



**Town of Coulee Dam**  
*Green Oasis at the Foot of Grand Coulee Dam*

**Minutes**  
**1294<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting**  
**January 25, 2017**

**6:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting**

Mayor Wilder called the 1294<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Coulee Dam Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Council members present: Gayle Swagerty, Duane Johnson, Ben Alling, and Keith St. Jeor. David Schmidt attended by telephone.

Staff Present: Public Works Superintendent Mike Steffens, Interim Police Chief Paul Bowden, Police Officer Jordan Ulrich and Clerk/Treasurer Stefani Bowden.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Ben Alling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Staff Introduction**

Fire Chief Brian Warnecke introduced his new Assistant Fire Chief Charles Pope.

**Public Input**

Bruce Bartoo requested to speak about his tree removal request that was presented months earlier. Mayor Wilder informed him that no discussion will be held on the issue until after having discussion with the town attorney and county prosecutor.

Fred Netzel asked about council committees and if they have been meeting. He also inquired about reserve funds for things such as retirement, sidewalks, etc. Mayor stated we do already have reserve funds. Mr. Netzel complimented the crew on snow plowing and told Councilmember Swagerty that she did a good job on getting accurate estimates on the Candy Point Trailhead Project. He sees there is a problem with section #4, regarding a comprehensive plan which the town lacks. Where are funds coming from? He has ideas for expenditure of Hotel/Motel funds and it should not be used on the trailhead project. He stated that no public discussion had been held prior to submitting the grant application. Councilmember Swagerty spoke on the elements of the public discussion. The Parks and Natural Resources Board meetings are public. The application process has been discussed at those open meetings.

Darlene St. Jeor has some concerns over the restroom proposed for the Candy Point Trailhead. Less expense now would be best for the community. She feels an outhouse should be available for after business hours. Showers should not be provided because it would promote camping. There are campgrounds in the community that should be supported.

Bruce Bartoo said that you can practically see 7 restrooms from Town Hall. The Town doesn't need another asset to take care of. Who's going to maintain it? Mr. Bartoo said if the resolution is passed, the town could be "on the hook" for \$25,000.

Quincy Snow asked where the Town is getting the matching dollars from.

Mayor Wilder stated that the Town is not committing at this point. The resolution being presented in this meeting is only to make application for the grant.

## **Presentation**

### **Wastewater Treatment Project Update**

Mayor Wilder gave a detailed recap of the project to date and reviewed the USDA Rural Development loan/grant combination. Questions have come up whether the existing tanks should or should not be left in place.

Engineers Kurt Holland and Daniel Cowger from Varela & Associates continued the discussion and update on the status of the project with a PowerPoint presentation.

Councilmember St. Jeor thanked the engineers and Mayor for all the work and time put into the project and for presenting the update. He asked how long the bid process would take. The advertisement for bid is scheduled to go out on February 15<sup>th</sup> with the opening tentatively scheduled for end of March.

Councilmember Alling questioned the total project cost and if it included the previous DOE loan and prior work done. Also inquired about a 40 year loan on a facility that he feels will need updated in 20 years.

St. Jeor explained the calculation of the loan/grant amounts.

### **Agenda updates & modifications**

None

### **Consent Agenda**

Ben Alling moved and Duane Johnson seconded to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes Regular Council Meeting – December 14, 2016

Vouchers: Claim Vouchers and Checks:

Claim Voucher No.'s 36302 through 36313 and EFT's dated December 28, 2016 in the total amount of \$281,112.92

Claim Voucher No.'s 36321 through 36351 and EFT's dated December 28, 2016 in the total amount of \$43,679.41

Claim Voucher No.'s 36352 through 36361 and EFT's dated January 11, 2017 in the total amount of \$10,285.90

Claim Voucher No.'s 36362 through 36382 and EFT's dated January 25, 2017 in the total amount of \$108,306.48

Payroll Checks: Payroll Check No.'s 36314 through 36320 direct deposits and EFT's dated December 15 and 30, 2016 in the total amount of \$75,639.18

Transfers: November and December monthly transfers for shop rent and utility tax.

