

FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2022

The December 13, 2022 meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at 118 W River Street in Fromberg. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order by Nate Caton President of the Town Council, who was standing in for Mayor Tim Nottingham who was not present. Council members present were Councilman Bill Gruel, Councilman Dave Stapleton and Councilman James Lister. Others present were Clerk Lacey Breeding, Public Works Director Jay Carter and Sheriff John Croft. Also present were Elton Kirtley and A. Ray McPhail.

The meeting opened with Deputy Croft summarizing the activity of the Police Department within Fromberg during the month of November 2022. He informed that there had been 20 calls for service and 71 hours and 14 minutes of patrol time.

Next was public comment. Elton Kirtley initiated public discussion with a question of whether or not the Town had an emergency plan for the spring of 2023 in the case of a second flood disaster to affect the Town. President/Councilman Caton explained the projects the county has been said to be working on along the river bordering the town. Caton also informed that those projects will be very expensive and it's not known who will have to pay for them. He added that the Town of Fromberg does not have the financial means to pay for such projects unless large grants were to become available as an option for the town. Clerk Breeding informed that she would like to put emergency plan as a topic on an agenda in one of the council meetings that take place before spring of 2023. Breeding would like the town members to help come up with a "procedure" to be followed in case of another emergency such as flooding. It was Breeding's opinion that if there was ever another emergency that she would like to be able to make notifications smoother and more efficient. Councilman Stapleton agreed and instructed Clerk Breeding to add the topic to one of the council meetings this winter.

Next there was a motion made by Councilman Stapleton to approve the minutes for the November 08, 2022 meeting. Councilman Gruel provided a second and the motion was carried out with votes as follows; Councilman Gruel, -aye. Councilman Stapleton, -aye. Councilman Lister, -aye.

Following that was the approval of claims for the month of November 2022. Councilman Stapleton made a motion to approve the claims and Councilman Gruel provided a second. The motion was carried out with votes as follows; Councilman Gruel, -aye. Councilman Stapleton, -aye. Councilman Lister, -aye.

Next was the approval of payroll for the month of November. Councilman Stapleton made a motion to approve the payroll and

Councilman Gruel provided a second. The motion was carried out with votes as follows; Councilman Gruel, -aye. Councilman Stapleton, -aye. Councilman Lister, -aye.

The first item of old business was to continue discussion on possible change of town legal counsel. Little updates had been acquired for this topic since the previous council meeting. President/Councilman Caton decided the topic would need to be tabled and revisited at the January 2023 meeting.

Next on the agenda for old business was continuation of discussion about the town's current table of fees. Clerk Breeding informed that she put this item on the agenda so she could ask the council how they want her to begin and proceed with the information that will be needed for this topic in the future along with the water/sewer codes and ordinances. President/Councilman Caton advised clerk Breeding to start gather all ordinances that pertain to the public utilities that the town furnishes for the residents. Caton also asked if it would be acceptable to allow the public works to give "bids" on utility line projects as he sees fit and as they are requested. The council agreed to utilize that plan.

After that was new business and the first topic of opening the sealed bids for the two items up for bid. One item being the green dodge town pickup w/plow attached and the other being a flatbed pickup bed. President/Councilman Nate opened the sealed bids and sorted them by item being bid on. He then proceeded to read each bid aloud for both items. The town had received 2 bids for the flatbed and 3 bids for the dodge pickup. The winning bid on the flatbed was \$1,151.00 made by A.Ray McPhail from Joliet, Montana. The winning bid for the pickup was \$1801.00 also from A.Ray McPhail.

Next on the agenda for new business was to brainstorm the task of getting bids, as requested by FEMA, for repairs needed on the town park and the baseball park. Discussion was had and the decision was made for PWS Jay Carter to get rough estimates from 3 different landscaping companies that are considered local.

No legal counsel was present.

Jay Carter then summarized the happenings of the previous month of November 2022. He gave updates on the new shop door and its completion along with information on repairs of kinds he had had to deal with on different town equipment. Discussion was had about the condition of the town equipment and their remaining longevity. Carter was then asked to begin searching for a skid steer to replace the one that has started to become inadequate for the needs in the town. Carter was also told to start replacing tires on equipment a little at time.

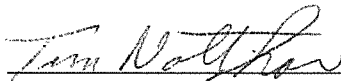
Next Clerk Breeding informed that the town is now on its last category with FEMA submissions. Breeding also expressed her concern over the importance of FEMA reimbursement. She also gave updates on what costs FEMA had denied for reimbursement. Discussion was had about appealing such denials.

The final item on the agenda was Mayor/Council Comment.

Councilman Lister informed of a local newspaper article whose headline had been misleading and causing negative comments towards the town. Lister also requested to have copies of the council meeting sign-in sheets from here on out. Lister explained that he thinks it is necessary to know the names of which attendees were actually present at the meeting to aid in shutting down unnecessary slander towards the town. Councilman Stapleton the requested an update from public works on the sewer line that had been considered an emergency. Jay Carter provided an update on the matter with an unknown timeline and a feud unresolved feud between the engineer, contractors and Railroad Company.

The next regular meeting was set for January 10, 2023 and there being no further business, Councilman Gruel made the motion to Adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Stapleton. The motion to Adjourn was carried out with votes as follows: Councilman Gruel- aye, Councilman Stapleton- aye and Councilman Lister, -aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



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Tim Nottingham, Mayor

Attest:



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Lacey Breeding/Clerk