

Ekalaka Town Council

MINUTES

Town Office: January 13th, 2025 @ 12:00 pm

103Main St, Ekalaka, MT 59324

A. Call Special Meeting to Order:

a. Roll Call Council: Mayor Buck Kratzer called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Andy Wright and Rex McCord were present.

b. Employees Present: Torey Spring

c. Appointed Officials Present: Carol Spencer

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Public Comment: none

D. New Business

a. Emergency Snow Removal: Andy asked if the town needs to put an ad in the paper. Carol discussed hiring a sub-contractor vs. an employee for emergency snow removal. Buck noted that many individuals have come forward to volunteer if the need arises. Andy expressed concern that it may take several months to find a new public works director, and that volunteers would not be adequate for that time frame. Buck noted that a sub-contractor would have to own their own equipment and would not be able to use the town's equipment. Rex noted how difficult it was to drive around town yesterday with all the snow on the streets. Carol asked the council if they could make a contract with the county. Buck volunteered to contact the county and find out if they have anyone available. Carol suggested the town reach out to the county first, and, if needed, put an ad in the paper. Rex informed the council that he spoke to Jimmy Mackay about working for the town for emergency snow removal, and that he seemed interested. Carol said she was in favor of asking Jimmy if he wanted the job. Andy stated the business district needs to be the initial priority for snow removal so people can get to work. The fire department has been trying to clear all the alleys. Buck said the big truck won't fit down the alleys. He also noted that the council needed to weigh the costs: if ten people worked for \$20/hr., it would be worth it to get the job done faster. Buck reiterated contacting the county first and Andy noted that the town needs to get on the county's agenda.

b. The council discussed the need to hire an **emergency** employee on an hourly basis to clear snow as needed. The council first discussed and set a wage for the future hire at \$25/hour. Buck called Jimmy Mackay and asked him to join the meeting in person. When Jimmy arrived, he agreed to the wage for on-call snow removal during daylight hours. Carol moved to hire Mr. Mackay for \$25/hr. For emergency snow removal and maintenance with a contract with the county as a contingent for larger emergencies and to place an ad in the paper if the situation arises. Andy seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously with three ayes and zero nays.

E. Announcements: none

F. Next Meeting Date: February 5th @ 5 pm

G. Adjourn: Carol moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:27 pm. Andy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with three ayes and zero nays.