

TOWN OF HUDSON SPECIAL MEETING

(VIRTUAL MEETING)

March 31, 2020

In Attendance: (Virtual)

Members Present: Mayor Janet Winker, **Commissioners:** Larry Chapman, Jonathan Greer, Jeff Link, Rick Shew and Ann Smith

Members Absent: Commissioner Barry Mitchell

Others Present: Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson and Town Attorney, Carroll Tuttle

Call to Order:

Janet called the meeting to order, and conducted a roll call of the members present, including the Town Clerk. Janet stated that due to the mass gathering restrictions for COVID-19, the Board is meeting virtually.

Discuss Payment for Mountain Crest Construction – Hickman Avenue Repairs:

Janet stated that Mountain Crest Construction has requested that their bill be paid, at least partially, for the road repairs done on Hickman Avenue. Janet stated that Mike Willis with Mountain Crest made the request, and he commented that they had paid for the labor and materials for the project, and they are needing cash. Mr. Willis stated that even though the project has not been closed, McGill signed off on the project.

Janet stated that we have asked Matt Oetting, Engineer for the project from McGill if Mountain Crest had done anything wrong in their work, and Matt indicated they had done nothing wrong. Janet stated that Mr. Willis is aware that more work is probably going to need to be done on the project, and she suggested that we withhold a 10% retention from the payment.

Carroll stated that he agrees since the work has been done and the engineer has signed off on the work, the contract needs to be paid, or at least a portion of what is owed.

Rebecca stated that she had discussed the repairs that still need to be made on the two sites with Matt Oetting, and she let him know that the Town would not be responsible for paying for the additional repairs. Rebecca suggested that a letter be sent to McGill letting them know that the Town would not be paying for the additional repairs (corrections) to the sites.

Janet requested that the Board be sent a copy of the letter before it is mailed to McGill.

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Rick Shew) to pay Mountain Crest Construction for the repairs made to date to the Hickman Avenue site less a 10% retention until the project is complete. Unanimously approved.

Discussion of Town Staff Schedule During COVID-19 Shutdown:

Rick asked what the work schedules are going to be for Town Employees during the COVID-19 stay at home order. Rick commented that in his opinion, employees should not have to use their own accumulated time during this shutdown.

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Janet stated that it does not seem fair that some employees would be staying at home getting paid without using any of their accumulated time, while other employees, such as our police officers have no choice but to work.

Rick asked if the employees are rotating their schedules.

Rebecca stated that employees are rotating beginning tomorrow, with the pay period cycle being the guide. Rebecca stated that she is not sure if the Town would be eligible for FEMA Funding to reimburse payroll. She stated that she understands FEMA would reimburse when people actually get sick from COVID-19.

Janet asked if the employees are eligible to sign up for unemployment.

Rebecca stated that she is not sure at this point if they would be eligible to sign up for unemployment. Rebecca commented that employees will be allowed to use sick time, comp time, vacation, and will even be allowed to run into the negative if necessary.

Janet stated that she would like to find a way to handle this situation without seemingly punishing employees; however, she also does not want to put extra expense on the backs of our taxpayers. She also commented that with only half of the staff working, services for our citizens will be altered as well.

Rick stated that the whole purpose of the stay at home order is to keep people at home. If we have buildings that are closed, the employees should be staying home.

The Board Members discussed the pros and cons of the employees using their accumulated time during the shutdown.

Motion: (Rick Shew/Ann Smith) to pay employees as normal from April 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020, with the employees working a staggered schedule according to department and payroll cycle, with each employee getting up to 80 hours (two pay cycles) without using their own accumulated time. Unanimously approved.

It was suggested that the time be referred to as corona virus leave with pay.

Rebecca stated that we have work being done at the HUB from outside sources, and she asked if we should delay the work being done until after April 30th.

Janet suggested that the work be scheduled for the days Janice Woodie is working.

It was the consensus of the Board that any rent paid for use of the HUB-Building A during the time it is closed should be refunded, and any rent that is due be forgiven. For Building B, the renters are individual businesses with their own access to the building, and it will be their choice whether or not to open.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Rick Shew) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk