

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF WESTCLIFFE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2020
REGULAR MEETING**

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CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wenke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mayor Wenke, Ms. Cole, Ms. Snow, Mr. Frickell, Mr. Nordyke, Mr. Cline and Mr. Johnston

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Wenke led the Pledge of Allegiance

OTHERS PRESENT

Lucas Epp 104 N. Adams Blvd., Inge Munden-491 Shawnee Trail, Elaine Chavanon- High Altitude Garden Club, Sheriff Byerly, Jay Printz, Ed Stefanich and Kathy Reis

Financial:

- a. Treasurer's Report: Clerk Reis submitted written reports. With 58.3 percent of the year having elapsed, the General Fund has collected 62.3 percent of budgeted revenues and spent 52.7 percent of budgeted expenditures. Capital Fund has collected 41.2 percent of budgeted revenues and spent 30.9 percent of budgeted expenditures. Sales tax for May was up by 18.72 percent, which is up 31.02 percent from the previous year-to-date.

Account balances:		
General Fund Checking:	\$	127,960.99
CSafe-GF Core 11:	\$	146,794.56
CSafe-3% Tabor Reserve:	\$	21,373.58
CSafe-General Fund Reserve-14:	\$	161,452.16
Municipal Court Checking:	\$	12,489.15
Tennis Court Checking:	\$	1,107.70
Conservation Trust Fund Checking:	\$	37,455.69
Capital Fund Checking:	\$	76,722.70
CSafe-CF Core 12:	\$	219,665.74
Total C.D.'s plus interest:	\$	201,344.70

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of minutes
- b. Treasurer's Report
- c. Approval of Bills

Mr. Frickell moved and **Ms. Cole** seconded to the consent agenda. Motion carried.

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OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

a. Review and consideration of request to approve an MOU between the Town of Westcliffe and the High-Altitude Garden Club.

Inge Munden with the High-Altitude Garden Club discussed with the board regarding some concerns and asked for a few additions to the MOU as follows:

The idea for the MOU is to document the projects the Garden Club does in Town. The Club has been in existence since 1996. The club doesn't have the manpower or resources to continue as actively as we did when we had seventy young members. There are now forty older members. We would like the Town to know what we do in town.

1. The barrels: In the past it was a small subsidy from the Garden Club. This year due to the situation the Garden Club planted the barrels at the Club's expense and made it a gift to the Town. In the future if this continues, we would like the Town to aid the merchants in the payment for the barrels. That is a bridge we would need to cross when the time comes.

2. Jess Price Park: We would be happy to continue the maintenance and planting. We would like the Town to continue with the maintenance such as watering, and consider providing the mulch and replace the edging around the plantings. We would like to know the mowing and watering schedule and weed control in the grass.

3. Main Street Planters: The club went through 2 years of planning with the Town to place them. The club is requesting the planters stay in their current locations. Movement of the planters has caused deterioration of their condition. We asked that the planters be a no parking zone, originally the planters were placed in no parking zones with the curb being painted yellow. We are asking that the curb in front of the planter on Main Street at Jess Price Park be painted.

The other concern was listed on page 5 regarding moving the planters. If they need moved, the club would like to be contacted and have the artwork protected. The question was asked as to why the planters would need to be moved. Some of the reasons they may need moved could be water line breaks or curb repair.

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NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

A concern was that if it was an emergency repair and the Town couldn't be reached, the planters would need to be moved. The board agreed every effort will be made to contact the Garden Club. The Town has to have the right to move them if needed and if they were damaged, the Town would be responsible for the repair. Ms. Munden said they would very much appreciate it if the Town would communicate with the Club. Mayor Wenke requested that this be added to the MOU.

Mayor Wenke asked Clerk Reis where the planter on 2nd and Main was originally and why was it moved. Clerk Reis stated it was originally located on the southeast side of 2nd Street and Main. It was moved to the south side of Main and 2nd during the Second Street road construction project. It was supposed to be moved back to that location.

4. Round Wood Pavilion at Hermit Park: In 2015 the Garden Club was asked to plant a small garden under the trees. It was our understanding that the trees had been moved 3 times. The trees had been neglected long before they came to the care of the Garden Club. Could the Town consider putting this in as part of the grant as assistance to the Garden Club? The trees need to be pruned. It would be very hard to put a garden beneath them.

She asked permission to bring an Arborist in to look at the trees at Hermit Park. The trees could use pruning to make them last longer and for aesthetics. After further discussion the board members agreed the Town should pay for this and would like a couple of estimates. The Town would need to contract with the company or person to trim the trees. Mayor Wenke and Town Manager Stefanich will meet Inge and the Arborist at the park at 10:00 Wednesday. The Mayor would also like all the Town trees looked at and a bid for those as well. The board agreed.

It was suggested to contact local companies as well. Mayor Wenke also stated that the Garden Club shouldn't be responsible for taking care of the Town trees, but appreciate their help.

