

**Monthly meeting of the Ostrander City Council**  
**February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The monthly meeting of the Ostrander city Council was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mayor Pat Nesler. Council member Erin Volkart was absent, Pam, DJ, Heidi were present.

**Visitors:** Ginger from Leroy news, Jackie Horsman from S.V. Tribune, Brian Malm from Bolton & Menk, Brian Miner Fire Chief and Herb Krueger from Peoples Services.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Motion was made by Pam to approve the agenda and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heidi motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**Public works Director-** Pat Nesler, Tom Mosher and DJ Start continue to remove snow from the streets and Start Farms has been removing snow from the allies and clearing the road to the sewer plant.

**Fire chief-** Brian Miner, There have been no fire calls to report, one falls alarm at the Nursing Home. Brian wanted the council to be aware now that Jimmie is no longer in Ostrander 24/7 we will depend on Spring Valley and LeRoy fire Departments Monday through Friday during the day. Calls will be dispatched from Preston. There is only one fire fighter that is in town during the week days now. The fire department is looking at new pagers; the current pagers are very expensive to repair and are already technically outdated.

**Police Chief –** Tm Mosher has nothing to report, Ostrander has been quiet. Most of Tomes hours in Ostrander have been spent on snow removal. Tom present The Wolf's Den, Siskow's and Susie's Roadhouse with the updated Ordinance.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The approved amount of PTO that can be carried forward is based off of 1 year of earnings according to the ordinance.

Council reviewed the LMCIT workers comp premium; the city has always going the zero deductible premium. Due to the general maintenance description changing from a full to a part time job the city needs to review the quote with LMCIT. DJ made a motion to change the rates to reflect a part time position, Heidi 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried!

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The first meeting of the Year council should designate the depositories of city funds. Due to the fact that Chris just ordered new checks and deposit slips council agreed that we would stay with Security State Bank!

The first meeting of the year council also needs to designate the official newspaper. Chris presented some information from the Bluff Reader and the Fillmore County Journal. It was noted that the Bluff Country Reader covers a larger reading area. A motion was made by Pam to go with the Bluff Country Reader for the official newspaper of Ostrander, was 2<sup>nd</sup> by DJ, motion carried.

Herb Krueger from Peoples Services came to answer any unanswered questions that council had with the service contract for Water/Wastewater. Cost of samples, testing, training and license fees are all included in the quote. Herb presented a contract for 2 to 3 visits a week and 5 visits a week. We asked him to include a cost for meter readings in a draft this would be an additional \$100 on the quote. The

city would still be responsible for any readings on the days Peoples Services would not be in town. All work would done by Peoples Service would be done during normal business hours (8:00 am – 5 pm) All calls out, or items not listed, would be billed at the rate of \$50per hour(normal Hours) and a rate of \$75 per hour (after hours). Herb said he would send a draft copy by the middle of next week (the 11<sup>th</sup> or so) with the revisions and additions to the contact for council to review. Heidi made a motion once reviewing and approving the draft copy to contract with Peoples Services to manage the water/wastewater facilities and read meters for \$1,206.00 a month. Pam 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion once the draft has been reviewed. Motion carried.

**OTHER:**

Brian Malm has been in contact with the MN Historical Society regarding the current water tower. They feel that the water tank appears to retain a high level of historic integrity and could present a problem with funding when taking down the tower. Brian will continue to look for information regarded when the tower was built. We need to find out if the tower was part of the original water system installed in Ostrander. Council provided Brian with a few contacts who might know when the tower was built and Chris will continue to look for information at the office regarding the age of the water tower.

Council also spoke with Brian regarding Peopleservcies taking over the water/waste water system at the end of the month or sooner. Brian said he would not need the 30 days notice that is stated in the contract; Bolten Menk stepped in to help Ostrander until we hired someone!

Amanda has asked the council to approve the wine/3.2 liquor license at Siskow's, paper work has been sent to up state, she has paid for the year. A motion was made by Heidi to approve Siskow's liquor License pending the state's approval. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> per Pam, motion carried.

Council reviewed the options for a park bench presented by Chris. It was agreed that the bench must be stationary, 6 ft, made of a recycled material and able to be engraved as "Property dedicated by the Vina Lund Family". Chris was asked to look into the cost of the bench with shipping and handling!

The community center temperature is set at 70 24/7, Chris asked if it was OK to turn the temperature down to save on the LP bill when it is not in use and Council was fine with that!

Chris ask the council if it was ok to have the auditor come to the office to perform the audit again this year, they were ok with this.

Council asked Chris to include a letter in the next water bill informing them of the updates to the water/sewer/public works responsibilities and if there are any questions or concerns to contact the city.

Chris reminded council that we need to hang the flags on the 18<sup>th</sup> of Feb. for Presidents Day.

Motion was made by DJ to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pam Motion approved to adjournment at 7:25 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion was made by DJ to adjourn and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pam, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd, at 6 P.M.

CHRISTINE HYRKAS  
CITY CLERK/TREASURE

PAT NESLER  
MAYOR