

## **City of Mercer Minutes January 16, 2020**

Mayor Ron Schatz called the meeting to order at 7 pm with Council members Randy Zinke, Gary Volochenko, Julie Wagner and Derek Fiedler. Also in attendance Ashley Fiedler, Auditor, AJ Tuck, Ulteig Engineer.

Councilmembers look over minutes. Julie Wagner makes motion to approve minutes, Derek Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Finances were reviewed. Gary Volochenko makes motion to approve finances, Fiedler seconded it. Motion carried.

Bills were reviewed by council. Fiedler makes motion to pay bills, Volochenko seconded it. Roll call vote: Fiedler yes, Zinke yes, Volochenko yes, Wagner yes. Motion carried to pay bills.

### **Old Business:**

Property owner Charlene Lelm attended meeting regarding her property and the location of her curb stop. Lelm has been present for city meetings the last few months regarding this issue looking for a solution to why her curb stop was not put back to where it was before the project. Engineer, AJ Tuck stated there was a public input meeting before the project started where she could have stated her concerns. Tuck also added the new location of the curb stop is more effective, it's located on the property line so it will be easier to find. Lelm did know about the public input meeting, but didn't think they wouldn't keep the curb stop at the current location. Lelm also stated that where the new curb stop is it's not more effective, it was put in a low spot and under water. Ulteig will make this right, one way or another.

City has been looking into Home Rule. Board members have done some research on pros and cons of becoming Home Rule. Volochenko makes motion to start the process on becoming home rule, getting the 5 person committee started. Wagner seconded motion. Roll call vote: Fiedler yes, Zinke yes, Wagner yes, and Volochenko yes. Motion carried.

Last month on the bills there was a bill for \$3439.11 for Ulteig, that the board tabled not knowing what the charges were for. Tuck stated that bill was for time spent on storm water paper work, and for field work. Fiedler makes motion to pay Ulteig invoice, Zinke seconded it. Roll call vote: Fiedler yes, Zinke yes, Volochenko yes, Wagner yes. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

Marlene Wardner has resigned as current City assessor. Mayor Schatz talked to Ken Thomsen to see if he'd be interested in becoming the new assessor. Thomsen has been an assessor since about 2004, he has experience being on a township board since 1993. He feels that the town is undervalued, needs a market adjustment. Thomsen agreed to talk with Marlene Wardner to get all the information she has

regarding this. Board members will look into how much the county will cost to become assessor, and Thomsen will get his questions answered and come back with a price for his work.

Chester's Tavern would like permission to be open Sunday May 17, 2020 for a poker tournament, and will also be open to the public. Wagner makes motion to approve Chester's being open on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried.

Rhonda Stradinger with Mercer Community Center sent a letter regarding cleaning wages that she discussed with the City in the fall of 2019. MCC board discussed the issue and came up with an event wage, and a normal cleanup wage that will work better with the MCC budget. The current cleaning person has been out of town a lot, so Rhonda Stradinger is looking at doing a job share and fill in when she's not here. In the past Rhonda has donated her time as needed, but with taking over she would like to get paid for her work. Fiedler makes motion to approve Rhonda to be paid for her work and new changes to wages, Volochenko seconded it. Motion carried.

Harold, CPA, was at last month's meeting and he brought up that we need to raise utility prices, or do special assessments. The city took a big toll with the water project, and then the sewer project. Board will think over the options, possibly holding public input meeting and decide next meeting what will be best option for the city.

Volochenko makes motion to adjourn meeting, Wagner seconded it. Motion carried.

## **Bills to Pay**

Ashley Fiedler - \$923.50

BHG - \$116.70

Derek Fiedler - \$69.26

Farmers Union- MCC \$761.03

Gary Volochenko - \$69.26

IRS (Quarterly) - \$665.55

Job Service (Quarterly) - \$6.08

Julie Wagner - \$69.26

Lloyd Westerlind - \$120

McLean Rural Water – (Water) \$851.87 – (Billing) \$226.60

ND Department of Health - \$ 16.00

ND Rural water systems membership - \$245

Northern Tax - \$86

Otter Tail - \$1,190.53

Randy Zinke - \$69.26

Ron Schatz - \$138.52

Waste Management -\$1,232.21

WRT - \$176.60