

TOWN OF MALDEN
JULY 13, 2021 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Harwood opened the regular meeting at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were Councilmember Ben Hale, Councilmember Bob Law, Councilmember Scott Hokonson (remote), Lori Dickinson and Janell Turner (remote). Staff present were Micki Harnois, clerk/treasurer and Ernie Brown, public works.

At 7:04pm the mayor called an executive session to discuss potential litigation. The session ended at 7:24pm.

Bob L. made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Ben seconded the motion. Scott H. voted no. Motion carried 4-1.

Ben H. approve the June 22, 2021 regular meeting minutes, Lori D. seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Dan announced the upcoming candidate forum on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 10am.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LTRO (Scott H.): The Montana Amish will start to build five to eight more homes in January, 2022. To help them get started they were hoping that foundations for these homes could be constructed this summer. The Mennonite group will be constructing five more houses. Showers are coming for those living in their RVs. The Red Cross and United Way have substantial grants that LTRO will be receiving. Catholic Charities have free grant writers who will help get money. As far as the town rebuilding, does someone buy properties to sell to people who need large lots to rebuild? Mayor Dan said that Whitman County Dept of Health has determined that property owners can rebuild on their existing lots if they have functioning septic tanks or cesspool. They will be sending out a bulletin to all residents with this information. Rachel Blakely, LTRO Board member said that the mobile showers are coming on July 18th.

Labor Day Fire Anniversary- Committee Chair Alycia Hale said there will be a memorable opening ceremony, Hank Cramer will be there to perform, fire trucks will be on display, there will be games and a BBQ lunch.

OLD BUSINESS:

Community Buildings-temporary fire station- Mayor Dan said that Plateau Archeological did the cultural resource survey and discovered a lot of old glass and new nails. This was a former landfill site. FEMA prefers that the temporary fire station be located on public ground. The Masonic Lodge group may be interested in purchasing the building when the town no longer needs it.

Emergency Management: DRC's contract is only for testing and debris cleanup on private properties including public right-of-ways (ROWS).

TD&H Engineers (town's contract engineer): Steve Marsh said that the block survey project will be done by July 16, 2021. The Public Works Board water grant will allow the extension of 600 feet of water line on Broadway Avenue to Ash Street to the John Wayne Trail. It will also extend to Grouse Street. Regarding the large on-site sewage system (LOSS), they are working with Dept of Ecology on applying for money. It looks like there is a good chance we will be getting funds but don't know how much.

FEMA : Gravel roads. The requested amount is \$600,000 for paving roads (asphalt overlay).

USDA water loan: Mayor Dan said that the town is waiting for the funds allocated in the 2021 State capital budget to be dispersed. The waiver for loan payment to USDA expires on October 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:

Code Enforcement Officer: Mayor Dan stated that the town is talking with a person to be the town's code enforcement officer. They will be given the nuisance ordinance and the parts of the municipal code that pertain to enforceable standards and rules.

Resolution 2021-3 This resolution is required by FEMA as it designates Dan Harwood, mayor and Micki Harnois, clerk/treasurer as the ones who will be responsible for FEMA funds that the town receives. Lori D. made a motion to approve, Janell T. seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-4 This resolution sets the code enforcement fees for violations. Ben H. moved to approve. Bob L. seconded. Motion carried.

Residential housing/RV occupants plans. Mayor Dan reminded residents that the extended deadline the town council approved for living in the RVs on their property is October 1, 2021. They encouraged to talk with the mayor about their plan on how they will move out of their RVs by the deadline.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Clerk Micki H. announced that there will be a couple of movie nights in the park in August. No dates set yet.

Water report: Ernie B. will be turning down the chlorine level in the well. Mayor Dan reminded residents that they are not to turn on their own water. They must notify town hall first.

Park: Mayor Dan said that the remaining tires will be sent to the Whitman County landfill.

Fire Department: Lori D. moved to appoint Chance Backest as the new town fire chief. Bob L. seconded. Motion carried. Mayor Dan said that there are 9-10 volunteers now.

Public Comment: A resident stated that they hope that the roads are better than the last time there was an overlay project. Another resident asked where the Volunteer Fireman applications can be obtained?

Council Comments: Janell T. thanked TD&H for being so thorough on their reports.

Mayor Comment: Mayor Dan announced that the Whitman County Assessors have sent out a form to be signed by property owners for a property tax reduction. This will be available on the town's website and facebook page.

Bob L moved to adjourn the meeting, Lori D. seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.