

Town of Garfield
TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 14, 2023 - 7:00 PM
405 W California St.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Pfaff, Council Members: Neal Leon, Craig Mitzimberg, Roni Mundell, Connie Schaut and Tom Tevlin. Staff: Clerk/Treasurer: Cody Lord Public Works: Shon Clark Absent:

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Regular Meeting was opened at 6:58 pm.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST: Linda Kildew, Secretary for the Whitman County Cemetery District #2, Randy Carlson, Roger Million and Lori

Linda and Randy Carlson are in attendance to discuss the leaking water situation with the cemetery and Gun Club line. Linda said the situation has come to light because they had the water turned off in January and so far through the month of May the billing is close to \$2,000. The district spent about \$6,800 for electrical to repair and replace the pump at the bottom of the hill, which is currently leaking again due to the packing. The town is having Slocum's replace a leaking town line and Brock provided the cemetery district with a quote of 2-3 thousand to repair their line coming out of the pump house. Linda provided a diagram for the council to look at. Linda said it is her understanding that the town will be putting the gun club on its own meter. Likely there was some sort of arrangement made back in the day for the lines to be on the same meter, but the cemetery district is saying these are steep bills for them to be covering considering the water being used is not theirs.

Linda said she talked with Jim Storms, and he didn't remember the details and Linda can't determine how far back the cemetery has been covering the cost of the gun club water usage. She is hoping that they can come to an understanding since the January through May water consumption was due to the gun club turning on the water. Tom Tevlin clarified that the gun club and the cemetery were running under the same meter and stated it is unfortunate because they won't be able to go back and fix something since they don't know the original details but they can make changes going forward. Mayor Pfaff explained that the cemetery district was informed about the leak before Linda became secretary and they have been told several times the line has a substantial leak. Shon drew a map of the way he thinks the line comes out of the pump house showing the jog in the line and the estimated location of the current leak.

Randy Carlson questioned the size of the line that the town will be putting back in over the field. Shon said it would be a 2" poly pipe going back in place and Randy said that will disrupt their service since they are a 4" up the hill. Mayor Pfaff explained their old pump was sized down to a one-inch line. The sewer plant is the only other service on the line and they only use a garden hose at most so the cemetery will have the 2' inch

service primarily to themselves and it should be sufficient for their needs. Mayor Pfaff said concerning the \$2,800 in total bills this year, when the new meter was put in it was collecting consumption times a factor of 10 and it should have been a factor of 1. So, there will be a substantial credit coming to the cemetery district for the difference in the amount of consumption at the wrong factor. Concerning the water usage, the new meters show exactly when consumption happens hour by hour. It is evident that there was a leak at about 250 gallons a day and that the weekend before Memorial Day, the water started coming on between 10 pm and 6 am. Randy confirmed that this was the case with the cemetery sprinklers. Linda and Randy said their instructions were to shut off the line in January, but the gun club turned the water back on and because they are on the same line, they are having to pay for the consumption. Randy suggested that the line that is leaking should be the main focal point and said with the town being the landlord there should be some kind of happy medium to help with the cost of the repair.

Mayor Pfaff said the gun club will be coming off the line and will have its own meter in the future. Neal Leon suggested that if the line was shut off and the leak stopped, then if the gun club turned it back on, they should have to cover the cost. Tom Tevlin asked, do you think it would be fair for the gun club to pay for their share of the leak? Linda said it appears the bill was so high because it was turned on and it leaked causing a large bill.

Mayor Pfaff said they need to focus on what has happened since January 2023, that arrangements that were made in the past can't be spoken to, they can only fix going forward. A leak of 250 gallons a day comes out to \$20.00 a month in consumption so he suggests the town issue a credit for \$120.00 or 6 months of covering the leak, the town will separate the gun club from the cemetery meter so they will be billed separately going forward and then the cemetery is responsible for their leak repairs to their line. Linda asked why the town wouldn't want to dig for the cemetery since they are already doing a line replacement. Mayor Pfaff said the town is replacing a line, the cemetery would be digging a hole to repair their line, they are two different things. The leak is after the cemetery's water meter and the town policy is not to fix water lines past a water meter.

Linda asked when the line the town is replacing will be completed and Shon replied, it will likely be done in the coming week. Roni Mundell asked Linda if the credits will help them financially and make them happy? Linda said she would like to have everything in writing. Mayor Pfaff assured her the details would be in the minutes and will be a public record. Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to credit the cemetery district for the erroneous consumption factor and to credit their account \$120 to cover the 6 months at \$20 a month leaking costs. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Mayor Pfaff said there will be no more credits for leaks going forward. Once the gun club line is moved back to the town side of the water line, the water line coming from the cemetery pump will belong solely to the cemetery, and they will need to pay for consumption and repairs to that line. Linda wanted to know if there would be assistance for all the prior years the club was on the line and Mayor Pfaff said no one knows what the original agreement was therefore the town wouldn't be paying for prior gun club usage. Tom explained that the town can't go on the other side of that meter and fix the

line, doing so would mean that anyone asking for the same support in the future would have to be considered. After the meter has always been the customer's responsibility. Connie Schaut **MOVED** to table the subject until the next meeting, hoping that Slocum will have some more information while they are digging there next week. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously**. Mayor Pfaff said Cody will adjust the bill in the coming week and they will see what Slocum says once they are further along.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting May 24, 2023. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously**.

POLICE REPORT:

Marshal Handley Present and said that he had a total of 10 calls in the last 2.5 weeks. There was a domestic in Palouse that required him providing assistance to Palouse twice. Two cars have been towed and one was ticketed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Water

Everything is operating as normal. The Slocum water repair was delayed a week and will begin next week.

Sewer

Everything is operating as normal. Connie Schaut questioned if the biocell was back up and running and Shon confirmed it has been repaired and is in service now.

Garbage

Everything is operating as normal.

Streets/Park

The crack sealing portion of the chip seal project is done, and the chip sealing portion will begin tomorrow. Craig Mitzimberg said he turned the water off in the RV Park so that he could mow and then he would turn them back on when the mowing was completed. Craig wonders if they are going to begin talking about the RV Park policies? Three bids for road oiling were received. It was determined that the Mag Chloride was the best product to place on the roads in the past so the bid with the Mag Chloride product should be considered since it has held up well in past applications. Connie Schaut **MOVED** to approve the Vegetation Management and Dust Control bid using the Mag Chloride product for \$8,388.19. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion**. Neal Leon was a yea vote and Roni Mundell and Tom Tevlin abstained from the vote. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

There are two contracts from JUB on the table. One contract is to certify that JUB was the selected engineer from the Request for Qualifications and interviews that were held. The second contract is an agreement of price and services for the Facilities Management contract. Council already voted to have JUB as the engineers, Mayor Pfaff said if they are still alright with it, then he will go ahead and sign the contract for their services. Roni Mundell **MOVED** to authorize the mayor to sign the contract for engineering services. Craig Mitzimberg **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously**. Mayor Pfaff said the second contract does not need to be

signed tonight and it is a contract that specifically addresses the Facilities Plan for the sewer system. Century West had agreed to do this plan for \$100,000, 50% covered by a DOE grant and 50% of it a loan. JUB has stated that they can't do the plan for the same amount of money and estimate that it will be closer to \$227,000 to provide the town with a comprehensive plan. The town has signed an agreement with DOE for \$100,000 so Cody will be working with DOE to see if the town can get an amendment for the cost and time to complete the project. Tom said let's wait to see what DOE comes back with for terms and see what alterations are needed at that time.

Mayor Pfaff reminded council that there is about \$11,000 of Covid Relief money left after replacing the radio read water meters in town and purchasing flow meters to monitor flow in the sewer system. With the remaining money JUB is suggesting to acquire a rhodamine sensor, it would be a sensor that uses rhodamine dye to track ground water movement and may better identify I&I issues. This would be more sensitive once it passes the sensor to more easily detect where the source of the I&I issues are coming from. Mayor Pfaff suggests the town purchase its own rhodamine sensor with some of the remaining funds. Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to purchase a rhodamine sensor for \$3,916. Roni Mundell **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Tom Tevlin **MOVED** to approve payment of bills. Connie Schaut **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

Payroll: Checks 15702-15708 EFT EFTPS, AWC, DRS	Total =\$16,993.25
Claims: Check 15709-15729 EFT DRS	Total =\$53,583.10

Total Claims and Payroll: \$70,576.35

Craig said that he would like the council to consider having internet available at the RV Park, Colfax and Uniontown both include internet service in their nightly rental. Mayor Pfaff asked Cody to contact Donovan with Wifiber and see if this is something they could present. Colfax charges \$35 a night and Uniontown charges \$45 a night.

Additional debate took place to try and decide what to do with the water line. Tom stated that this very likely was the result of a handshake agreement in the past. The gun club line does indeed need to be metered so that all water connections are metered in town. Rates and consumption were very different back in the day when an arrangement was made so it is time to have separate lines for each user. Roni stated that there was a lack of documentation showing the responsible party for the actions in the past. If all of it is repaired by the town, there is a potential that the cemetery board can come back on the town if there are any issues there in the future. Connie asked how much in materials and time would it take to fix the leak, Shon estimated \$200 in parts and a day of labor, but that is just a guess.

ADJOURN:

Craig Mitzimberg **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Tom Tevlin **seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.** The council meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.


Jarrod Pfaff – Mayor

ATTEST:


Cody Lord – Clerk/Treasurer