

Mercer City Council meeting November 20, 2014

The Mercer City council meeting was called to order by Mayor Kathy Schon with all council present. The minutes from the last meeting were read and approved with a motion made by Randy Zinke, seconded by Bryan Brewer. The financial report was approved with a motion made by Randy Zinke and seconded by Steve Mikkelsen.

In old business there was another bid submitted for the grader. The auditor will contact a lawyer for advice on how to properly proceed since the grader was no longer advertised.

Ulteig submitted their proposal for clean jet and televise of the sewer lines. The estimated cost would be \$52530.00. The proposal was tabled for now. The second proposal was for a lift station. The estimate cost for the project would be \$105,800.00. The proposal was tabled until funding could be found. Ulteig will help with grants when available.

Again there was discussion on implementing a Home Rule Charter. There was also discussion on city wide special assessments. The auditor will contact an attorney on creating an improvement district.

Sewer lines still need to be flushed. The auditor will try and get some other phone numbers for Bryan Brewer to contact as he was unable to connect with one septic company.

In new business Kathy Schon will contact companies and get quotes for pressure tanks and holding tanks instead of having Ulteig. Kathy Schon will also contact local electricians for estimates on hook ups for the city's Christmas decorations. Kathy Schon would like proposals on projects such as walking paths thru town and ice skating pond. The city cannot get grants without proposals from the engineering group. There was discussion on the need to concentrate on the projects the city needs to fix as proposed to projects for enjoyment.

The Auditor will contact the fire dept. for burning the cattails around the lagoon.

A motion made by Bryan Brewer for JoLene Rust to get a computer for the city. Seconded by Joe Jerkovich. Motion passed. It was suggested to contact Computer One.

A motion made by Randy Zinke to raise the spending limit from \$500.00 to \$1000.00 for emergencies. Seconded by Bryan Brewer. Motion passed.

Lynn Oberg and Darwin Saari were in attendance to represent Rural Water. They presented some information regarding the city's option to hook into Rural Water. They would have to do a study to make sure there is enough water going thru the lines to support Mercer since they are in the process of adding 150 new users from Brush Lake, but they are also in the process of building new booster stations as well. Until our infrastructure is updated not much would change in bringing in Rural Water. It would be in the best interest for Mercer to buy water in bulk. There would be a base charge of roughly \$49-59.00 then approximately \$6.80 per thousand after that. It was suggested the city invest in new meters so there would be a correct count on water usage throughout the city. Lewis and Clark grants do not like deferred maintenance projects. Their grants are for new mains, new buildings, tying into Rural Water etc. Kathy Schon thanked them for their information.

Kathy Schon contacted the county on new signage for the city. If the city wants to change the speed limit on the county road they have to take their request to the county. City can buy signs for within the city at the cost of \$70-\$80 per sign. There was disagreement on changing the speed limit as some feel without a way to enforce no one would obey it anyway. Council feels the Sheriff dept. does not police this area enough to be able to enforce the limits.

Bills were approved with a motion made by Steve Mikkelsen, seconded by Bryan Brewer.

Meeting adjourned.

JoLene Rust, Auditor

Ottertail Power \$509.95, Hawkins \$58.75, FU Oil 124.84, ND Dept. of Health \$134.00
Hardware Hank \$26.51, WM 1221.32, TL Ag Repair \$1263.07, MEC 446.49,
ND Dept of Health \$118.00, Hawkins \$80.25,