

City of Oxbow Minutes

March 5, 2012

Members Present: Mayor Jim Nyhof; Council Members: Greg Anderson, Arden Breimeier, Dan Zink; Oxbow Residents; Erick Kuntz

Minutes for February 8 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Councilman Zink, seconded by Councilman Anderson. Motion carried.

Minutes for January 8 meeting were reviewed. Decision was made to defer these to the next meeting as some questions still remain: need to clarify.

Hardship policy: The diversion authority, under pressure from local interests, is considering adopting a hardship policy to address situations where residents south of the dam, who are experiencing hardship as a result of the authority's pursuit of the diversion project, which includes the dam and reservoir. The authority provided to Mayor Nyhof a copy of preliminary ideas that are to be presented at their next meeting on March 8. Resident Erick Kuntz expressed his desire to see his household considered as part of such a policy. The council discussed with Erick his desires and concerns. No policy yet exists but Mayor Nyhof will be meeting with Mayor Walaker this week about this issue and about Oxbow's concerns as they relate to the preliminary document.

Mayor Nyhof also reported that he has documentation of two different situations in Oxbow where property appraisals have been very recently denied to residents. In one situation, the resident was denied by five different appraisal companies. The implications of an appraisal blackout for our area are broad and destructive. Appraisals are routinely required for home sales, to refinance a home and to obtain or renew a home equity line of credit. Without access to the appraisal process, no citizen of Oxbow can sell, refinance or borrow against his/her home.

Mayor Nyhof reported on his visit with commissioner Vanyo about the recent visit to Washington by Vany, Mayor Walaker and others. Vanyo reports that the discussions with corps bigwigs and legislative entities went very well, that the authority is encouraged by what they are hearing. They expect to have the ROD signed soon with authorization to follow. Initial funding is expected in a 2013 WRDA bill. The corps seems to feel that they can overcome hurdles posed by both the Minnesota DNR and the Wilkin/Richland JPA.

A community meeting is proposed for March 22nd, to precede the Oxbow meeting on March 27, to be put on by representatives of the diversion authority. For the meeting on the 22nd, council members are encouraged to provide input to the Mayor, thoughts/ideas/comments that they feel should be covered. The council agrees that during the first part of the meeting, the mayor and council need to provide solid information to the community, then listening to and getting input from the community.

Mayor Nyhof reports that CitiBank declined the county's offer on the last remaining residential structure east of the clubhouse. Irv Rustad asked Mayor Nyhof to contact Senator Hoeven's office to see if his office can put some pressure on CitiBank.

Mayor Nyhof reports that the county has about \$800,000 available from the county sales tax to spend on flood mitigation work throughout the county. Oxbow has requested funding assistance but the distribution disposition of these funds is uncertain. The city may or may not receive requested assistance this time around.

The city is required to submit, on an annual basis, a year-end budget report to the state. Harold provided Mayor Nyhof with the year-end documents for the years of 2009 and 2010. He will circulate these documents to the council for review and consideration/approval at the April meeting.

Mayor Nyhof reports that our submission of final flood-mitigation documents to the state is complete.

The city has received a resident complaint about street deterioration as a result of sump water on the street. It has been noted in the past that where sump lines eject to the street and keep the blacktop wet, street damage is a very real problem. The city urges residents to keep sump water off of the asphalt. Where possible, hoses should take the water directly to a storm drain or water should be contained to the concrete curb section, with direct flow to drainage basin. Other options include ejecting the water to either drain golf course drain tile or to drainage basins located behind the home. Further consideration and action on this matter can be expected at the next council meeting.

The city received a bid for generator maintenance that is supposed to be done every fourth year or so. Councilman Anderson seemed to remember maintenance being done within the past few years so the council agreed that Kevin M. should bring service records to the next council meeting. Additional council questions relate to the maintenance of sewer lines and the exercising of the generators. These are issues that can be discussed with Kevin at the April meeting. It was further recommended that a rotation be established for Kevin to attend council meetings.

Mayor Nyhof will contact Nathan Berseth to set up a meeting with Fargo-area legislators. The meeting should include leadership personnel from the Oxbow area and the MnDak group. Jim and Nathan will work out the details and scheduling.

The list of bills to be paid was reviewed. Councilman Anderson made the motion to approve them as presented, Councilman Zink seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.