STATE OF WYOMING

COUNTY OF SWEETWATER

TOWN OF SUPERIOR MARCH 23RD, 2023

Mayor D. Wolf called the meeting to order at and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

The council members present were Councilor J. Pasborg, Mayor D. Wolf, Councilor J. Ruby and Councilor R. Niemiec. Councilor N. Root was absent and excused.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilor J. Pasborg to approve the agenda for March 23, 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Ruby, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilor J. Pasborg to approve the minutes for March 9th, 2023, council meeting; seconded by Councilor J. Ruby, the motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Councilor R. Niemiec to approve the bills against the town for March 23, 2023, and payroll for March 13th, 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Ruby the motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS

1. Mayor D. Wolf said that he invited the water operators to give an update on what’s been happening the past month and a half or so with water problems and mother nature. Leroy stated roughly around the first of January they started fighting with controls in the tank and he was having to go manually check it, but when they had the big storm in the middle of February it knocked the power out to the pumps and the wells and he wasn’t able to run water for 5 days and they had to put heat in the wells and the pumps to make sure they didn’t freeze. Leroy then said that when they got power back the radio on the pumps basically burned almost up it would work intermittently but wouldn’t work all the time, so they had a SCADA technician come out to check that out. Leroy said that while the guy was out, he had to leave early to go to an appointment and apparently the guy was resetting the CPU at the pumps, and he reset it so many times that it dumped all the programming out of the CPU. Leroy said that evening he pulled up the SCADA system on his phone to make sure everything was running because when they lost power, they couldn’t physically run water and the main line from the wells and to the plant started trying to freeze up. He also said that he has been running water 24/7 since then to keep that line clear. Leroy said that when the guy re-downloaded the programing in the CPU it did something to the programming for the wells to where when the tank level was needing to kick on, they wouldn’t kick on. He said that they tried to kick on 3 times and it sent it into default and all of that happened during the night when he was sleeping. Leroy also said that they ran the 50,000-gallon tank dry and when they did that pump 1 and pump 2 ran and ran dry which burned out the mechanical seal in pump 1 which is now fixed and is back up and running again. Pump 2 trashed the mechanical sealant in pump 2 and it’s in bad shape. He stated that it’s changed and it’s not leaking but when they pulled the mechanical pump seal he thinks parts of it dropped down into the pump so when they kicked it on he heard the parts and kicked it back off and so it didn’t run long enough to hurt anything inside of it hopefully but the pump needs to be pulled apart to make sure that’s what happened if not they will need to replace the stack in that pump and get the old one rebuilt. Leroy said that he and Travis could rebuild those pumps. They had someone with a premier sealer come out and a representative from Utah and they showed them what they need to rebuild those pumps and it’s extremely simple. Leroy said that because their SCADA system is so old it was put in in 2004 and hasn’t been updated since. Leroy said that they need to move that SCADA system send they don’t even make that technology to keep up with their SCADA system anymore. Leroy said that there are 2 people with Timberline that have seen the technology but nobody else has ever seen it. Leroy said that the SCADA system runs everything. Mayor D. Wolf said that on that note Leroy has been manually checking the 100,000 gallon and the 50,000 this whole time because the SCADA is shot and it wasn’t reading right which is another point that they need to do something about it otherwise that’s all that the water operators have time for. Amber George said that this happens every winter, it’s not just this year. She said that the panel that’s on there doesn’t get enough power to juice up readings to come to us and also said that everyone out here knows how that road gets, and they used to have to take snow machines up there. Councilor J. Ruby asked if the pumps running dry and if there should be some sort of a float system on there to keep that from happening. Leroy said that our SCADA system would not support it otherwise they would have that other switch. There was some discussion on this and what is needed to fix it. Mayor D. Wolf said that Amber is going to call Timberline and dispute some of the charges. Leroy said that he definitely thinks they need to. Leroy stated that for now they are band-aided and everything is running but he can’t say for how long. Leroy stated that next winter there will be the