

Town of Garden Valley Board of Supervisors Meeting – Friday, 1-13-2023 – immediately following  
Town Caucus  
Garden Valley Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m. by Chairman Casper. Chairman Casper, Supervisors I Richard Larson, Supervisor II Tim Johnston, Clerk/Treasurer Betty Janke and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Cherry Koch-Danke were present. Proper Public Posting was verified,

Richard made a motion to accept the December secretary's report. Tim seconded. Carried.

The Treasurer's report was given. Fund Balances were reviewed and cash/uncashed checks report from prior month was provided. Tim made a motion to approve the treasurers report. Richard seconded. Carried

### **Clerks Correspondence:**

Deputy Clerk asked if board wanted to apply for a line of credit with DeBauche and Productivity Plus which is new company who bought out Value Implement. She was instructed to go ahead and fill out the applications.

Distributed an announcement from the DNR regarding additional land going into Managed Forest Land. Richard provided a brief explanation for citizens in attendance about how that adversely affects the tax rolls for the town. That lead to questions about who advocates for Towns so Richard also commented on how WTA works to protect the interests of Towns.

### **Public Comment:**

Ken Johnson – wants road improved and his driveway maintained differently

Sarah Giese – questioned if board meetings could be scheduled at a different time.

It was explained that over the years the meeting times have been moved around to various days and times and it has not had a positive impact on citizen attendance.

Scott Johnson – questioned if there was policy about when and how roads are maintained and updated and how damage from farmers directly accessing their fields from the roads instead of using driveways was handled. Questioned why meetings are not posted in the paper. Commented that the town patrolman is the best.

Jack and Gloria Austin had signed up to comment, but had already left the meeting.

### **Patrolman's Report**

Arnold presented an estimate for repair for the Freightliner from River States. Board decided to take a wait and see approach to see if the sensor light comes on again and decide at that time

Arnold asked if he should go ahead and order bulk oil now that we are in the new year. He was advised to go ahead and make the purchase.

He asked if there was flexibility in the hours of the day he works. The Employee Handbook says 7:00 am to 3:30 pm, but sometimes the heating of the day in the winter is best in mid to late afternoon and he could do a better job of removing slush if he could shift his day to work later. Board advised he should go ahead and use his best judgement.

He asked if they should consider cable for the front of the two town trucks. The board responded they feel this is a safety issue and he should check into costs and report back.

### **Old Business:**

1. Richard had information that Dea Jacobson is interested in doing the cleaning of the town hall. Betty will contact her to see if arrangements can be made.
2. Ronnie reported on his meeting with the Zoning Department Director for Jackson County. They are beginning work on an update to the County Comprehensive Plan and will look to acknowledging the changes made to the Town of Garden Valley Comprehensive Plan as they do so.
3. Cherry presented an updated Job Description for the Appointed Town Clerk position. The board approved the document for use during the search and hiring of a new clerk.
4. Cherry presented an Ad for posting to hire the new clerk if it is needed. It will be used if they need to put an ad in the newspaper and/or shopper.

### **New Business:**

1. Claims for towing and window glass repair from the Big Snowstorm have been paid by the insurance company already.
2. Vince Ruzic was asked to speak about the make up of the Fire Board. A member of the Town Board is required to represent the town on the Fire Board. Tim Johnston will attend the next meeting with Vince and decisions will be made at that time. Vince also advised they are adding the Village of Merrilan to the Fire Board and will be purchasing new trucks. Merrilan has a building that might accommodate the new trucks.
3. Months when Town Board Officials will be paid, and for what period of time they will be paid was clarified. This was necessary to allow the Deputy Clerk to properly report pay and calculate correct pay for changes made in December. The Chairman and two Supervisors will be Paid in March for the prior six months (September through February) and in September for the prior six months (March through August).
4. Brief discussion about extra help for Arnold during major storm events. Ronnie and Tim both helped out during the last Big Snow Storm, each putting in about 30 hours. Arnold commented that its important that whoever gets in one of the plow trucks not only knows how to drive it, but knows where the turn arounds are because in a big storm they are hard to find if you don't know the roads. It takes him about 6 to 8 hours to do a full round of plowing of all the roads IF there are no trees down that he or someone else has to cut up.
5. Board acted on Zoning Change Request from Jimmy Castner to change 3 acres from R2 to R6 so they can keep horses, donkeys and goats on a hobby farm. Board approved the request.
6. Discussion about Patrolman's cell phone account. Ronnie is checking into alternate plans but it appears the one he has is the most economical. He will continue to work with US Cellular about upgrading the phone itself. Second flip phone on the account that is no longer used will be cancelled.
7. Credentials were obtained from Tim Johnston, Supervisor II so he can be added to the towns insurance policy with Rural Mutual.
8. Ronnie provided copies of a couple examples of Utility Permits from other municipalities to the Supervisors. They will review and discuss at a future meeting for possible adoption.

### **Review of Bills and Payments:**

Bills were approved.

Next meeting Regular Town Board Meeting is set on Friday, February 10th, 2023. At 9:45 a.m.

Motion by Richard, seconded by Tim to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherry Koch-Danke  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

Attest:

Betty Janke, Clerk/Treasurer

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Date \_\_\_\_\_