

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OACOMA TOWN BOARD
April 3, 2023

The Oacoma Town Board met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on April 3, 2023 in Meeting Room #2 at the Oacoma Community Center. Board members present were Gary Dominiack, President; Richard Kirkpatrick, Vice President; Kyle Fuchs; Roger Twamley; and Robin Hutmacher. Also present were Valerie Moore, Finance Officer; Bryan Mahrt, Utilities Manager; Weston Blasius and Kyla Diaz, Banner Associates, Inc.

MINUTES

Motion by Hutmacher, second by Fuchs, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 20, 2023. Motion carried.

HAY LEASE

Four sealed bids were received for the haying of approximately 80 acres of native grass on the Oacoma Public Recreation Area during 2023. Dominiack opened and announced the following bids: Lane Hickey-\$3,501.00; Ethan Adamson-\$3,680.00; Bill Burkard-\$2,050.00; and Eric Weeman-\$3,200.00. Motion by Kirkpatrick, second by Hutmacher, to accept the bid from Ethan Adamson in the amount of \$3,680.00 and enter into a one-season lease agreement. Motion carried.

WATER FACILITY PLAN

Weston Blasius and Kyla Diaz, engineers with Banner Associates, presented a draft of a Water Facility Plan for the Town of Oacoma prepared by Banner Associates following their comprehensive review of Oacoma's water system facilities including the raw water intake, water treatment plant, water distribution system, and water storage structures. The Water Facility Plan identifies needs for future improvements and provides technical data to support applications for financial assistance needed to complete certain projects. The plan identified improvements to Oacoma's raw water intake system as the highest priority due to rising sedimentation levels in the river. Other future improvements recommended as lower priorities included rehabilitation, expansion or replacement of the water treatment plant.

Blasius and Diaz explained short-term and long-term alternatives and estimated project costs to maintain operation of the raw water intake system. The plan recommends extension of the intake line to the river channel as the best solution. Cost estimates to extend the intake line to the river channel exceed \$6.2 million. The town can apply for funding assistance from SD Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) in the form of a revolving loan at approximately 3.25% interest over 30 years and may be eligible for grants or principal forgiveness if certain qualifications are met. If the recommended project is fully financed by a loan, the annual debt service payment is estimated to be \$330,000. That debt service apportioned among Oacoma's 223 water customers results in an estimated debt surcharge of \$123 per month per water customer in addition to the monthly service rate. The engineers reported the proposed project would require a three-year period beginning with funding requests in October 2023 and ending with project completion in September 2026.

Blasius reported the Water Facility Plan draft is subject to DANR's review and approval before being finalized and the town will need to conduct a public hearing prior to initiating any proposed project identified in the plan.

Discussion was held and the Banner engineers answered several questions from board members. Dominiack reported the raw water intake system was raised to its maximum operating elevation in 2020 due to increasing sedimentation and estimates project rising sediment levels will impact the intake system again in 8 to 12 years. He encouraged board members to give this proposal thoughtful consideration over the next several months in preparation of a determination to proceed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Time was reserved for public comments pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1. No comments were offered.

VACATION HOME LICENSES

Four Vacation Establishment license applications were presented for consideration. Motion by Twamley, second by Hutmacher, to approve Vacation Establishment licenses for the following applicants for the period of April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024: Soderquist River Ranch LLC, Jay & Tina Soderquist, 1415 Shoreline Dr. #3; Cabin Fever,

Damon & Amber Dykstra, 1415 Shoreline Dr, #4; River Shore Rentals, RH Properties, LLC, 1417 Shoreline Dr.; and Shoreline Cottage LLC, Chad & Gina Blasher, 1419 Shoreline Dr. Motion carried.

LOSS CONTROL SURVEY

The board reviewed recommendations from a Loss Control Survey conducted by Safety Benefits Inc on behalf of SD Public Assurance Alliance and SDML Workers' Compensation Fund. Motion by Hutmacher, second by Kirkpatrick, to adopt a Media Policy under the General Policies section of the Oacoma Personnel Manual and appoint the Town Board President as authorized spokesperson. Motion carried. Motion by Fuchs, second by Hutmacher, to adopt the Handbook for Public Playground Safety issued by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, declare one slide without a resting platform in Oacoma Park as surplus property and authorize its removal and disposal at no value, and offer Hepatitis B vaccinations to all wastewater treatment employees at the town's expense and obtain signed waivers from employees declining the offer of vaccination. Motion carried.

LANDFILL VOUCHERS

It was determined at the March 20 meeting to issue landfill vouchers to Oacoma residents upon request instead of offering a Clean Up Day collection site at the Maintenance Shop. Dominiack reported the Tri-County Landfill is open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. during the months of June, July, and August. The board discussed the terms of the vouchers including a valid period, value and items for which the vouchers may be used. Motion by Fuchs, second by Twamley, to set the valid period of the vouchers for a one-time use from June 3 through June 17, the voucher value shall not exceed \$100, and additional fees charged for disposal of tires and appliances containing freon may be applied against the value of a voucher. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS

The following bills were approved for payment: Payroll: Gov Board-1250.00, Finance-4221.20, Streets-3521.05, Sewer-3932.92, Water-4318.61; Cemetery-18.05; Park-22.97; AFLAC, insurance-40.40; Ace Hardware, tools & supplies-48.55; Bomgaars, tarp, paint, oil & trap-182.36; Buche Foods, soap & ice-24.27; Byre Bros, garbage service-134.40; Cardmember Services, credit card charges for postage, supplies, and fuel-265.38; Central Dakota Times, publishing-399.89; Chamber of Commerce/CVB, subsidy-2942.00; City of Chamberlain, first quarter police contract-10941.25; Cozine Electric, water plant repairs-231.99; Jack Dooley, custodian contract-500.00; GF Advertising Services, 2 billboards-1310.00; Hawkins Inc., chemicals-40.00; Hickey Heating LLC, heater repairs-188.78; IRS, payroll tax-4182.34; JG Welding, materials-325.30; McLeod's Printing, election supplies-40.07; Michael Todd Industrial Supply, plow blades-4466.36; Middle America Communication Solutions, social media-600.00; Midstate Communications, phone/internet-417.20; NAPA Auto, oil & fluid-53.96; Office Products Center, printer contract & supplies-165.74; SD Public Health Lab, lab samples-199.00; SD Retirement System, contributions-1836.88; SD Supplemental Retirement, contributions-410.00; SD Unemployment, contributions-193.97; Servall, janitorial supplies-134.09; Sweeney Controls, repairs-140.00; Verizon Wireless, cell phones-165.50; Wall Drug Store, Inc., billboard lease-200.00; Wellmark BCBS, insurance-741.34; West Central Electric, utilities-6314.03.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Twamley, second by Kirkpatrick, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023 beginning at 7:00 P.M. in Meeting Room #2 at the Oacoma Community Center.

Gary Dominiack, President

Valerie J. Moore, Finance Officer

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