same issues if not worse and they were about 12 minutes from freezing the main line off and if they had frozen the main line off and they run the tanks out of water it causes the EPA involvement and what he would have to do to get those back online it would be a minimum of 14 days being out of water. They would have to get them cleaned, brought back up, assessed, brought back online it would be minimum 14 days. Leroy said that this is why he has been coming out and turning on the pumps manually doing that sort of stuff just so they don’t have the issues. Councilor J. Ruby asked about the cost. Clerk A. Vaughn said that it’s in their books under new business. Amber said that the cost is just shy of 10,000 dollars and her personal opinion is that they need to not just get a shaft seal for pump 2 but they need to get an extra because they should have extra parts sitting on the shelf otherwise the parts are 3 to 4 weeks out. She also said that if they have another problem like that pump 1 won’t keep up with summer demand and they’re going to have to put restrictions on water usage. Councilor J. Ruby said that he understands that and asked if they were supposed to get new pumps all together. Leroy said that they got 2 new pumps already and those are the ones that burnt the mechanical seals up because the tank ran dry. Amber said that it’s all because Timberline did a complete reset on the system and that’s why she’s going to call and dispute some of the charges. There was some discussion on how it could have been avoided on Timberline’s part and how Leroy caught it. Councilor J. Ruby said that just 10,000 for pump parts and asked what it was going to cost to update the SCADA system. Leroy said minimum 50,000. Councilor J. Ruby asked what that consists of. Leroy said that it would upgrade all the CPU’s, it would go to an ACE system and so would the pump CPU and also to the 100,000 and they would put in more batteries, so they don’t have the system issues that they have when they lose power. Leroy said that if they are plowed in for 4 days and those things don’t charge back up, they go under 12 volts and lose all communications so they need more solar and more batteries otherwise they could run power to it, but it would be expensive. Mayor D. Wolf said that when they go to do grants on generators that will be one of them because they need generators at all that stuff up there. Councilor J. Pasborg stated that they have been in business so long that they have gone down in price. Leroy said that the only problem with the pumps and the wells is they are both 480-volt systems so they would need a fairly good size generator to run those. Leroy said that the plant is a 110 system. There was some more discussion on this. Leroy said he has been running water constantly since and he will continue to do so until the frost is gone just to keep that line clear. Leroy said that he spent 8 to 10 hours one day checking the chlorine level to make sure it didn’t get too high. Mayor D. Wolf said that they could use specific purpose tax money for that stuff too but two weeks ago they had to come here and ask for some money because they needed stuff fixed and now, they have a month or so to see where they are at with the bonding on that money. Amber asked if he had to estimate how far out is the money. Mayor D. Wolf said it was probably about 2 months. Leroy said that he does think the SCADA system he has asked for cost estimates but hasn’t gotten them. Councilor J. Ruby asked who he had asked for estimates from Leroy said that he’s asked Timberline. Councilor J. Ruby said that they shouldn’t use them. Mayor D. Wolf said that they have been talking about different SCADA systems and they can’t get people to call them back. Leroy said that he has called 4 or 5. Mayor D. Wolf said that Leroy called Timberline and had chewed them out and they were on board with things after that. Amber said that Timberline is one of the top rated in the nation. Leroy said that he lost it on the CEO because he needed someone here. Mayor D. Wolf said that he had felt the same as Councilor J. Ruby at first. Councilor J. Ruby said that he thinks they should at least get quotes from other people. Councilor R. Niemiec stated that he has a guy in Salt Lake that is a private guy, and he updated all his. There was some more discussion about the SCADA people that have been talked to. Amber asked if it would be possible for Rick to get ahold of his guy so they could get him to come out. Leroy said there was a guy that he set up 3 different appointments with and never came out. Councilor R. Niemiec stated that there is another company Ram industrial. Leroy said that he would make copies of all of the blueprints for their SCADA system. Councilor J. Ruby said that he understood it’s been hectic with everything going on with the water but asked about what’s going on with all the frozen water lines. Leroy said that he would start working on them the beginning of the week. Jacob Lincoln said that their sewer line had been frozen. Leroy asked if that was the one that they ran the camera down. Jacob Lincoln