

**Town of Garfield**  
**TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**Town Hall – October 24, 2012**

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

**ROLL CALL:** Jarrod Pfaff, Larry Hunt, Daymon Marple, Sharon Schnebly, and Mark Young. Staff – Police Chief Jerry Neumann, and Clerk/Treasurer Annie Pillers. Absent: Tim Southern

**GUESTS:** Garth Meyer-Whitman County Gazette, Art Swannack  
Art Swannack candidate for Whitman County Candidate Commissioner addressed council. He is a Lamont resident who is a wheat and hay farmer with 1000 head of sheep too. His wife is a veterinarian. They have 3 children. Art has served on the school board, fire commission, coop board and 6 years at the Washington State Sheep Producers dealing with legislative issues and animal regulations. He is currently in his 4<sup>th</sup> and final year with the American Sheep National Board.

As commissioner, he would like to get the budget under control. The goal is to have a balanced budget and not spend more than take in and have money set aside for capital items. The other goal would be to work together with efficiency as county commissioners and with other elected officials. Ideas to balance the budget included outsource more work like expanding the contract with ServiceMaster for facilities maintenance and look at why the county has an IT department. Also training the employees with the new accounting system, and finding ways to get quicker, allowing more time for other jobs. He noted his concerns at the Federal level and even 8% or 10% cuts hurting the county. The county road funds come from Federal dollars. He noted 4 union contracts are up for negotiations next year.

Mr. Swannack said he did not support the Hawkins project and didn't like the process. He doesn't think the math will work with a 4% or 5% loan. The county would be luck to break even with a 20 year loan. He also didn't like that it sidelined .09 moneys available for the small towns. On the positive side, he noted a new pay raise grid system was established that simplified raises to every 12 months rather than 18 months and made budgeting easier.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mark Young **MOVED** the minutes of the regular council meeting of October 10, 2012, be approved as written. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**POLICE REPORT:** Chief Jerry Neumann updated council on recent activity. The drug task force was here last week and made 2 arrests from the trailer court, with 1 transported to jail. The chronic nuisance ordinance is in effect with service to both the property owner and trailer court resident. It is still in process and there's an eviction notice. Other than that it's been fairly quiet. The Palouse Council brought up budget issues. Councilman Floyd talked extensively in regards to disbanding the police department or making cuts such as 1 officer or 2 officers or the entire department, and contracting with the sheriff's office. The sheriff's office estimated the cost of service for 40 hours a week at \$90,000 with no code enforcement and no nuisance ordinances, just patrol and making arrests. He noted this is not small town policing, not the department's style or the community's style, or what they want. It was suggested that Palouse was so safe that it could police itself. Chief Neumann said there was discussion of disbanding the contract with Garfield even though it's a wash and we make money. Only vehicle repair and replacement come from the Garfield contract. The other recommendation was to go down to 20 hours a week with no code enforcement and hire that out. He said code enforcement makes up 70 to 80 percent of small town policing. Tekoa is paying for code enforcement above and beyond the contact with the sheriff's office. Chief Neumann discussed other staffing issues that Palouse is looking at, budget savings with a lesser health insurance, and service changes. Chief Neumann noted small town policing is a presence. It was noted that the sheriff's office does a good job, but unable to do community policing on a personal level in the towns. Chief Neumann left the meeting at 7:26 pm.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:** Public Works Superintendent Perry Brown reported –

1. Winter Maintenance - Sprinklers at town hall put away. The farm truck fill has been put away. The plow was put on this week.
2. Pool - The pool is close to being done. Perry can't find leak or where water is going. He checked all the valves and filled it back up to close to full. The logs will go in tomorrow. The boiler guy is coming this week.
3. Leaks - Two water leaks were fixed and there are still two to go. They will do Cathy May's tomorrow. The parts came in today. The water meters were read for the last time for this winter.
4. WWTP – the DO Meter came in and it's an all-in-one unit. It replaces the PH meter and dissolved oxygen meter. It cost \$2,000. A lease was not really an option because it had to be sent in every 3 months for service and the plant would be without a meter for 5 to 7 days. It was a great deal if leased two of them. It has a 2 year warrant on the machine; the probes 6 months. Could have bought 2 year warranty probes but expensive. The town's probes won't get banged up.
5. Water Telemetry – when power failed lost everything to the brains of the water system. Now the crew is turning on the pumps manually and checking the levels at the tanks. Replacement parts have been ordered at about \$5,000. Sharon Schnebly asked how the town is protected from doing this again. Perry said a couple higher grade surge protector devices but he did not know the price. He would try to get some quotes. Council consensus was if a surge protector was \$1,000 or less, buy it. Perry said the other option the town should do anyway, is getting a generator for this stuff. If the power goes out for 9 hours the town would have water no matter what then. Mayor Pfaff said he was working on it
6. Dumpsters - 3 dumpsters were ordered from Western States at \$10 more than last time.
7. Community Service – a community service person would be helping sort recyclables.
8. Training – Perry would be attending a water class in November and then on 12/6 and 12/7 the class for taking the WWTP test.
9. Garbage Truck – the back-up camera was purchased for the garbage truck; cost \$275.
10. Road Grader – Tried the grader and the brakes are kind of working today. Mayor Pfaff said Perry gave him a tour of road grader and there's not much life left in it. It's a 1966 grader. The hydraulic system is shot. It can't tilt. One side at a time lifts. If go through GSA surplus, the town only has to pay to get it here. There are generator sets on the GSA surplus. The mayor said maybe next summer look at getting a road grader. Sharon Schnebly said GSA was good as long as you know what you are buying. Mayor Pfaff estimated \$3,000 each to get a grader and generator shipped.
11. Recycle Building – with the final concrete floor in now, animals can't get in or out. Perry believes he caught the last of the raccoons that were in the building.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. JE LOVE SOIL REMEDIATION PROJECT:** Larry Hunt asked about the follow up on the asphalt. Mayor Pfaff confirmed Eric with Keltic had spoken to the contractor and they will be tearing out and redoing the asphalt. Larry Hunt reported the contractor had talked to him about the extra costs they had because of the asbestos with the storm drain pipe. This was not in the contract and he wanted to know if it could be covered. Mayor Pfaff said they would need to contact Eric.

**2. COMPOST FACILITY:** Mayor Pfaff announced the compost site soil test came out fine and that there was no leachate problem at all. The town needs to get a compost facility permit and then good to go. Perry Brown asked about getting a burn permit. Mayor Pfaff told him Annie Pillers had the contact information. Annie Pillers reported, as part of the compost facility permit, it was suggested the town annex in this piece of property for municipal purposes.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. WHITMAN MEDICAL GROUP BILL:** Council discussed the \$309 overage bill for Whitman Medical Group for a recent water leak. Perry Brown explained the leak was underneath their building and not visible, with no way to know it was happening. Mayor Pfaff said he would not consider reducing the bill as this can be a slippery slope once started. Larry Hunt proposed meeting them half way on the overage based upon them being unable to know by the location under the building. Mark Young suggested showing good faith and good will towards the group. Daymon Marple noted council had recently allowed a payment extension on a delinquent bill, but did not forgive a portion of the debt. Larry Hunt **MOVED** that the town split the overage portion of the bill one-half with Whitman Medical Group and waive the \$10 late

fee as they were waiting for an answer before paying the bill. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried. Nay vote - Daymon Marple.

**2. ORDINANCE NO. 423N – Setting 2013 Property Tax Increase:** Mayor Pfaff read Ordinance No. 423N noting it was the usual 1% increase plus a banked capacity of 1.13% equaling a \$673.05 extra. Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 423N setting the 2013 property tax increase. Sharon Schnebly seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**3. ORDINANCE NO. 424N – Setting 2013 General Levy and Special Street Levy Amounts:** Mayor Pfaff read Ordinance no. 424N setting the General and Special levies at \$2.78 per 1,000 for \$60,760 and \$2.64 per 1,000 for \$57,000. Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to adopt Ordinance No. 424N setting the 2013 General Levy and Special Street Levy amounts. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. 2013 BUDGET:** Mayor Pfaff discussed the current water rate with council, noting they had talked about the rate for 3 or 4 years now, and that he had screwed up the math. It needed to be \$1 higher. Council put off an increase for 3 years waiting to see what happens. The Mayor said this past month the town transferred \$39,000 to water for the rest of the year, between Bill and the budget and now items such as the \$5,000 for the telemetry. He looked at in June and it has been showing up every year, the \$4,000 behind. Larry Hunt agreed the town need to really do it, probably needed to do over a year ago. Mayor Pfaff noted council needs to think about what they are doing for raises. Daymon Marple noted Albion has electronic meter reads. Perry reported he has 20 of them out there already. It doesn't make meter reading faster but you don't make any mistakes. It takes 3 times to fix a mistake. Perry has been installing them and they are only \$1 a meter more. Perry confirmed he can read the whole town in about 9 hours. Mayor Pfaff noted liquor revenues will be non-existent next year.

**FINANCIAL:**

**1. Approval of Checks:** Sharon Schnebly **MOVED** to approve the following bills presented to council for payment. Daymon Marple seconded the motion and the carried. Abstention: Larry Hunt

Check Register #10665	Claims \$5,686.45	
Check Register #10666-#10673 plus EFTPS	Payroll \$6,747.05; Claims \$52,858.37	
Check Register #10674-#10678	Claims \$2,880.75	TOTAL: \$68,172.62

**ADJOURNMENT:** Daymon Marple **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. Larry Hunt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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**Jarrold Pfaff, Mayor**

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