

**Stevensville Special Town Council Meeting**  
**Minutes for**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**  
**6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Roll Call: Mayor Dewey, Council members Holcomb, Gibson, Vick and Shourd. Staff and members of the community were also present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Unfinished Business

Mayor Dewey started the meeting, discussion of FY2020 Budget. Council member Gibson requested to start with the Police Department's request for vehicles. Chief Marble explained the reasoning behind the department's two vehicle requests, including the current vehicle inventory and their status as far as maintenance. They have to put a bid with the state and the price can range from \$30,000 - \$40,000 depending on the type of vehicles and bid. \$45,000 per unit is a reasonable price, fully outfitted, which is about \$15,000. The purchase of the vehicles would be coming out of Capital Improvement. Discussion about the current vehicle inventory took place, as well as a picture sent to a council member about a fully-equip police vehicle parked at residential location.

Council member Gibson would like us to "tally" where we are at in the budget so that we do not end up spending more than the estimated revenue.

A Motion "and later a Resolution" was made by Council member Gibson to allocate 1 vehicle for the Police Department, at \$40,000. Council member Holcomb explained, a Motion now then the Resolution comes later. The Motion was Seconded by Council member Holcomb. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment. Council member Shourd asked that if we do not purchase the second vehicle, this will not be leaving an officer without a vehicle; No but the Chief explained that with the purchase of 2 vehicles, the cost of maintenance would decrease.

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Leanna Rodabaugh, 204 Ravalli.

She was wondering what type of vehicle the Chief was driving, how old it is, how many miles, and what type of gas mileage it gets.

Chief Marble answered, with 2013 Dodge Ram, about 41,000 miles; He would have to look up the manufacture information but estimating 17/23. He continued to explain that the trucks are the least expensive.

Nancy Lowell, 21 Church St

Clarification on the \$40,000 coming from the Police Department's budget and the Publicity/Subscriptions was so high; Software. Professional Services is DUI Blood draws, which is expensive.

Jeannie McKinley, 401 Charlo St.

Interested in the maintenance costs and where the maintenance is done; There is one individual who performs the maintenance for the purpose of them knowing the vehicle and the history.

Mayor Dewey called for the Vote of Council. The Motion passes 4-0.

Council member Gibson made the Motion to Not fund the FTE. The Motion died from Lack of Second.

Council member Vick asked for clarification from Chief Marble, the FTE would staff the Police Department, with Chief, 2 FTE, SRO and Police Clerk. The Police Dept would then have an officer on duty at nights, Yes. There was discussion about the Sheriff's Department, as far as their role in patrolling, while being covered by taxes.

Council member Gibson re-made the Motion to Not fund the FTE. The Motion died from Lack of Second.

Water and Sewer were discussed, including rates and the bonds which were adopted on a scheduled increase over time. Mayor Dewey clarified that the decision to increase the water rates was a decision made by Council 4 years ago. Council member Gibson clarified why he was making this Motion based on funds.

Council member Gibson made a Motion to decrease the water and sewer rates by 3% November 1<sup>st</sup>2019, the water O&M (not "freezing the rates but lowering them by 3%). The Motion was Seconded by Council member Holcomb.

There was discussion that the maximum decrease any household will see is \$1.52 and the \$60,000 would be set aside each year to pay for as much of the project in cash rather than debt. There discussion on what the engineers presented last week. Council member Shourd has a concern because the rates were not adjusted for a long period of time in the past, which made them have such a large percentage increase.

The Mayor explained the Motion can pass tonight to lower the water rates, although we have a resolution in the books, adopted by a previous council, scheduled to increase those rates. Council Gibson changed the wording in his Motion to rescind the last Resolution. Mayor Dewey explained, with the Motion brought forward, that would have to go back to Accounting to make those revenue adjustments in the books, then the administration will come back with a resolution to reduce the rates and going through the public hearing process, then going through the final adoption process. Mayor Dewey recommended keeping this a as a Motion to reflect the 3% decrease because the public has not had adequate notice.

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Unknown; Wanted clarification on the continual increase but the funds are not being used currently, they are for later.

Mayor Dewey clarified that the money is for the Phase Four Water Project., decided by council at that time, the intent was to pay cash, not run another bond. There was more discussion with Council about TSEP opportunities in the future, where up to \$750,000 could be available to lessen the tax burden on the citizens.

Tim Tadvick, 509 Mission St.

Clarification on the Phase Four Project taking place four years from now and he supports the 3% decrease.

Lisa Tadvick, 509 Missoin St.

Her opinion is that lowering the water costs would be the best boost for the community.

Mayor Dewey called for the Vote and the Motion passes 4-0.

Council member Gibson made a Motion to hire 2 Seasonal/Part-time Employees as the head of Public Works requested & not 1 FTE. The Motion was then Seconded by Council member Vick. Discussion about the difference between how temporary employees versus FTE impact the General Fund was discussed, and the percentage would be appreciated by Council.

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Unknown, commented on the Seasonal employees and pot holes.

Mayor Dewey called for the called for the Vote. Motion passes 4-0.

The next Motion made was to Not purchase a vehicle for the Building Department, which was made by Council member Gibson. The Motion was Seconded by Council member Holcomb. The Building Department was discussed, including who works in the Building Department and their working hours and time of travel. Mayor Dewey clarified the amount budgeted to purchase a vehicle for the Building Department was \$35,000. They do have funds in the Building Department. And they can only use those funds for building code enforcement. Council member Gibson would like to see the Building Inspectors turn in their mileage reimbursement sheets. Mayor Dewey called for the Vote and the Motion passes, 4-0.

Council member Holcomb made a Motion to Not give the Main Street Association \$10,000. The Motion was Seconded by Council member Vick.

Conversation about the Stevensville Main Street Association and its history took place.

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment, then called for the Vote. Council member Vick "Abstain," Holcomb "Aye," Shourd "Aye," Gibson "Aye." The Motion Passes, 3- Abstain

Intermission was called and the meeting reconvened.

At the last meeting, on September 12, 2019 a pay scale was given out, displaying all current employees' salaries, and how those salary schedules would change for each employee in the proposed budget. Each employee's position, their current rate of pay, what that would include for FY 19-20 with a Merit Increase, Merit plus COLA 2.4% Increase and what that increase would amount to yearly, ending with their FY20 Total Annual Pay. The FY19-20 Rate of Pay increases totaled \$358.01. The FY19-20 COLA 2% "across the board" totaled \$350.15. The Difference between the two proposed, FY19-20 Merit plus 2.4% COLA increase and a 2% for all employees was \$27,382. Council member Gibson asked the question if this was less than the Proposed Budget. The Financial Officer reassured him, yes. Council member Gibson made a Motion for all employees to receive a 2% COLA increase to their wage after they have reached the 6-month period of employment for FY2020. The Motion was then Seconded by Council member Holcomb. The intent of the Administration is to continually present the Budget, according to the changes which have been made. Council member Gibson would like to see how much Revenue and Expenditures with the changes being made. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment. Chief Marble clarified, if the 2% was COLA, or if there is a raise. The clarification was 2% across the board. Mayor Called then called for the Vote. The Motion passed 4-0.

Discussion about Council's monthly stipend was discussed. Council member Gibson made a Motion, as of January 1, 2020, each Council member will get a small increase to that stipend, which will increase to \$225 month. The Motion was then Seconded by Council member Holcomb. Council member Shourd made it known that, he will be Abstaining from this vote because he is running in November. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Jim Tadvick, 509 Mission St.

Would like to see it raise to \$250/MO.

Mayor Dewey called for the Vote. Council member Holcomb "Aye," Gibson "Aye," Vick "Aye," & Shourd "No." Motion Passes 3-1.

There were a few questions from Council for the Mayor Dewey about the Packet on 9/6/2019, including clarification on line items, Revenues and funds allocated in particular areas, such as the Big Sky Fund Grant, funds from the General Fund to the Capital Fund, and the Planning Fund.

Council member Shourd made a Motion to compensate department heads and employees a \$50 "longevity bonus" on employees' 1YR anniversary of employment, as an incentive for their commitment to the organization. Seconded by Council member Vick. Council member Shourd Rescinded his Motion and Council member Vick made a Motion to Table the discussion on incentive pay until September 24th meeting. Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment and called for the Vote of Council. Motion Passes 4-0.

4. Public Comments

Mayor Dewey called for Public Comment.

Jim Tadvick, 509 Mission St.

Discussed prior conversations at council meetings about the fireworks and how they were being paid for.

Jeannie McKinley, 401 Charlo St.

Jeannie would like to see the people of the town raise the money from whom want the fireworks, instead of coming from tax payers.

Mayor clarified that the intent is not to pay for fireworks, that is why there is a Revenue line and an Expenditure line.

5. Adjournment

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:11 p.m.**

**APPROVE:**

**ATTEST:**

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Brandon E. Dewey, Mayor

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Monica Hoffman, Town Clerk