said that he had sent Mayor D. Wolf a text message February 15th. He also said that he rented a 75-foot snake and ran it at least 65 feet and ran it all the way to the main and didn’t get anything out of it but mud. He said that he ran a snake down it again and hit the ice and it backfilled into his Mom’s sewer and it’s been a month since he brought it up and nobody showed up for 30 days. Mayor D. Wolf said that they went out last week and ran the camera and there was water. Jacob said that if it wasn’t working and backed up and sat there for 30 days and he ran a snake through it the first day that he told Mayor D. Wolf. Councilor J. Ruby asked if they had pulled the manhole cover over there. Jacob said that they couldn’t. Leroy said that he couldn’t find it and said he had been all over the place and been out there with metal detectors and he couldn’t find it. Jacob said that his dad used to be a plumber and he thinks that there has to be a breach in the main. Jacob said that three years ago they did a dye test, and the dye test works fine if the water is coming through. Leroy said that he has a steamer, but he can’t run it down the sewer. Mayor D. Wolf said that he knows approximately where a manhole is but said that they were out digging for a full day. There was some discussion about it. Leroy apologized that it had been so long and said that he has just been so busy. Jacob said that he doesn’t expect to be top of the list he just came for an update. Mayor D. Wolf asked what they think about it because towns don’t just go around thawing people’s water so there needs to be a happy medium and asked if anyone had ideas about next year. Mayor D. Wolf said that he knows Rock Springs isn’t touching it and between them and Green River there were 60-80 a week ago. Councilor R. Niemiec stated that he’s just going off of what the town has done in the past and he had a choice to pay the town to thaw it out or he could do it himself. He said that he ended up hiring a contractor. Councilor J. Pasborg stated that to him if someone leaves the house and it freezes up from the house it’s not the town’s responsibility, but if the main freezes, then it’s their problem. He also said that if it ruptures once it hits the house, but it came from us then it would be our problem also. Mayor D. Wolf said that they know pretty well who is going to freeze up and he would like to take care of some of the situations this summer, dig them up and throw some pipe insulation or something to where it’s easier. Councilor J. Ruby said that when the water freezes if they pull the water pit up it’s easy to tell if it’s frozen on the service side or the main side. Councilor J. Ruby also stated that he thinks the first thing that they need to do when they find out that somebody is froze is pull the pit and see if there is water to the meter if there is then it’s the homeowner’s problem and they can decide then if they want to pay town employees to fix it or not. Mayor D. Wolf said that the reason that he didn’t want to just start digging things up is because he didn’t want to take the chance of freezing their own line up. Councilor J. Ruby said that as soon as it freezes, they need to pull the meters and find out whose problem it is. There was some more discussion about this. Mayor D. Wolf said that he does want to figure out some way to help the citizens so that next year the handful that’s freezing now won’t be next year. There was some discussion on the best way to thaw things out. Amber suggested making something for people to sign if they do decide to have the town try and thaw things out, saying the town will not be held responsible for any damage. There was some more discussion on this which led back to a discussion about the pump and what needs to be done to get it fixed. Leroy also said that the premier pumps had been running for 10 years and haven’t been touched in those 10 years and said that they probably need to order some parts for those too. Councilor R. Niemiec asked if they could get quotes on that so that when they work on the budget, they have those. Leroy said that he needs at least 1 to 2 parts to hand. Amber said that she was just asking for the council to approve these parts on an as needed basis so that if it’s not needed then they don’t have to worry about it but if it is then they could get it ordered because it would be a few weeks out. There was some more discussion about this. Mayor D. Wolf asked the council what they thought about it. Amber said that if their specific purpose tax does come in the next two months, they wouldn’t even have gotten a bill for the stuff yet so they could possibly just pay for it out of that. Councilor J. Ruby said that they may have it in the budget. There was some more discussion on what is needed. Councilor R. Niemiec asked about the update on the SCADA system. Leroy said that if something did happen and they burned that whole pump they would look for 25,000 dollars to fix it. Councilor J. Ruby said that they have it in the budget he thinks they need to just get the parts ordered. It was decided that the parts needed