

***Town of Oakesdale***  
***TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
***For***  
***March 18, 2013***

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Dennis Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dennis Palmer, Kellie Meserve, Al Evans, Tom Johnson, Tom Crooks and Randy Robinson. Also present were Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer and Michael Jordan, Town Marshal.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Randy Noble and Steve Marsh from TD&H, Laurie Brown representing Friends for Living Choices and Dolores Haley.

Laurie – The non-profit organization, Friends for Living Choices, are at the point to throw in the towel on trying to generate enough revenue to have an assisted living unit in Oakesdale. They have not shown any progress and due to the state of the economy it is just not feasible to continue pursuing an assisted living unit. According to the property purchase agreement they are offering the 8 lots back to the Town with first choice to buy back at the original amount sold to the organization back in November 2010. They may revisit this idea again at another time. Laurie did mention to council members there could be some interested parties in purchasing the lots from the Town should the Town decide to sell them again.

Dolores – She is very impressed with council members for always looking out for the Town and what is best for the community.

- IV. **TD&H AND RCAC:** Randy Noble announced Andy O'Neil from RCAC would not be joining us tonight. Randy gave a status report on both projects being managed by TD&H. The design work continues on the Front Street Project and the geotechnical field work has been completed. Design work has just started on the Steptoe Sidewalk project. Randy then introduced Steve Marsh to council members who would be discussing the options on water system improvements and funding sources. Steve stated the first step should be having our small water system plan approved by Department of Health. We need their approval to proceed to find funding sources to improve our water system. We need to identify what improvements our system needs. These improvements were not outlined in the small water systems plan that was recently completed by Frank Triplett. We have been encouraged to conduct a water system plan study to outline what our water system needs. We would need to put the cost of the study in the 2014 budget. We are looking at around \$30,000 for such a study. Steve recommended an income study to be completed by RCAC to see if we could qualify for CDBG funding for water improvements. We had a study completed almost five years ago and we were still well above the income level to qualify for funding. Steve talked about various options for water system improvement loans such as Department of

Health's state revolving fund or USDA. When this council decides to make some improvements we may be looking at an increase in water rates to obtain such funding. Steve gave council members the latest tax and user fee survey from AWC that shows an average residential monthly water rate at \$33.82 – we are at \$22 per month - and an average residential monthly sewer rate of \$46.05 – we are at \$25 per month.

V. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** Council members reviewed March 4, 2013 minutes. Randy Robinson made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **FRONT STREET PROJECT** – This was covered under Section IV with TD&H.
- B. **BUSINESS INCUBATOR** – Nothing to report at this time.
- C. **LIBRARY BUILDING** – Mark Doneen called this morning and spoke with Mary regarding the repair of the library building. He would prefer if we consulted someone else to do the job since he is in Seattle. He referred Truitt brick and stone mason for a free on-site bid to repair the brick on the face of the building. Council consensus was to contact Truitt to take a look at the library building. Tom Crooks also noted there are bricks falling off the old hotel building on the corner of Steptoe and Second. The owner of the building is deceased and we have not been notified who is in charge of the estate. This is a safety issue and we will refer this to our building inspector and town attorney.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **MOWER** – Council members reviewed a quote summary from Pape Machinery for a residential zero-turn radius mower with a 54 inch deck for \$4,100 excluding taxes. Council members would like to see Bob Hooper obtain one to two more quotes from comparable dealers before approving the purchase of a mower.
- B. **ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING:** AWC RMSA will be presenting an Elected Officials Roles & Responsibilities workshop in Tekoa on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 9pm with registration beginning at 6:30 p.m. Everyone except Kelli needs to attend the refresher course if they can. The Mayor and all councilmen agreed to attend the training. Mary will register everyone for the two hour class.

VIII. **PLANNING:** Council members discussed purchasing the lots back from Friends for Living Choices. Four council members agreed to purchase the property and one member abstained from voting since he serves on the board of the FFLC. Mary will contact Laurie Brown and let her know we will buy the lots back.

Town Marshal, Michael Jordan, brought to council member's attention the increasing agitation of a Town resident who is leaving several messages with the police department and the Clerk over code violations they are violating and for receiving water shut-off notices

on a regular basis. Mike suggested to council members to file a no trespassing order against the resident to help protect Mary at City Hall. This will be referred to our Town Attorney, Stephen Bishop. We will also refer to Stephen Bishop the wire fence this resident has put up on city property which the wire is a safety hazard. Council discussed other ways to make City Hall safer from possible threats. It was noted the front door of City Hall does not lock from the inside. We will notify a lock smith to add an inner lock to the door and allow Mary to have pepper spray at her desk.

**IX. COUNCIL MEMBER'S BUSINESS:**

**KELLI** – Nothing at this time.

**AL** – Even though this was discussed with TD&H tonight while reviewing possible water system upgrades, he would like to see the Town consider a generator for the wells.

**TOM J.** – He commended Dolores Haley for all her hard work and dedication to the museum.

**TOM C.** – Nothing at this time.

**RANDY** – Nothing at this time.

**X. TREASURER'S REPORT/APPROVAL OF CHECKS:** Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for March 2013. Tom Johnson made the motion to approve paid checks #23268 - #23289 in the amount of \$11,453.36 for claims and \$7,013.86 for payroll totaling \$18,467.22 from March 05, 2013 through March 15, 2013 AND EFT payment to WA State Department of Revenue in the amount of \$495.01 for excise taxes. Al Evans seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Kelli Meserve made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Tom Johnson seconded the motion, all council members voted yes – **motion passed.**

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**DENNIS PALMER, MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**Mary DeGon, Clerk/Treasurer**