

**Town of Big Flats**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 9, 2024**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Reed called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. All board members present.

The Pledge was recited.

**Approval of Bills:** Motion by Supervisor Kipfer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Clark to pay the bills.

**Motion Carried**

**Approval of Previous Months Minutes:** Motion by Supervisor Kipfer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Clark to approve the minutes from the previous month's minutes.

Chairman Reed thanks the three election workers, Pam, Cleo & Mindy, for all the hours they put in at the polls.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Reed read balances for all accounts. There were no questions. Chairman Reed asked for the reports to be filed for audit.

**Correspondence:** passed out, Chairman Reed, read the information to the people.

**Fire Department Report:** Chief Meyers reported for January there was 1 accident, 10 medical assists, 1 vehicle, 1 structure fire, 4 wildfire, 3 mutual aid, 1 false alarm, 3 others. They had training in Wautoma. The DNR Grant has been completed and they are just waiting for reimbursement. Three trucks received new tires. There will be CPR training at Monroe. Someone donated a house for a practice burn in the Town of Monroe. The chief read the financial report.

**Zoning:** Jay Jocham stated he had 5 site inspections and 4 approvals in March. There is an unpermitted mobile home. There is also excessive RVs on a property, he's waiting for documentation for removal. A citation will be issued to a property and he's waiting for legal response. There was an undersized cabin, an architect is working with Adams County on adding an addition to it. He stated that he responded to 28 phone calls and 25 emails.

**Nuisance Committee:** None

**School Rep:** The Adams-Friendship District Administrator talked about how there has been a freeze on what the school receives from the state for each child in the district

since 1993. As of now they receive \$1,100.00 per child. This year they have around 750 children in the district then there was 20 years ago. The state is the one that determines what the schools tax levy will be. In 2021 the mill rate was 7.60. By 2022 the school loan had been paid off. That dropped the mill rate to 5.33. In 2023 the mill rate jumped to 6.14. A Home that was valued at \$100,000 in 2021 jumped to \$126,000 in 2023. With the home and land values going up so did the mill rate that the state sets. This was the reason that the taxes have gone up higher than expected with the referendum.

It was asked what they plan to do with the extra money they have now received. It was stated that they will be doing preventative maintenance. They also plan to put some of the money away. Some of the money has been used for raises. The current middle school was built in 1918.

It was also asked to have the towns assessor come to a meeting,

**Buss Farm water:** Chairman Reed stated that he talked with the DNR and Adams County about Mr. Buss discharging water into the Dead Horse Creek through the drainage tile. Neither one wanted anything to do with it. If he floods anyone's property that would be a civil suit. A discussion was made on the issue. And a motion was made by Supervisor Clark and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Kipfer to deny Mr. Buss's request to pump the water through the drain tiles from the fields on 11<sup>th</sup> Ave and County Rd. C into the Dead Horse Creek. **Motion Carried**

**DNR Resolution Firewise CWPP:** Chairman Reed read the resolution. He stated that this was how the town receives the grant money to help with the cost of the fall brush clean up. A motion was made by Supervisor Kipfer, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Supervisor Clark to except the resolution. **Motion Carried**

Chairman Reed also ask for towns people that would be willing to join the meetings if other people can't make the meetings. It would only be 3 or 4 times a year. He would like 3 or 4 more people.

**Discussion and action on the towns YouTube Channel:** A motion was made by Supervisor Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Supervisor Kipfer to rescind the previous motion about the channel. **Motion Carried**

**Discussion and action on ATV/UTV Road Permit:** Chairman Reed asked if someone would be willing to volunteer fill out the application and draw up a map for the route from 9<sup>th</sup> Ave to 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. There was three people who volunteered to do the application. When asked if the town's people would be willing to pay the cost of \$150.00 it was turned down. The ones that stated they would fill out the volunteered to pay for the cost of the application fee. The board will review everything before it is sent to the county.

A motion was made by Supervisor Clark and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Supervisor Kipfer to allow the three volunteers to fill out the app, pay the \$150 out of their own pocket and drawn up the map. **Motion Carried**

**Discussion and action on rugs for the town hall:** Supervisor Kipfer stated that cost for new rugs would be about \$70.00 a month. There would be a total of 11 rugs.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kipfer, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Supervisor Clark to except the bid for rugs. **Motion Carried**

**Discussion on the 16 letters sent by the Nuisance Committee:** It was decided to table this until another meeting.

**Discussion and action on new operator liquor license:** A motion was made by Supervisor Kipfer, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Supervisor Clark. **Motion Carried**

**Approval of EMS Service Director:** A motion was made by Supervisor Kipfer, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Supervisor Clark to make Stuart McGregor as the new EMS Service Director. **Motion Carried**

### **Announcements:**

- Set next Plan Commission meeting.
- Next regular town meeting, May 14, 2024
- Annual meeting April 16, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Supervisor Kipfer, 2<sup>nd</sup> By Supervisor Clark

**Motion Carried**

*Terri L. Horacek, Town of Big Flats Clerk*