

**Mechanic Falls Town Council**  
**June 1, 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tarsha Downing, Vice Chair  
John Emery II  
Kieth Bennett, Chair  
Rose Aikman

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Zakk Maher – Town Manager  
Julie Ward – Town Clerk  
Lisa Prevost-Treasurer  
Alan Plummer-CEO  
Fred Sturtevant- Fire Chief  
Jack Conway- Town Attorney  
John Damon- Deputy Fire  
Nancy Petersons, Librarian

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Steve Sherlock, Sun Journal  
Peter Ford  
Rudy Kyllonen  
Tom Walton  
Sean Cleary

Christopher Strout  
Jen Casey  
Justin Starbird  
Halsey Copp  
Mary Allen

Paula Stotts  
John Lovely  
Jess Smith  
Adam Lee

**1.0** Councilor Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

**2.0** We stood and saluted the flag.

**3.0** Roll Call complete

**4.0 General Reports**

**4.1 Meeting Minutes for April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 4th**

Councilor Emery motioned to accept amended meeting minutes from April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 4th, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted.

**4.2 Department Reports as submitted**

Councilor Bennett motioned to accept the Department reports as submitted, seconded by Councilor Aikman, all in favor unanimous.

## **5.0 Public Hearing**

### **5.1 Municipal Budget Warrants**

Councilor Aikman asked about revenue sharing from the state. Town Manager Zakk Mayer stated that there has been nothing set in stone from the State. Homestead Exemptions are due to increase and so was the percentage of revenue sharing the municipalities were to receive, but until Legislature is called back to session to make decisions it's still unclear. Councilor Aikman was concerned about the budget and how revenue sharing would affect the Town. Town Manager Zakk Maher stated that without the school budget there was a reduction in our Budget and we do have enough in the General Fund to cover shortfalls if necessary.

### **6.0 Public Comments**

Paula Stotts of Standpipe Rd asked that since the Governor had increased that amount of people for gatherings, if the Planning Board would be able to meet in person. Town Manager Zakk Maher said he was not sure if it was feasible at this time.

### **7.0 Old Business**

#### **7.1 22 Pleasant Street Update**

Town Manager Zakk Maher stated there was one showing but nothing had come of it. He said there might be some repairs that need to be done to the hand railing and side entrance door. Councilor Aikman asked what the listing price was and what the Town had paid. Listing is 550k and it was purchased for 389k. Councilor Emery asked if the Public Works could do the repairs, and Town Manager stated he could check with them.

#### **7.2 Council Discussion Topics**

Councilor Bennett wants to look into having a hybrid meeting. Councilor Aikman wanted to know if we would be able to meet in person next month, Town Manager Zakk Maher stated the 6ft social distancing is the big issue and what the Governor is requiring.

#### **7.3 Before and Aftercare Lease**

Councilor Aikman motioned to approve, seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor so voted. Councilor Aikman stated she was ok with since the electric bill was added.

#### **7.4 Tax Relief**

Governor passed a pardon to help municipalities that had already passed an extension. Town Manager informed the council there were approximately 182 accounts that are unpaid with a balance of around 177k.

## **8.0 New Business**

### **8.1 Councilor Konstantoulakis Resignation**

Councilor Aikman motioned to accept Councilor Konstantoulakis resignation letter, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor so voted.

Town Manager Zakk Maher explained that it was too late to add additional position to the ballot, due to nomination paper timeline had passed. Councilor Aikman motioned to accept applications to fill the vacancy until 2021 and to appoint in the August, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor unanimous.

### **8.2 Fraternal Order of Police Contract**

Councilor Aikman asked if the Town Attorney had looked over the contract. Town Manager Zakk Maher stated that he had reviewed on 2 different occasions. Councilor Emery stated it similar existing contract with minor changes and felt confident in what the contract states.

Councilor Aikman motioned to approve the Fraternal Order of Police Contract, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor so voted.

### **8.3 Municipal Budget Warrant Articles**

Councilor Emery motioned to accept the Municipal Budget Warrant Articles, seconded by Councilor Aikman, all in favor so vote.

### **8.4 Municipal Bond Question**

Council Aikman motioned to accept Municipal Bond Questions, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted.

### **8.5 RSU 16 Warrant Articles**

The packet had previously approved verbiage, RSU is still waiting for guidance from Governor on how to handle the district meeting. They added 3 articles because of no district meeting. The articles will be included on our ballots.

Councilor Bennett motioned to accept both ballots, seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor 3-1 Rose Aikman voted against.