were going to be around 10,100 dollars. Councilor R. Niemiec asked about parts and supplies and asked if there was anything that was for the sewer. Leroy said that he doesn’t know of any at the moment and the only thing they have coming up is he’s planning to dig up manholes and bringing them to the surface so that they can see. Clerk A. Vaughn said that the figures in the cash report may not be correct because she didn’t have time to get through it totally. Leroy said that the sewer basically supports itself until it gets to the ponds. There was some discussion about the Kolander’s sewer issue. Leroy said that she told him when they asked to run the camera down there that the sewer had been dug up and replaced 8 years ago. Leroy also said that this wasn’t possible because there is a tree that has grown over that. Leroy said that he would be willing to bet that if they did replace it went about to that tree and connected it to the main there. Leroy also said that he thinks that settled and that’s what’s causing it to back up. Moved by Councilor R. Niemiec to approve 9,262.48 for one shaft seal, 2 gasket kits, and one chamber stack for the water department; seconded by Councilor J. Ruby the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Mayor D. Wolf asked the council if they had thought anymore about Knezovich’s offer. Councilor J. Ruby said that he missed that and asked for an update. Councilor J. Pasborg stated that they had previously discussed annexing that in so that they could subdivide it if they wanted to. Councilor J. Ruby said that he thought that for us to sell land it would have to have a bid on it. Clerk A. Vaughn said that when they did Nikki’s property, they had to get a realtor involved to assess that property and it was expensive. Councilor R. Niemiec stated that he still thinks they should pursue the subdivision because most everyone on the council wanted to make that property available to more than just one person. Councilor J. Pasborg stated that they he is more than welcome to bid on anything. He also said that he thinks the offer is a low-ball offer. Councilor J. Ruby asked about what property North in Rock Springs with no water is out, sewer and that. Councilor J. Pasborg stated that it’s about 150,000. Councilor J. Ruby said that he knows that there is some issue with undermining, so he understands it’s a little different. Mayor D. Wolf asked the council what they proposed. Councilor J. Ruby proposed that they do not accept the offer. Mayor D. Wolf asked what they want to do out there where they want to start. Councilor J. Ruby said that he thinks that they should make a neighborhood of 10 acre lots. Mayor D. Wolf asked if they wanted him to call the engineer out to start the process. Councilor J. Ruby said that he would like to see what it would take to do it and that’s where he would like to start. Councilor R. Niemiec stated that they are trying to better the town and grow. He feels that if they sell the property in one lump sum then they won’t be able to improve the way they have been aiming for. Mayor D. Wolf said that they don’t want to grow too much, or they will have to redo water, sewer lagoons and that. There was some discussion on the infrastructure and how growing the town would affect that. Mayor D. Wolf asked about what they wanted to subdivide so he could get the engineer out. Mayor D. Wolf asked if they had seen the hill on that property. Councilor J. Pasborg stated that they had but he still thinks someone will buy it. There was some more discussion on what the property looks like. Councilor J. Ruby said that they had also discussed whether they were going to build something to rent out there or not. There was some discussion on the horse corrals and how they would do that. Councilor J. Pasborg asked Councilor R. Niemiec about the Green River Corrals and how the plans were there. Councilor R. Niemiec stated that they build their own stuff and just lease the property.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Moved by Councilor J. Pasborg to move into executive session; seconded by Councilor J. Ruby the motion carried unanimously and council went into executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilor J. Ruby ; seconded by Councilor R. Niemiec the motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

**BILLS TO BE PAID:**

**CLAIMANT Amount Approved Goods/Services Provided & Purpose**

CARD SERVICES/LEROY $81.00 P & S

CARD SERVICES/ DOMINIC $451.74 P & S

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHEILD $3,276.92 MONTHLY PREMIUM

UNITED STATES TREASURY $36.40 2ND QUARTER TAXES DUE

NORCO $72.24 P & S

ROCK SPRINGS WINNELSON $3,543.78 P & S

UNITED RENTALS $4,723.20 C & P SERVICES

VAUGHNS PLUMBING AND HEATING $760.0 C & P SERVICES

WARWS $445.00 C & P SERVICES

TOWN OF SUPERIOR PETTY CASH $587.62 PETTY CASH

PAYROLL: MARCH 13TH, 2023

Donna O’Banion-Taebel $694.04

Ross Sheely $1,266.09 Amanda Souther $104.25

Teresa Stolt $648.45 Anita Vaughn $1,338.02

Travis Wagner $1,730.40 LeRoy Winters $1,812.80

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk Mayor