VVV and the Barn N Grill will both be hosting the dart tournament. With the silent auction being held at the Triple VVV, it was requested if the city would allow children to be in the bar from 4pm to 8pm and also if the city would give permission for them to have a raffle board. The Council stated that it is a state law for no one under 21 to be allowed in bars and they have no control over that. The city doesn't have any current gaming permit requirements for raffle boards. Ben Hershey was concerned in regards to the raffle board on the state level. Jackie Siewert stated that she would look into it on the state level and see what the requirements are for benefits/fundraisers. Jackie Merrigan also asked for the city's permission for both bars, the Triple VVV and the Barn N Grill to open an hour early, 11am, and to close at 2am on Sunday, October 8th, for the dart tournament and also permission to walk from bar to bar with drinks. Ben Hershey made a motion to extend liquor sales on Sunday, October 8th, 2023 from 11am to 2:00am for the Triple VVV and the Barn N Grill and also allow patrons to walk with open container along Broadway between Elizabeth Ave to Daisy Ave during those times; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous. Mayor Soderberg stated that he will also talk to Trail County Sheriff, Steve Hunt in regards to the motion made.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, reviewed the current year to date budget comparison. She noted that the sewer repair and maintenance currently appears over budget. After the completion of the lift station generator project, other funds will offset the costs incurred from that project.

Ben Hershey stated that Buxton Fire Department will not have a harvest feed this year in lieu they are offering the space to host the meal for the Ponytail Tom Benefit.

Mayor Soderberg stated that he spoke to Nate at Ironhide Equipment and the Bobcat Toolcat is on order and should arrive this month.

Mayor Soderberg stated that fall clean-up is scheduled for this Saturday, September 16th, at 8am.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that the lift station generator is set, the tank is set and the LP line has been ran. The fence is also installed. Waslien Electric is beginning the wiring.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he has sent many emails to Amy McBeth, BNSF rep, including videos and photos of the train blocking the north and south crossings that have occurred in the last three weeks. He has also contact the offices of Senator Cramer and Senator Hoeven and Jim Murphy with the Traill County CDC. Mayor Soderberg also stated that he has called the 800# that is posted by the tracks for emergencies. He stated that it is an emergency to have the crossings blocked. Mayor Soderberg stated that the residents are absolutely frustrated. Not only is it an inconvenience it but it is a major safety issue. Our fire department and first responders cover a large area east of Buxton. The blocked crossings could also prevent our local law enforcement and ambulance services from responding to an emergency. On Tuesday, September 5th, farm trucks and cars were going through the cross arms. Mayor Soderberg also contacted Brian Schanilec, liason to the Federal Surface Transportation Board, advising him that the both crossings have been blocked for over an hour four times in the last here weeks. The documented times were August 24th from 5p – 6:030p, September 5th 6:30a – 9:00a, September 5th 4:30p – 5:45p and September 11th 4:00p – 5:30p. All residents are urged to take pictures and document times. Last weekend there were three fire calls all east side of the railroad tracks. Thankfully the tracks were not blocked. Mayor Soderberg has also forwarded his emails with Amy McBeth to our city attorney, Cassie Tostenson.

Mayor Soderberg stated that on a positive note the new railroad crossing on County Road 21 is very nice, although, the speeds have increased by some travelling on County Road 21. Sheriff Steve Hunt let Travis know that the radar sign is currently being used in Reynolds. As soon as it is done there it will be brought to Buxton and set up along County Rd 21.

Dennis Riedhammer, owner of the old Hardware store located at 317 Broadway, informed the council of his current progress and plans. He has removed the collapsed roof. Xcel Energy has moved the power to outside of the building. He is currently has a roll-off dumpster and is hauling out the roof debris. He will be installing a new roof and garage door. He is also planning on taking out the rotten wood floor and eventually adding a concrete floor with floor heat. He wants to make the vacant building useable. Mayor Soderberg stated that the biggest safety concern is rodents and people having access to the building. Keaton Flanagan asked Mr. Reidhammer what is his approximate time line for progress. Dennis stated that the roof and garage door would be this fall. Mayor Soderberg suggested installing a snow fence to keep animals and kids out. Mainly keep the building secure.

Mayor Travis Soderberg advised the council that there were no updates on the electric sign. Further discussion will be tabled to the October meeting.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Sentry Siren technician, Ed Wise, was here August 11th and installed the new control box and timer. The siren was also shortened to 5 seconds.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he attempted to use the crack sealer but it had set up in the pail and was too thick. Travis contacted Team Lab and they are sending out two new pails of crack sealer at no charge.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he asked Thomas Anderson of Anderson Excavating to provide the council with his updated rates for snow removal. They had not yet been received. Mayor Soderberg will reach out to him again to have them for the October meeting.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that he and Jackie Siewert, city auditor, attended the Traill County EDC summit and meet and greet social August 10th in Mayville. There was a lot of good information provided and good networking with other city officials.

Mayor Soderberg stated that he received a quote for a new mower from Valley Plains Equipment. The quote he received from Tru North was only a preliminary quote. Keaton Flanagan made a motion to table further discussion on the mower quotes until both quotes are received; Ben Hershey seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that the Farmers Union Oil in Buxton manager, Chuck Christians, told her that he is ok let residents continue to drop their payment off at the station. Jackie presented the council with two drop box ideas. A free standing drop box and a wall mounted drop box. The council members shared a mutual concern for the security of the resident's payments. Jackie stated that she will talk further with Chuck in regards to the possibility of a wall mounted payment box.

Mayor Soderberg stated that his wife was walking their two dogs. As her and the dogs neared 603 Broadway, a dog at that residence jumped the fence in the back yard and attacked the two dogs. The dog's owner's brother came out and got the dog. There were no physical injuries. Travis reported this attack to Sheriff Steve Hunt. Sheriff Steve Hunt stated that he is to talk to the dog's owner. Mayor Soderberg stressed that any and all dog attacks need to be reported.

Mayor Soderberg advised the council that Chad Dickerson reported a sewer back up on Neill Street. Mr. Dickerson stated that they their sewer backs up every 6 to 9 months. Their plumber videoed their line and stated that a tree root was in the city's sewer line. Mayor Soderberg called JetWay to come and video the line from the street. There were

no tree roots although a mineral deposit was located. The tree root was in the resident's line. JetWay did not have the equipment on hand to remove the mineral deposit. They will come back at another time to remove it.

Mayor Soderberg received a letter from Bob Lebacken requesting a donation for the Central Valley All School Reunion to be held in 2025. The city of Reynolds is donating \$500. Holly Aamold made a motion to donate \$500 to the Central Valley All Class Reunion; Keaton Flanagan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

Jackie Siewert, city auditor, advised the council that Team Lab had completed the second spraying of the Lagoon August 15th.

Jackie Siewert, advised the council that she received a letter from the ND Division of Waste Management. An unannounced inspection of the Buxton inert waste landfill was conducted on July 19th, 2023. There were no deficiencies reported. The only suggestion was to turn the compost pile.

Mayor Soderberg confirmed the next city council meeting will be held October 11, 2023 at 7pm at the Buxton Fire Hall.

Ben Hershey made a motion to adjourn; Holly Aamold seconded the motion; motion passed unanimous.

City Auditor

Council Member

Mayor