Bank Fees: December 2016 Bank Fees

### Action Agenda

A. AB 2017-001, Resolution No. 2017-01 Recreational Trails Program Application Authorization

Gayle Swagerty moved and David Schmidt seconded to approve Resolution No. 2017-01 as written. Ben Alling questioned item #11 regarding public comment. David Schmidt stated it has been discussed at the Parks Meetings. Keith St. Jeor agrees with Mr. Bartoo that the Town has lots of restrooms and is concerned about the types of use it would encounter such as destruction, biohazards, etc. He doesn't think it is in the best financial interest of the Town. David Schmidt said the Town is not obligated at this point. It is just to submit the application. Duane Johnson is concerned about the future maintenance. Mayor Wilder made a plea with the council to pass the resolution for application. It is simply an application. The Town can deny funds if selected for the grant but we will never know what the options are if application is not made. Motion carried with three in favor (Swagerty, Schmidt, Johnson) and two against (Alling, St. Jeor).

B. AB 2017-002, Fire Department Memberships

David Schmidt moved and Gayle Swagerty seconded to accept Fire Department memberships for Juan Moreno, Jennifer Hare, Paul Bowden and Robert Sternberg. Motion carried.

C. AB 2017-003, Resolution No. 2017-02, Okanogan Council of Governments (OCOG) Membership

Duane Johnson moved and Ben Alling seconded to approve Resolution No. 2017-02 accepting OCOG membership. Motion carried.

### **Discussion Agenda**

A. Casino

The Casino has now paid the electrical bill and utility connection fees pertaining to the remodel project. The water flow issue is still being worked on.

B. AWC Employee Wellness Program Update

Clerk Stefani Bowden gave an update on the Employee Wellness Program and stated that all requirements were met in 2016 to be considered for the 2% discount from AWC on medical insurance premiums. Application has been submitted to AWC.

### **Staff, Council & Committee Report**

#### Mayor

Councilmembers and Mayor were handed a letter from Elmer City Councilmember just prior to the start of tonight's council meeting. Mayor asked council to review the letter. Councilman St. Jeor wants to ask Elmer City "what do they want?". They ask to be included but then say they are doing their own wastewater plant.

Mayor Wilder appointed Councilman St. Jeor to serve on and lead a Fiber Optic Ad Hoc Committee and asked for another councilmember to help. David Schmidt volunteered to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> member.

Mayor will be actively developing a Planning Commission.

#### Clerk

Clerk update the council of the flooding issue caused by a blown hot water heater in the Town Hall kitchen.

Bond Counsel through Foster Pepper has been obtained as per the USDA RD loan/grant requirement.

#### Public Works

Superintendent Mike Steffens told council that the restroom in Mason Park has been closed due to vandalism.



Police

Mayor announced his appointment of Paul Bowden as the Interim Police Chief. Citizen Bonnie Femling asked for the Mayor to introduce the other Police Officer in attendance, which was Entry Officer Jordan Ulrich. Ulrich will be attending the academy in February.

Councilmembers

Gayle Swagerty and David Schmidt had a General Government Committee meeting and brainstormed ideas. They would like to have a council retreat and create a vision.

Duane Johnson asked to be excused from the February 8 council meeting.

Keith St. Jeor has been doing some research regarding town business licenses, who has them and which home businesses are paying commercial utility rates. He would like the town to create a questionnaire to send out to businesses to find out if they are still in operation and what type of business takes place in a residential area. He feels that a few businesses have been charged commercial rates that shouldn't have been.

Announcements

None

Executive Session

None

Public Input

Ed Bartley will be holding another Block Watch meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the stone church.

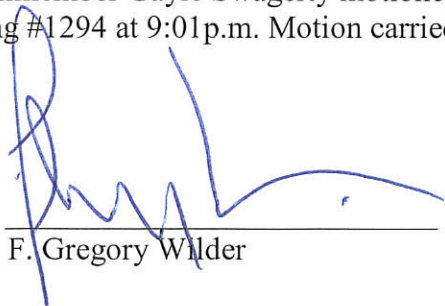
Fred Netzel questioned why the public doesn't know about committee meetings. Mayor stated that they are not subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. A council committee consists of two councilmembers and therefor is not a quorum.

Bruce Bartoo asked that the town combine with the neighboring towns for a recycling program. Mayor reminded everyone that this subject has come up many times at the Regional Board of Mayor's meetings. All four towns have to be on board. A couple of the towns do not support it. He invited Mr. Bartoo to attend the RBOM meetings held in Electric City the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 4:00pm.

Adjournment

Councilmember Gayle Swagerty motioned with Keith St. Jeor seconding to adjourn Council Meeting #1294 at 9:01p.m. Motion carried.

Mayor

  
F. Gregory Wilder

Clerk

  
Stefani Bowden