

Warba City Council Meeting November 09, 2009

The Warba city council meeting was called to order by Mayor Don Hawk at 6:30 pm. The pledge of allegiance was said. Council members Kelly McCauley, Cheri Dombrowski and Pat Gilsvik were present as well as Clerk, Niki Mistelske and Treasurer, Tami Elich. Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Pat, seconded by Cheri to accept minutes. Approved 5-0. Treasurer's report was read. A motion by Niki, seconded by Kelly to accept. Approved 5-0. Bills were read. Niki noted mileage was not paid to David for a trip to fill his gas tank with no other business involved, since several trips had been made to town when the gas tank could have been filled – so the Council should determine payment or not. A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Pat to authorize payment, with a side bar that this type of mileage reimbursement should not occur often. Approved 4-1 with Niki casting the No vote. Niki also noted that the credit card bill had not yet arrived. A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Don to authorize payment of the credit card bill in advance to prevent interest fees. Approved 5-0. A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Pat to pay the bills. Approved 5-0.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Northern Lights Charter School representative, Dave Hagman, appeared before the Council to request a decrease in the NLCS water/sewer rate. James Hietala presented information regarding water usage and rates for several schools in the area to support a decreased rate. Kelly provided a copy of general usage information provided by Tim Satrang. Niki presented information regarding rates per pupil for several schools in the area and compared what rate the school would pay if it paid rates comparable to rates residents of the area currently pay. After much discussion, a motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Don to reduce the NLCS water/sewer rate to \$300/quarter retroactive to July 1 (the date the increase to \$750 went in to effect). Approved 3-2 with Kelly, Don and Cheri casting Yes votes – Pat and Niki casting the No votes. Kris Kruger appeared before the Council to request a decrease in the Warba Liquor Store water/sewer rate. Kris stated he based this request on the fact that business has declined, he is now closed 2 days of the week, and that he has recently learned that not all businesses are paying the business rate of \$180. Tami was asked to clarify what each business currently pays. Tami listed as follows: Warba Tire, Casper Leather and Citizen Communications pay \$90 each – Itasca County Garage, Warba Motel and Warba Liquor pay \$180 each. After some discussion it was recognized that some business rates were lowered after the business owner had attended a Council meeting and requested a reduced rate. A motion was made by Niki, seconded by Pat to reduce the Warba Liquor Store water/sewer rate to \$90, but not to be retroactive. Approved 3-2 with Pat, Niki and Cheri casting Yes votes – Don and Kelly casting the No votes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Maintenance: David reported Sam Hendricks has begun trapping out the beaver and muskrat. He has already removed 2 beaver and 10 muskrat. He said the current pelt rate for muskrat is only \$2 a pelt and Sam wanted to know if the City would pay a per muskrat rate. Niki said she was certain that the City had paid a fee in the past. She thought the rate had been \$10 per muskrat, but would have to go back in the minutes to

be certain. All agreed no further research needed to be done, a \$10 per muskrat pelt rate was okay. Niki asked David to remind Sam he needs to submit a claim in order to receive payment. David said he's been working on the fences around the sewer pond, the pumps have been working okay, the water tower winterization class was good and the water tower has now been winterized, Matt should be down to look at the Felix Road in a few weeks and that progress on quanset door installation has been delayed due to deer hunting season. Kelly said he has done some checking on rates for Class 5 gravel, but is concerned about laying the gravel too late in the year. He said if it is too cold the gravel wouldn't bind to other gravel and would wind up being plowed up and into residents' yards during the snow season. If it gets too late, it will be postponed to next year. Don has no information on new motors. He has not yet seen the manuals.

Community Center: Pat requested a new computer be purchased for the Community Center. She said the computer now in use is too slow for internet use. Niki said she sees the computer as a primary tool for research for Pat, David or any other Council member. Research can be done especially by David for supplies or any new procedure type information he may need or for the City to apply for grants. Don reminded all that the computer was to be used for City business only. A motion was made by Niki, seconded by Pat to authorize Pat to purchase a new computer at a cost not to exceed \$800.

Approved 5-0. Pat also noted some of the chairs are in poor condition and asked if she could pick up six chairs or so if the cost didn't exceed \$20/chair. Kelly said he was concerned about more spending on the community center. Niki suggested Pat have David take a look at the chairs and tighten screws or whatever is necessary for repairs or dispose of those not repairable.

Recreation: Cheri reported the Warba-Feeley Rec Board met Oct. 14. They have received \$2,500 in grant money and \$175 in donations to support development of a little league team. It is time to hire skating rink attendants for the winter season so A "Help Wanted" sign has been posted at the post office. Also noted, the Board approved payment to reimburse Ted Vadnais for playground toilet doors materials. The next Board meeting will be at 5:30 pm, Nov. 19 at the Community Center. 50% grant-50% rec funds payment allocation will be discussed at that time.

Fire: Kelly said the Fire Board met Oct. 27. The Fire Department is still looking for a truck and various pension options are still being reviewed.

Cemetery: Tami said the Cemetery Commission met. She provided copies of the revised Cemetery Rules and Regulations. Copies will be made available to the public. She also provided a copy of the updated Warba-Feeley Cemetery Commission Bylaws. The Council agreed to review and act on the revised Bylaws at the next Council meeting. The cemetery addition has been mapped out. The costs will be presented to Warba and Feeley prior to levies done in 2010 for 2011.

Correspondence: The City received notice of the NE MN Wind Energy Forum to be held Nov. 12 at the Mesabi Community College in Virginia. No one voiced an interest in attending. An Enbridge update brochure was received and posted at the USPS. The City also received an information update request from the League of MN Cities. Niki update the contact information and returned.

Old Business: Niki reported a new Xerox multi-function copy machine had been purchased at a cost of \$634 and would be installed Thurs., Nov. 12. Kelly requested any one interested in set up be notified of the installation time. Niki said there will be a \$.029 charge per copy for the first year for maintenance and supplies. Don asked if this was a service contract. Niki said it wasn't presented that way as if it was optional so she would have to check. Niki also requested the City provide some kind of written acknowledgment of the minimum maintenance road inquiry received. Don said he felt the invitation sent to attend a Council meeting was all the correspondence needed. After some discussion, it was agreed Niki would write a rough draft to submit to the Council for approval prior to mailing.

New Business: Since no information was available, review/renewal of a winter plow contract with Ken Seibert was tabled until next month.

Announcements: Tami said there have been no inquiries or contacts as of yet regarding the centennial.

A motion was made by Niki to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kelly. Approved 5-0.