Town of Bethel

Town Council Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2024 – 7:01 p.m.

**1. Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by V. Proctor. Present were V. Proctor; K. Layfield; P. Kough; K. Phillips; Bethel Town Clerk, M. Hawkins; and M. Smith, Town Solicitor.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by V. Proctor.

**3. Election of Town Council Officers and Town Solicitor: President –** Vern Proctor, **President Pro Tem –** Kevin Phillips, **Treasurer -** Kathy Layfield, **Secretary -** Pat Kough, **Member at Large -** Mark Shaver, **Town Solicitor –** Mike Smith,

**4. Secretary’s Report:** P. Kough presented the April 2, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes. P. Kough made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Town Clerk’s Report:** Town Clerk, M. Hawkins, presented the Town Clerk’s report. P. Kough made a motion to approve the Town Clerk’s report. K. Layfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Treasurer’s Report**

 **a. Bills to be Paid:** K. Layfield presented the bills to be paid. K. Phillips made a motion to pay the bills as presented. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

 **b. Treasurer’s Report:** K. Layfield presented the April 2024 Treasurer’s report. M. Shaver made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. K. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Building Permits:**  A permit was issued to the owners of 7789 Main Street for a new metal roof on a home. The permit fee was $100.00.

**8. Bracken Property Status:** E. Bracken has asked for information regarding thrift shops that may be interested in vintage furniture. She also asked if someone in town would have a place for them to stay while they work on the house.

**9. Complaints:** No new complaints were filed this month. A question was brought up about who to contact re the David Alexander house. He is deceased. M. Hawkins stated she had an email address and can give them notice about the grass.

**10. New Leaf Solar Farm:** A synopsis of the discussion held with the members of the Council and the Town Solicitor as written by V. Proctor is attached hereto.

**11. Planning and Zoning Commission:** K. Layfield is working on finding a fifth member for the Commission. M. Hawkins stated that Ken Anger needs Planning and Zoning to respond to him regarding demolishing a portion of the original house on the property except for the garage portion. Dorothy Morris emailed Martha asking for an update on the planning and zoning commission. Discussion was held regarding county permitting new homes before the Town. It was stated that maybe we should permit the homes first, and then have the builder get a permit from the County. V. Proctor will talk to a member of the planning and zoning and see what has to be done to resolve this issue.

**12. Feral Cats:** K. Layfield made a motion to allow P. Kough to continue with the TNR program for feral cats. K. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**13. Triangle Park:** A discussion was held regarding the bushes in Triangle Park. Bushes in the Park can be no taller than 2 and a half feet. P. Kough will get with Beth Wasden about bushes of that size.

**14. Parking on Town Lot Across from the Community House:** A discussion was held regarding parking on the town lot across from the community house.

**15. Old/New Business:**

Signs – P. Kough made a motion for Mark to purchase four 18 x 24 inch signs. Three are to be put on Main Street, and one is to be put on Pine Street. K. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion was held regarding the Town Park. K. Phillips made a motion to use ARPA funds for a contract with Lupe Landscaping to:

1. Kill the grass on the park
2. Resod the park
3. Remove the two pine streets, including grinding out the stumps

The motion was seconded by M. Shave. The motion passed unanimously.

The Town Cleanup is schedule for May 18. The dumpster will be available at the Bethel Market. Brush that is piled by the street will be picked up.

The Town-wide yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 1. Kathy will take care of the notices for the yard sale.

M. Shaver discussed the rentals of the Community House.

K. Phillips said the Woodland Ferry will be out of commission from this Friday to the end of July. The ferry closure will be put on the electronic sign, the website, and facebook.

Rich Kough asked for permission to use the space across the street for the vendors and to use the bathroom in the community house. K. Layfield made a motion to revoke the decision made by the Town Council last month approving that the Farmer’s Market could be held on the town property. M. Shaver seconded the motion. K. Phillips recused himself from voting. K. Layfield, M. Shaver and V. Proctor voted yes. P. Kough voted no. The revocation motion passed.

P. Kough made a motion that the Farmer’s Market can use the town property and also use the community house bathroom. There was no second for the motion, so the motion failed.

Sheldon Hudson introduced himself as a municipal consultant.

A discussion was held about the possibility of future town water and sewer service.

**16. Adjourn Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:19.