

**Town of Garfield**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 10, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Jarrod Pfaff, Andrew Flodin, Larry Hunt, and Tim Southern. Staff - Public Works Superintendent Dave Ulrick, Fire Chief Brian Conklin, Police Officer Brian Dentler, Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: John Kuehner and Rob Watkins.  
Guests: Marilyn Jones and Steve Jones.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Marilyn Jones addressed the council regarding an upcoming regional tour being organized by Mary Jane Butters Farm of Moscow for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Marilyn explained that she is an artist (painter) living here in town, with a studio in her house. She was recently asked by Chris Cochran with 3 Old Crows quilt shop to open her studio for a bus tour the weekend of July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Chris mentioned to Marilyn about this upcoming farm fair tour with tourist coming from Spokane and as far away as New York and that people have been signing up for this tour since last December. The tour goes from Mary Jane's store in Coeur d'Alene down to the Palouse region. There are passports that show the visitors all the hot spots to visit. Marilyn noted Garfield has not been represented and was therefore omitted. However, she met with the organizers today for lunch and now Garfield will be included. Marilyn said she thought this event came through the Scenic Byways. It was noted the Scenic Byways meets the same night as council, so council isn't able to attend. Marilyn was asked if she would consider representing Garfield on the Scenic Byways.

Marilyn is working on organizing events within town that day. She will have her studio open that day. Oakesdale and Tekoa are both participating. Marilyn said the different businesses (Smokin' Papa's, Michele's Treasurers, McCroskey House, etc.) in Garfield would want to participate and maybe others. She noted there are only 23 days to prepare and that she will be busy that day herself with her studio open. She asked about the town council getting involved, perhaps financially. She noted there would be many people coming through town and wanted to get people on board for this big event. She talked about family events such as music venues – a band, fiddlers, perhaps an bouncy castle for kids, fireworks, etc. The event schedule is from 10 am to 7 pm. She noted that Oakesdale is having a huge fair with fireworks, a band and dance, and that the Fit Farm has venues all day long. Council was very supportive of the event. The Mayor commended Marilyn for taking on this project. She talked about the town helping with money to rent an air castle for the kids or cover the cost of a band. Mayor Pfaff asked the clerk about use of town funds. She noted there are restrictions on the town giving donations. The clerk would check to see what the regulations were for use of town funds. Other suggestions for the day included a dunk tank, organized fireworks, display of old farm equipment, picnic event, sno cones, etc. It was noted on an informal basis, community folks often display fireworks at the north end of the school parking lot. However, it was not recommended allowing a free-for-all with fireworks. Council thanked Marilyn for taking an active role.

Brian Conklin announced that his church was holding their service and a concert in the Park the following weekend. They will be holding a 3<sup>rd</sup> concert at the end of August with possibly a car show.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Tim Southern **MOVED** the minutes of May 27, 2009, and June 4, 2009, be approved as written. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

**Reservoir Overflow Meter** – The Mayor asked about the reservoir overflow situation. Dave said with \$6,500 he could bring it all up to code. He noted the transducer is in the tank but it's reading

backwards. It was suppose to have come on Friday but did not come until this week. When the tank is full it reads 11 feet. Dave called the company and spoke with technical support. They would call Dave back. The Mayor asked about an overflow meter on the tank. Dave indicated he did not have one and an overflow meter wouldn't be needed until this system messed up. The Mayor said he wanted to be very clear that he wanted to stop the unaccounted for water problem in town and therefore wanted an overflow meter on the tank. Dave was not sure what was available. The Mayor asked him to check into it and see what he could get.

2. Plugged Sewer Line/Hydrant Repair: Dave checked on a plugged sewer line last night and changed the main today. He hopes to get the plug out of the main tomorrow morning. He also fixed a leak at the fire hydrant in front of his house. He did not fully replace the hydrant, waiting to see if the grant comes through. He explained it's a lead joint pipe and a root had gone through it. He repacked it and it should be good for a couple of years. If the grant does not come through, money can be spent to fix it then. Dave said as things break they try to fix them to last 100 years.

3. Training Schedule Week of June 15<sup>th</sup> – Dave indicated Perry will be gone to class next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in Walla Walla. He may leave Monday afternoon and return Friday morning. He has not yet decided.