5. Sally's Garden-Memorial Park: It receives general watering when the park is watered. Having the watering schedule would help plan for working on the garden. Is it possible to get the combo to the water spicket to allow us to water the garden?

6. West Main Street Tree project: Ms. Munden thanked the Town for agreeing to water the trees for an additional year. It would be helpful if those trees have a winter watering. Is it possible to water one time after Labor Day and early in the spring?

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NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

Clerk Reis reported that the tank on the truck is usually taken off after the parks are winterized in mid-September and re-energized mid-May. It all depends on how the night temperature as to when this all happens. Ms. Munden also asked for this schedule.

A concern was that those tanks drain too quickly. The valve could be closed a little to allow slower watering in the fall.

Mayor Wenke suggested that the Town put a certain amount in the Town budget for the Garden Club. In the past the Garden Club didn't feel they needed it. If the Garden Club needs something in addition to maintenance, that would need to be requested through the grant cycle.

Ms. Munden thought it would be great. Would the club then only apply for a grant for a special project. The Mayor said-yes. The funds would have to be spent in Town property.

Ms. Munden also stated it would be a booking keeping issue for the club as they also do projects in the Town of Silver Cliff and at the Court House for the County. Clerk Reis suggested that the Town put a certain amount in the budget, the Garden Club could give us receipts just as the Rotary Van Service does, which I would track. Ms. Munden agreed.

Mayor Wenke asked that the Garden Club give us a figure. Ms. Munden will present this idea to the Club. She also said they would like to email a draft grant for review prior to providing eight copies and understands the grant is due by August 31st. She thanked the Town for taking time to listen.

The question came up as to the damage on the planter at Third and Main, was it caused by the Town and should the Town pay for it? After discussion it was determined that the refurbishment of the planters should be applied for through the grant process.

A re-cap of the discussion: 1. The Garden Club will apply for a grant for the refurbishment of the planters. 2. Provide the board an amount needed annually for work you normally do.

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NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

b. Sheriff Report.

Sheriff Byerly reported that the report you received isn't even close to correct due to the current system being used. The issues have been identified as to why the data is inaccurate. It was due to the filters used. It was pulling figures from Fremont County. This is being fixed. I will have better information regarding actual numbers allowing discussion for budget time. The second report is accurate. Westcliffe in the first quarter had 903 calls for service, Criminal investigations of 89 for the first is accurate, 87 for the second quarter. He verified this himself.

Crimes are up and different crimes that we haven't seen here before due to the volume of people. The number of burglaries is up.

Sheriff Byerly also relayed that talks need to happen regarding budget. We can't keep deputies at the wages we pay. We are down 25%. It is very hard to get people to work here for \$16.00 per hour. There are only three deputies out of nineteen employees that own a house in the county. He would like to schedule a workshop with at least one commissioner and a couple board members from each town to discuss this. We need to start thinking about how to come up with funds needed within the next few years. It may be the end of August before we get accurate numbers to allow these discussions.

STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Report from Town Clerk

Chamber of Commerce – They will be operating through August 31st and asked if they would receive the \$250.00 Visitor Center support funds. The Board of Trustees agreed that it should be paid.

Roth Lot – Watson Land called asking if the Town would be interested in purchasing the lot at Main and Adams for \$120,000. The Town currently leases the lot. After discussing the importance of commercial lots available, the Board of Trustees agreed it would not be in the best interest of the community to purchase it.

Clean up day – Silver Cliff will be doing their town cleanup day September 19th. They will be doing it a little differently, trash trucks will be parked by the Silver Cliff town shop, citizens will take items to that location for disposal. They are making arrangements for those that can't take the items there. Do we want to do it the same

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STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

way and the same date? After further discussion regarding COVID concerns, it was decided to do it as in the past, driving through town picking items up. The date for the pickup was set for September 12th, meeting here at the Town Hall at 7:30 a.m.

b. Report from Town Manager

No report.

c. Report from Mayor Wenke

Budget Workshop -he asked that the board members attend and be prepared to provide projects for the 2021 budget, allowing the town manager time to get costs for the budget. The workshop was set for August 17th at 2:00.

Strategic Plan – Mayor Wenke asked the board members if they thought it would be good to meet with Sherly Trent to get back on track? After discussion they asked the Clerk to schedule time with her in September. It can be determined after that if there is a need for her services in 2021.

CARES Funds – Mayor Wenke updated the board on the progress of how the funds will be distributed. The commissioners and the two town mayors will be meeting weekly to develop a process for requests from businesses, etc. They will also hire a person to administer the program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lucas Epp introduced himself to the board members as he will be running for County Commissioner as a write in. He thanked them for their time.

Mayor Wenke moved and **Mr. Johnston** seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Recorded by:
Kathy Reis
Town Clerk