## **8.6 Annual Appointments**

The following are up for annual reappointments:

Animal Control Officer- Robert Larrabee  
Assessor- O'Donnell & Associates  
Auditor-Smith & Associates  
General Assistance Administrator- Rebecca Andrews  
General Assistance Hearing Board- Danielle Loring  
EMA Director- Tom Doherty  
Town Forrester- Greg Seamans  
Registrar of Voters- Julie Ward  
Health Officer- Alan Plummer  
Fire Inspector- Fred Sturtevant  
Town Clerk- Julie Ward  
Code Enforcement Officer-Alan Plummer  
Road Commissioner- Scott Penney  
Town Treasurer- Lisa Prevost

Councilor Aikman motioned to approve annual appointments seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted.

## **8.7 Removal of Planning Board Member**

The Planning board asked Council to remove Jeremy Klar from the Planning Board because of several missed meetings and no contact with the Town.

Councilor Emery motioned to remove Jeremy Klar from the Planning Board, seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor so voted.

Paula Stotts of Standpipe Road stated he was no longer a resident of the Town and has moved to Minot. The Planning Board Procedures due state if you have missed 3 unexcused meetings you may be removed.

## **8.8 Summer Rec Camp Budget**

Halsey Copp ran the program last year with Jenna Pursley who will be returning this year to help. They are looking for one councilor to work 9-3 for \$12.00 an hour. The time frame for Summer Camp is June 22<sup>nd</sup>-August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Parents will be required to sign a waiver about COVID-19 and they will be taking temps at the door. RSU 16 usually provides food, but has not had final meeting but confident that it will be a go.

Councilor Emery motioned to approve Budget, seconded Councilor Downing, all in favor unanimous.

## **8.9 Recreation Summer Programming**

Justin Starbird reached out to Minot and Poland on how they were handling Summer sports. They will be using

state guidelines. Town Manager Zakk Maher has left it up to the Recreation Committee to make the decisions. They will have T-Ball, Major Softball, Minor Baseball, they are still waiting to make a decision on Major Baseball. There will be 15-17 games schedule without Poland teams. There will be no sharing bats, helmets, gloves, and no bench sitting.

Councilor Aikman asked about age groups. Rec will offer T-ball, Rookies are ages 6-9 and 9-12 softball. It will be the parent's task to keep their child safe.

Councilor Bennett motioned to have Justin Starbird be in charge of handling Recreation Sports as long as he follows the bi laws and state guidelines, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor so voted.

## **9.0 Ordinances, Resolves, Policies and Licenses**

### **9.1 Mobile Vendor Permits**

Due to the governor's recent orders, restaurants are limited to out door seating. The follow establishments would like a mobile vendor permit with the application fee of \$50.00waived:

Kathy's Dinner	Little Brick Pub	Mill House Pub	Exceptional
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Councilor Aikman motioned to accept mobile vending permits, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor so voted.

### **9.2 Office Closure June 30<sup>th</sup> @ 12pm**

Councilor Aikman motioned to approve closure, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor so voted.

### **9.3 Office Closure July 4th**

July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday, so the office will close on Thursday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12pm and closed all day Friday.

Councilor Downing Motioned to approve closure, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor so voted.

### **9.4 Proposed changes to FOAA Policy**

Councilor Emery motioned to table until next public meeting, seconded my Councilor Aikman, all in favor so voted.

Councilor Bennet motioned to suspend Roberts Rules of Order and move to executive session for legal counsel, seconded my Councilor Emery, all in favor sot voted.

## **10.0 Executive Session**

## **10.2 Legal Counsel**

Councilor Emery motioned to go into executive session Title 1 MRS Sec 405 (6)(E), seconded by Councilor Bennett, all in favor, unanimous entered executive session @ 7:47pm

Out of executive session approximately 8:10pm

## **9.5 Resolution RE: Town Manager Removal**

Councilor Aikman motioned to table indefinitely, seconded by Councilor Emery, all in favor so voted.

## **9.6 Resolution RE: Town Manager Performance**

Councilor Emery motioned to table indefinitely, seconded by Councilor Aikman, all in favor so voted.

## **10.1 Abatement Request**

Councilor Emery motioned to enter executive session TITLE 1 MRS sec 405 (6)(F), seconded by Councilor Downing, all in favor so voted @ 8:20pm

Due to technical difficulties with Zoom Meeting, this item was tabled.

## **11.0 Adjourn:**

Councilor Emery motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Aikman, all in favor, unanimous. Adjourned at 8:26pm

Next Meeting July 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm