

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OACOMA TOWN BOARD
December 4, 2023

The Oacoma Town Board met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on December 4, 2023, in Meeting Room #2 at the Oacoma Community Center. Board members present were Gary Dominiack, President; Kyle Fuchs; and Justin Rabern. Richard Kirkpatrick, Vice President; and Robin Hutmacher were absent. Also present were Valerie Moore, Finance Officer; Desi Hettick, Deputy Finance Officer; and Taryn Reidt, Chamberlain-Oacoma Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB.

MINUTES

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Taryn Reidt was present to provide an update on events and activities of the Chamberlain-Oacoma Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB. Reidt reported on the holiday punch car promotion, Festival of Trees, Customer Appreciation Chili Feed and the 2024 Travel Guide.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

SOURCE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Dominiack reported on a meeting held on November 30 between city officials, engineers from Banner Associates, District III and SD DANR officials to discuss Oacoma's funding opportunities in completing a source water infrastructure project estimated to cost about \$7 million. The discussion revealed that Oacoma's eligibility for grant funding and principal forgiveness is extremely limited; therefore, loan funding over a 30-year term would be the primary source of funds to complete an extension of the water intake line to the river channel. However, if connection to the West River/Lyman Jones (WR/LJ) rural water system is pursued and WR/LJ is the funding applicant for the project, a significant portion of the project costs would be eligible for grant funding and principal forgiveness due to the entire area served by the rural system being classified as a "disadvantaged community". According to Census data, Oacoma's median household income exceeds the level which determines whether a community is classified as a "disadvantaged community".

Based on this information, Dominiack recommended that no decision on either project be made at this time and that city officials and Banner Associates initiate discussions with WR/LJ officials and engineers to learn more about consolidation possibilities. Dominiack stressed that pausing a decision on which project to pursue will allow officials to thoroughly investigate the costs and rate impacts to be absorbed by Oacoma residents and businesses. All board members present agreed to delay a decision on a source water infrastructure project until more information is obtained.

NUISANCE PROPERTY

A mobile home and its attachments remain at 101 N Main Ave despite a declaration of a public nuisance and order to remove the structures from the property by November 1, 2023. It was reported the front door of the mobile home was recently damaged due to an apparent break-in and is no longer secured. No response and no action have been received from the owner. Demolition quotes were requested from three area contractors. One quote totaling \$5,000 was received from Lazy T Construction. Motion by Rabern, second by Fuchs, to accept the quote of \$5,000 from Lazy T Construction and authorize demolition to be completed by December 18, 2023. Motion carried. Dominiack reported the cost of demolition will be billed to the property owner(s) and if the bill is not paid within 30 days of billing, the cost will be assessed against the real estate.

2023 AUDIT

Motion by Fuchs, second by Rabern, to accept a quote of \$9,050 from ELO Prof., LLC to perform the annual audit of the 2023 financial records for the Town of Oacoma. Motion carried.

RESERVE FUND TRANSFERS

Motion by Rabern, second by Fuchs, to authorize the following fund transfers: \$5,000 from General Fund 101 to General Fund-Fire Reserve Fund 101.2; \$10,000 from General Fund 101 to Water Reserve Fund 602.2; \$10,000 from General Fund 101 to Sewer Reserve Fund 604.2. Motion carried.

BID BOARD

Terms for two members on the Oacoma Business Improvement District (BID) Board will expire on December 31, 2023. Motion by Fuchs, second by Rabern, to reappoint each of the following incumbent members to the Oacoma BID Board for three-year terms expiring December 31, 2026: Zane Reis and Duane Steckelberg. Motion carried.

UNDERDOG FOUNDATION

Motion by Fuchs, second by Rabern, to authorize a donation of \$1,000 to the Underdog Foundation benefiting the ROCS Outreach Food Pantry in Chamberlain and the St. James Parish Food Pantry in Chamberlain in the amount of \$500 each. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL

Dominiack reported Weston Waugh passed his Wastewater Treatment Class I exam. Waugh's wage will increase by \$0.25/hr effective November 25, 2023, according to automatic wage increases authorized on September 16, 2023. Waugh's new wage is \$22.00/hr.

RESCHEDULE MEETING DATE

The first meeting in January is moved to Tuesday, January 2, 2024, due to the New Year's Day holiday.

PAY BILLS

The following bills were approved for payment: Payroll: Gov Board-1500.00, Finance-5661.20, Streets-2759.27, Sewer-3133.18, Water-6207.15; Weston Waugh, travel expenses-120.00; Ace Hardware, shop supplies-38.98; AFLAC, withholdings-40.40; Banner Associates, engineering fees-805.00; Bomgaars, supplies-139.43; Buche Foods, bleach-130.30; Burke Oil Co, propane-301.14; Byre Bros, garbage service-134.00; Cardmember Services, credit card charges for postage, lodging, supplies, fuel-1077.49; Central Dakota Times, publishing-193.55; Chamber of Commerce/CVB, subsidy-2938.00; Core & Main, valve parts-1290.03; Jack Dooley, OCC custodian-500.00; GF Advertising Services, billboard lease -1310.00; Hawkins Inc, chemicals-2886.95; IRS, payroll tax-4556.68; Middle America Communication Solutions, social media mgt & ads-800.00; Midstate Communications, phones & internet, 414.54; Office Products Center, service contract & paper-125.51; Riverview Chevrolet, sweeper tire-115.00; SD DANR, discharge permits-350.00; SD DOT, salt/sand-294.00; SD Public Health Lab, lab samples-289.00; SD Association of Code Enforcement, dues-75.00; SD Gov't Finance Officers' Association, dues-40.00; SD Gov't Human Resources Association, dues-25.00; SD Hall of Fame, donation for promotion-5000.00; SD Retirement System, contributions-2036.44; SD Supplemental Retirement Plan, withholdings-410.00; Servall, OCC supplies-306.13; Underdog Foundation, food pantries-1000.00; Verizon Wireless, cell phones-165.77; Wall Drug Store, Inc., billboard lease-200.00; WEERC, lab samples-89.00; Wellmark, health insurance-799.97; West Central Electric, utilities-5433.45.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rabern, second by Fuchs, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 18, 2023, beginning at 7:00 P.M. in Meeting Room #2 at the Oacoma Community Center.

Gary Dominiack, President

Valerie J. Moore, Finance Officer

Published once, December 13, 2023, at a total cost of \$__ and may be viewed free of charge at <https://www.sdpublicnotices.com/>.