4. Sewer Certification for Public Works Assistant: The Mayor requested Perry get his sewer certification before Dave retires. Dave said it can take a few months to get the certification by the time you attend the 3-day class and do certification review. He thought the classes were held pretty regular in Spokane at the wastewater plant. The Mayor asked that Perry be signed up for the next class so he would have time to practice before Dave retired.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

Officer Brian Dentler provided council with the monthly activity log. He noted the month of May was non-eventful with 90% of the calls for loose dogs. There was one harassment call that didn't occur in Garfield so it was forwarded to Pullman. There was also a complaint of a poisoned cat. This case has no suspects. The department assisted EMS with a call and there was a juvenile problem at the park. Mayor Pfaff reported receiving a community concern regarding access to the police department. He said Brian could talk it over with Chief Neumann, but he asked the department go back to the way Joe had it, leaving the side door open so that people can come in. Right now all the doors are locked. Officer Dentler talked about officer safety during night time hours. The Mayor clarified he was only asking for this access during regular business hours such as 8 am to 5 pm, and only when an officer was present.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Fire Chief Brian Conklin addressed council about a FEMA grant for fire station construction. He felt it was very timely. Brian noted he has the feasibility study and a scaled down version of the plan. The Mayor noted he did not have the latest version (#3) which cut out one of the bays. The clerk would request a copy of the latest drawing from the prior engineers. He indicated this grant opened up Monday and is due by July 10<sup>th</sup>. A final decision on the grant will not be made until September 2010. He said the initial application is done on-line. If the project gets through the preliminary hearing, the agency will then get additional information on the project. He further noted the grant requirements were very tight – no fire, no ems, no community space including no space larger than 600 square feet. Matching funds are encouraged but not required. There is no money allowed for land acquisition. There is no planning funds unless re-planning. Also, no money can be spent to build new or remodel anything within a 500 year floodplain. The existing station is in the flood plain so the proposed location north of town is a great spot out of the flood plain. Also, only one entity can apply, not both the town and rural district. As the interlocal agreement states the town supplies the building, the town would submit the grant. It was suggested along with the narrative, pictures of the existing fire station with limited space, trucks back to back, holes in the sheetrock, etc., be included.

Brian further talked about re-planning the proposed building, considering a pole building instead.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Business Entry Signs –** Annie Pillers talked about recent discussions for filling the metal frame entry signs into town with the 3 local eating establishments. The idea was to provide the space for businesses they relied on the motoring public. The question was whether to expand this to non-eating establishments, with new businesses opening. The Mayor confirmed the town owns the metal framework. Council noted they had tried to address this issue before. Larry Hunt said he had even got prices once before but no action was taken. Council talked about the importance of these signs being respectable. It was suggested the businesses would need to submit a copy of their proposed sign to council for approval before installing it. Council agreed with this proposal. Council further talked about the problem with temporary signs in town, often made with paper, that are left out after an event is over. Marilyn Jones talked about the problem with signs that blow over. Council talked about the entry signs and the option of 3 signs or 6 signs. Larry and Tim talked about the 3 eating establishments having the sign space. It was further noted the more signs that are up, the more cluttered and hard to read driving through town. Brian Conklin noted about a year ago he had asked Larry about sign space for his church, but no other businesses took action on getting signs up, and at that time it was suggested all 3 signs had to be ready to install at one time. Larry Hunt **MOVED** to authorize the 3 local eating establishments be given the space on the entry signs into town. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Larry noted they would need to submit the proposal of what their sign would look like. Larry also suggested a timeframe, like one month to get them up. If a business does not take the opportunity then it should be opened up to another business. It would be open on a first come first serve basis. The church was suggested as the next one for a sign. Larry further clarified, if one business got their sign done before another business they could put it up. A business did not have to wait for all 3 signs to be ready in order to install theirs.

Marilyn Jones asked about putting a sign up for her gallery studio during the 4th of July event. Council was fine with a temporary sign. They talked about not having people park on the highway, but along the side of the house and in front parking area is fine.

**APPROVAL OF CHECKS:**

Larry Hunt **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Tim Southern seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Check Register #9059-#9074. Claims: \$16,906.71, Payroll: \$5,145.56. TOTAL: \$22,052.27.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Larry Hunt **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer**