

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – Final Draft
September 9, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Jarrod Pfaff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Jarrod Pfaff, Andrew Flodin, John Kuehner, and Rob Watkins. Staff - Public Works Superintendent Dave Ulrick, Fire Chief Brian Conklin, Police Officer Joe Merry, Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: Larry Hunt and Tim Southern. Guests: Larry Kruse. Daymon Marple.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: John Kuehner **MOVED** the minutes of August 12, 2009 and September 3, 2009 be approved as written. Rob Watkins seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

4th Street Pavement Condition: Larry Kruse addressed council about his concern with South Hill and the pavement condition on 4th Street. He said he thought the town was going to lose that pavement with the heavy traffic, noting the big Oakesdale School bus goes up it twice a day. He asked about restricting the bus on the road. Officer Merry said that would have to be a town ordinance. There is nothing from the Department of Transportation. It was noted the semi-truck in the area would not do the pavement any good either, but that it hasn't been up there in a long time. It was suggested contacting the Oakesdale School about the situation. Mayor Pfaff noted there was not a quick, easy fix for this situation. He would follow up.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. **4th Street Pavement Condition:** Dave noted the town would need to deal with this situation next year. The mayor asked about any funding from the Transportation Improvement Board. Annie Pillers would check on TIB funding.

2. **Hydrant Tool Purchase:** Dave presented council with a hydrant tool he would like to purchase. It would be used to measure water loss. Costs for this type of equipment start at \$75. Dave said the tool he would like to purchase costs \$388. The tool hooks onto 2-1/2 inch ports. He said most of the hydrants are 2-1/2 inches. The tool will measure pressure, flow and number of gallons per minute and would be used when hydrants are flushed. Dave estimated it takes about 10 or 15 minutes to flush a hydrant but depends quite a bit on the elevation in town and the pressure. He said flushing hydrants should be done and hasn't been done. He said only one hydrant should be flushed at a time. Andrew Flodin noted the Fire Department will be doing hydrant flushing on September 22nd. Rob Watkins talked about the public works crew doing hydrant flushing on a quarterly basis. Dave said it was nice when the Fire Department did it, but the town got calls when the water pressure ran out. Dave said the Fire Department could buy the tool and use it too. They would need to know how to measure water loss, flows and pressure. Fire Chief Brian Conklin said he would like to be involved in the process.

3. **New Tires for Garbage Truck:** Dave reported the garbage truck will need new back tires and that normally the town gets 4 tires, but will probably need to get 8 tires. They cost roughly \$350 a piece. For budget purchases, Rob Watkins asked about spreading out the purchase. Dave did not believe the existing tires would last more than 2 months. The Mayor said the 2nd purchase would have to be in 2010 to make a difference. Council gave authorization for Dave to purchase the necessary tires for the garbage truck.

4. **Well Decommissioned:** Dave announced that the well decommissioning was completed this afternoon. He will not be doing anything with that spot right away as it may settle. He is going to let it dry out. Fogle Pump believes there is plenty of material on top but if not they will come back and provide more.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Officer Joe Merry provided council with a computerized case report for the year 2009. He said basically the department has been working on 2 investigations at the school. Both are theft related and show no forced entry. They are continuing to work with Zane Wells and will probably be able to give more information to council two meetings from now. He said other than that, it's been quiet. He noted both he and Officer Dentler are working traffic on both sides of town. They are trying to make it over to Garfield every other day for kids who get out of school at 3 pm, so they see the department. They also make sure there is no one hanging out in parking lot that shouldn't be there.

John Kuehner asked about junk vehicles, noting there are more and more piled up at one location. Officer Merry said the department can initiate action anytime the council wants. He noted the last time, in July 2007, there were 6 places and they kept coming back for 30 and 60 day extensions. By late November, early December when there is snow on ground, Joe prefers to wait until the next spring. He said out of those 6 locations, just recently 4 out of the 6 places resolved. It took that long. Joe noted, after multiple 30 day extensions, once the public finds out a ticket will be issued, they comply. Officer Merry confirmed the department can do the investigative and enforcement end, but the council will have to make the decision to follow through or it will never get done. John Kuehner asked about the ordinance, noting he thought it had been in effect for years. Officer Merry confirmed it was here when he got to town, but a 5th element was added. If a person can meet 3 out of 5 elements, i.e., license tabs and insurance, a vehicle can stay. He gave the example of someone restoring a jalopy. Otherwise fencing or a decorative tarp would be required. Council consensus was to have the police department start the junk vehicle process.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. CDBG-R Grant – 2nd Street Water Line: Annie Pillers confirmed the town recently received the award letter from the Department of Commerce confirming the 2nd Street Water Line grant of \$118,150 through CDBG-R funds. The letter allows the town to start incurring costs as of August 25th. Annie noted right now costs being incurred are for engineering which is being paid directly by the town. She said a full contract will be sent later.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Lane Ailor Water Bill: Mayor Pfaff addressed a recent situation with an outside water faucet being left on at Lane Ailor's. Lane was not sure how it got turned on or left on and asked for consideration on his bill. The overage alone was \$131.25. Dave reported he saw water and thought there was a water leak at the old Bert Tribbett's place. When they checked it out they found an outside faucet left on. Council talked about the potential for this to happen with anyone, water gets left on accidentally. The mayor said giving adjustments on bills was a dangerous thing to get started. And if the council was to consider this, the town would need a very definitive set of rules for what would qualify and how it would apply. Dave Ulrick noted in the past when a water leak was found going into a sewer line and not obvious, the town gave consideration then. Although it's not the town's responsibility to shut off someone's water that is running, the public works staff was thanked for doing so. Council consensus was not to provide an adjustment on the bill.

2. Resolution 2009-15: Authorizing purchases through the Washington State Dept of Information Services and ratifying the customer service agreement. Rob Watkins **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2009-15 authorizing purchases through the Washington State Department of Information Services and ratifying the customer service agreement. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Resolution 2009-16: Andrew Flodin **MOVED** to adopt Resolution 2009-16 authorizing the mayor to approve credit card purchases over \$800. John Kuehner and Rob Watkins expressed their dissension on this matter, preferring credit card purchases over \$800 come before council. Rob Watkins suggested the motion be tabled.

4. Community Van – Town Transportation District: Daymon Marple addressed council regarding establishing a transportation district for a van pool for town. He provided background information on the project and what the PDA had done to date. He noted last fall Katie Young and Annie Pillers had done a survey on van interest and 29 people had expressed interest. This would have to be updated.

Daymon talked about contacting COAST Transportation and that they did not have the ability to help out in rural transportation. Their focus was on elders and people with disabilities. He noted WSDOT has put a priority on van programs with \$26 million authorized. He noted WSDOT has vans in Olympia that are ready to go to different areas and towns and municipalities are using this van pool. WSDOT would own the vans and when the town was done with the van, it would be given back to WSDOT. The town would be responsible for paying sustainability of the vans – tire, oil, fuel.

Daymon explained he talked with County Commissioner Greg Partch; he talked about the van going to Colfax. Daymon felt the big chunk of riders would be going to Pullman. He noted that Asotin has developed a municipal area van pool that goes to WSU. Columbia County has a system that goes into Pomeroy and all over the rural area. They go clear to University of Idaho.

Daymon noted COAST was very excited about the idea and a meeting was held with COAST, Greg Partch and Tom Hanson the WSDOT area coordinator who lives in Wenatchee. Greg talked about vans for the entire county. Daymon said he would like to see a van for Garfield. Tom Hanson said there were 5 vans available. COAST then set up a meeting with the commissioners and Daymon attended. He noted that Commissioner Largent is opposed to forming such a district. He does not support any new taxes. Daymon said COAST is willing to re-organize their budget and coordinate a 2 year program with funds. COAST got a \$60,000 grant for a feasibility study. They will be meeting again with the commissioners. A public hearing will need to be held and then a decision made by the county commissioners. Daymon thought this could take several more months.

After meeting with the commissioners, Tom Hanson contacted Daymon and said he could see no reason why Garfield couldn't do this themselves. Daymon referred to his handouts, a proposed budget, a sample resolution and letter to WSDOT. WSDOT has insurance for the vans through the state. Daymon said he does not have those costs yet. He noted the van can hold 12, but his budget is based upon 8 riders, 5 days a week. The van would also be available on weekends. The PDA would charge 8% to manage the program. Volunteer drivers would be needed, with a minimum of 2 certified on the insurance. Daymon indicated a van driver's license is not needed. Last year when the PDA explored the idea of a van pool, they found out the WSU van could only be used to go to WSU, no other place. The WSDOT plan would allow use of the van any place without restriction to one employer.

Daymon referred to the RCWs for forming a transportation district. He noted the conversations with Stephen Bishop and Pat Mason at Municipal Research. It appears under the RCW that Tom Hanson was suggesting, the van could only go 15 miles out of town. Asotin and Wenatchee operate under a different RCW that may have more options. Asotin and Wenatchee both go all over and outside the county. Tom Hanson noted the law was written to allow affordable transportation so people could have a van pool. It was agreed more homework needed to be done to find out what RCW the town should form under. Mayor Pfaff said he wanted to make sure no taxing would be done and he wanted to put "no-taxes" into the document. He wanted to make sure Stephen Bishop was aware of this. Daymon confirmed Columbia County and Dayton have a .004 sales tax. The Mayor asked about the PDA providing the operating funds to get started. Daymon said yes, they would also need to establish a reserve fund for the operation. Mayor Pfaff said he thought it was a good idea. Daymon would get more information on how to get the district formed and come back to council.

Larry Kruse thought it would work pretty well for a lot of people. In the past the WSU van that came to

town was full. Rob Watkins suggested a back up plan if the van broke down. Brian Conklin said the church van could be available for such need.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Brian Conklin confirmed the Public Works Board grant for the fire station was submitted at a project cost of \$238,000. He noted the first determinations will be made in one month, with disqualifying entities eliminated and then they start scoring projects. Brian re-confirmed the fire department will be flushing hydrants in 2 weeks and will have 2 crews out, doing one hydrant at a time. As an FYI to council, Brian further noted the Edith House would be coming to the Garfield School on the 1st of October for Fire Safety Week. Children will be able to go inside and learn how to evacuate if there was a fire. The Edith House comes down from Spokane and is provided through the Inland Empire Fire Chiefs Association. The cost is \$35 a day plus \$1 per mile.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS:

John Kuehner asked about the check that noted Johnson Seed. Mayor Pfaff explained it was a building permit. Dave Ulrick was asked about the purchases with Bill’s Clean Air. He explained the town buys filters from him at fleet prices for the sweeper, grader, pick ups, etc.

Rob Watkins **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Andrew Flodin seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Check Register #9143-#9156. Claims: \$21,057.48, Payroll: \$4,965.33. TOTAL: \$26,022.81 August
Check Register #9157-#9174. Claims: \$14,945.43, Payroll: \$5,135.96. TOTAL: \$20,081.39 Sept

ADJOURNMENT: Andrew Flodin **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. John Kuehner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jarrod Pfaff, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer