**Portage Town Council Meeting**

Wednesday June 10, 2020

Portage Town Hall

25880 N 9000 W Portage, Utah 84331

Town Minutes

**Attendance:** Mayor Nic Tree, Council Member Tyson Nelson, Council Member Tyson Nielson, Clerk Katherine Munns, Treasurer Debbie Lucas.

**Visitors:** Susan Bell (left at 6:20), Glen Jacobsen, Amanda Loftiss, Norma Lasa, Ed Rodgers, Kyle Holden

**Opening Ceremony**

**Pledge:** Council Member Nelson **Prayer:** Treasurer Lucas

**1**. Review and Approval of minutes from May 13, 2020 Town Council Meeting. No changes.

**Motion to approve the minutes as is from town council meeting from Wednesday May 13, 2020 by Council Member Nelson. Seconded by Council Member Nielson. All aye. Motion passed.**

**2.** Review and Approval of May 14 – June 13, 2020 Bill/Payroll.

**Motion to approve and pay the bills from May 13, 2020 to June 10, 2020 by Council Member Nielson. Seconded by Council Member Nelson. All aye. Motion passed.**

**3.** Review Financial Report, Bank Reconciliations, and Water adjustments or write-offs.

**4.** Approve Amendment to 2019-2020 budget.

**Mayor Tree:** To get to our budget portion of it. First we are going to amend the budget for 2019-2020. We kind of talked a little bit about it. So from last year we had to make some changes so the ones we made are a change on 3222 is license and permits. As you can see we only budgeted for $1000 and we actually brought in (the revenue) $18,686 due to more houses than we thought would be built. So we were definitely low on that and when we got to the new budget you will see we adjusted to probably have more building permits to. Also with fire we budgeted their revenue about $5000, but because of the insurance and the accidents that have happened they actually came into $9,691. So we adjusted for that, and that is the 3371. So if you could go down to the 4134, this is where the county inspector charges will match up with the building fees. As you can see we budgeted to pay them $3000 but we actually spent $13,164, because of the building that we have had going on. Then the last one we had to change was the 4230. That also comes with fire. We thought that with the equipment and whatever we could only spend $1,500 but we actually spent $10,733 so you see that we revised that to match. So the big thing to highlight, we did have Polaris help us. You can see that how we are budget is all good and we are not in the negative. So we have 2 more weeks so don’t be writing out any big checks. But our budget is good. These are the ones we amended and Polaris also gave us the ok.

**Motion to approve Amendment to 2019-2020 budget by Council Member Nelson. Seconded by Council Member Nielson. All aye. Motion passed.**

**5.** Approve 2020-2021 Budget.

**Mayor Tree:** To go with that, our new budget. We kept Roads about the same. We also had a fund balance for Roads. Lesley has been doing a lot of roads projects still for next year and trying to keep up the damage that we received to the road. So if you look at the fund balance we still kept that at $63,510 then she still has her additional $75,000 that she always receives. With that being said if you look at the building fees, we up’d that. We don’t feel that we will bring in as much as we did this year but we do fell that we will still have about 2-3 houses. So we have up’d that and we have also up’d the 4131 the county inspection fees. We kept fire the same. Last year was hopefully a fluke and an accident won’t happen. Other than that everything else stayed the same. Pretty much matched up with what we need. Ad we didn’t hear anything else from other departments except from roads. Water is actually saying it is a lot better than it ever has been. Probably due to the people building and also uping the impact fees.

**Motion to approve 2020-2021 Budget by Council Member Nielson. Seconded by Council Member Nelson. All aye. Motion passed.**

**6**. Approve 2020 tax rate – Staying the same for the residents.

**Motion to approve 2020 tax rate by Council Member Nielson. Seconded by Council Member Nelson. All aye. Motion passed.**

**Public Comments:**

**Susan Bell**: I would like to be on the agenda for next month. 3 things I would like to address along 8800 west. We need spray from my corner past Eric and Tara’s. It’s bad. We need gravel, before fall, from the corner down past Eric and Tara’s, it is nothing but dirt. I don’t even know how long it has been since it has been graveled. It has been years, and by spring, with those guys driving on that back and forth, we have got to have some gravel on it. The third thing is, my husband called Lesley two or three weeks ago. The speed on that road is insane. These guys (meaning the police) can’t be up here 24 hours a day. They have too much to do. She (Lesley) talked to, and I don’t know who she called, but she called somebody at the sheriff’s department and asked to put a camera up that would clock speeds and what time they were speeding. I haven’t seen that happen, she says that signs were going to be put up that week. That has not happened. Speeds signs, we have got to have one going out of town, at least, and one coming back in before they get to Eric and Tara’s. We have got 7 little kids going down into those houses. We have her kids, Norton’s have kids, and Blaine Wright has his grandkids all the time. They should not fear to be riding their bikes in the road. This is a little town and they should not be driving 50 to 60 mph past my house, it is just getting worse. I don’t know how long you have been here but it is getting worse all the time. Last weekend they had that hill climb, side by sides and 4-wheelers were flying past my house, it was ridiculous. Local, and there are 4 of them, everyday all day long flying past my house. We gotta do something, so we need to get that addressed.

**Sgt. Bennett**: What we have to the Sheriffs department, it actually looks like a light that is 4 feet tall, you may not even know it is there, we do have one that has a display but that one doesn’t record. Which house is yours?

**Susan Bell:** Going south of 8800, I used to say we were the last house but we’re not. We are on the corner with the cedar fence. Our kids are building houses just south of us. There is two houses just south of us.

**Sgt. Bennett:** How far is the next house from you?

**Susan Bell:** I don’t know.

**Sgt. Bennett:** That’s where it gets a little hairy. Because if it is unposted it defaults to 55 mph. Which is crazy, I know.

**Susan Bell:** That’s why we’re have got to get these signs put up because its city limits or 55.

**Sgt. Bennett:** But posting a speed limit sign, and Lesley can tell you this, it’s not just as simple as putting up a sign. You have to do speed surveys and there is a lot that goes into that.

**Mayor Tree**: And that’s what we have been doing on that Don’s road too. Trying to do a test on it. We have been working on that for a year.

**Sgt. Bennett:** It isn’t as simple as slapping up a sign. Because if we are going to make it and enforce it we have to be able to show that it was posted legally. Otherwise tickets are thrown out.

**Susan Bell:** Because by the time they get to her house they have slowed down. If you put it up by my house you are going to see people going 40-50 miles possibly 60 miles an hour past my house.

**Sgt. Bennett:** What kind of vehicles are they in?

**Susan Bell:** Everything. You got farm trucks, I don’t know if you saw the sprayer that went by a couple weeks ago. He was flying past my house. It was a sprayer.

**Sgt. Bennett:** I will pass a message on. Cars and trucks are a little more tricky.

**Mayor Tree:** And to go with that, this is not your area but main street they are flying by. We are getting complaints everywhere. We got a lot of new people moving in. So it’s not just your area we have got it everywhere.

**Susan Bell**: My feeling is if there are more speed limit signs in town that many help. There is one coming into town and one out north and that’s it. And the one coming from the south but you can’t see it because it’s so far over covered by the trees.

**Mayor Tree:** And we have asked the residents to help the sheriffs because they are not hear all the time to get a description of the vehicle and license plate and put in a complaint.

**Sgt. Bennett**: And a specific time of day or time range when it’s happening the most, because we can’t be here all the time, but if you can give us a time. I mean I spent an hour last night driving around in the middle of the night. If you can give us the time frame then we can plan our day according and be up here during those times.

**Susan Bell**: I know you guys are up here because I am out walking the dogs but it is more during the day, it is the farmers.

**Council Member Nelson**: What about one of those signs that says it’s 25 mph unless otherwise posted? Is that easier to do? Or is that the same but it is more braid and not as effective?

**Sgt. Bennett**: As long as it’s within the area the state law would say, yes it should be 25mph. Though most of town here you are going to be ok to post it as 25mph. Beyond that, unless the state law says unless the houses are 100ft apart or less then it defaults to 55 unless otherwise posted. And if you’re going to post anything else other than 25 or 55 then you have to have that speed study done. Which putting that black box up here, that’s part of the speed study. There’s a lot that goes into a speed study. It’s not just a simple slap up of the sign. I wish it was that simple.

**Susan Bell**: And that’s what we needed to know.

**Clerk Munns**: Do you want me to put you on next month’s agenda?

**Susan Bell**: Yes.

**Mayor Tree**: And the other thing we talked about with the roads and whatever, we will do our best but you’ve been here you know what the budgets like the Beus’ want more of the road down, they want more done to the cemetery. So it will just have to take time.

**Susan Bell**: I’m not talking about paving it. We don’t need to pave it. They have got to have gravel down there or they are not going to be able to get in and out.

**Mayor Tree:** We will do our best right now. Our budget is what it is right now.

**Susan Bell:** Ok well that’s just going to be how it is. In the winter time there isn’t going to be as much traffic down there obviously. But they need to be able to get out of their driveways.

**Ed Rogers**: Just to piggy back on that. One thing I noticed last summer when I was trying to get my house approved, on the way out, there are some small children I barely saw in my F-350, because they were on their tricycles. 25mph is too fast with the little ones.

**Sgt. Bennett:** An advisory sign might be an option.

**Norma Lasa**: On May 29th, I was down at Amanda’s house celebrating Jared’s birthday after dinner and cake and everything, we went outside and I was sitting on the porch watching the kids play and within a 15 minute time period, this gal in a white some kind of SUV, I don’t know, ran that stop sign. Just come down to 8800, about 15 minutes later she comes and almost T-bones Dan Thomas in his side by side.

**Mayor Tree**: We have an issue with this, and we are getting a lot of new folks in here too so.

**Susan Bell:** Which doesn’t matter they grew up somewhere where there is stop signs.

**Sgt. Bennett:** One thing that other towns do with these stop signs. Like Corinne they added a bunch of stop signs in strange places. What Corinne wound up doing is they put a flashing light on the top of these signs. If nothing else it just helps make them a little more visible. I think people get complacent, not paying attention, they are looking at the pretty deer or whatever. Some of these places I don’t know if you would consider putting up stop signs and changing up the intersections a little bit. I don’t know all of what that entails but.

**Mayor Tree:** You could. I don’t thing flashing lights would be that bad. Correct me if I am wrong though we get a lot of people that violate things, but then when we do our report and ask how many times people have called the dispatch and you’ve got like 3 or 4. So we got to do our part too. Escalade it up. If you’re not calling dispatch nothing is going to happen.

**Sgt. Bennett**: I will include this in my report and spend some more time up here.

**Susan Bell**: Especially during the day.

**Sgt. Bennett**: Is there more of a specific time? Morning or afternoon?

**Susan Bell:** I don’t know. It depends on the day because some will be going out to farm.

**Sgt. Bennett**: If you start noticing a trend a certain time of day or certain vehicles call and ask for me. But you can call and make a report of that and it can be documented. I mean we can increase our presence up here and start writing more tickets.

**Susan Bell:** It is a concern because people come flying down that canyon road and don’t stop at that stop sign. They turn right or left and people are flying in and out of town. I don’t want to be there when that bad accident happens. You guys don’t want to be called out to that bad accident. Nobody wants that to happen and it’s going to because there is no respect.

**Mayor Tree:** That’s probably what it is, is respect. Thank you.

**Review of Departments:**

**Water-Tyson Nelson**

**7.** Discuss and approve – Trees up at town pump. The trees up in the upper spring cannot be there so Council Member Nelson proposed an idea to put something in the Mayor’s Note about letting the town (under the council’s supervision) go up and chop up the wood for free fire wood. They would be responsible for cutting them down and also the clean-up (limbs, etc.). There would have to be a waiver put in place where it is on town property for liability reasons. The drafted note will be put in the July’s Mayor’s Note and the town will have until August to let the council know they are interested. Then a date will be set for the removal.

**Roads- Lesley Smith**

None

**Planning and Zoning- Martina John**

**8.** Approve Kyle Holden addition permit. It has been through the planning and zoning committee. He is adding a two story garage onto his house.

**Motion to approve Kyle Holden’s addition permit for his garage by Council Member Nelson. Seconded by Council Member Nielson. All aye. Motion approved.**

**Parks- Tyson Nielson**

**9.** Discuss and approve sale of old park mowers. The town has two old mowers that are broken. They each have a list of things that are wrong and they both have estimate of how much it would cost to fix them. Council Member Nielson has proposed putting them up for bid to everyone in the town. It will go out with the Mayor’s Note. The bids will open up in the July Town Council Meeting.

**Fire Department- Robert Barrow-** none.

The mayor wants to remind everyone that the State has laws about what you can and cannot burn. It could be another dry summer so Mayor Tree wants everyone to be careful. Also you cannot burn in a barrel anymore in this county.

**Call Out Report- Sgt. Bennett-**

Sgt. Bennett has had minimal calls since the last time he has come to town council. He wants to remind people to keep an eye on your kids, since there has been an increase of juvenile calls. Along with keeping an eye on your kids, Sgt. Bennett has asked us to keep an eye on your neighbors. He has had several calls about fights, suicides, and violence between families.

**Motion to adjourn by Council Member Nielson. Seconded by Council Member Nelson. All aye. Motion passed.**

**Adjournment at 6:35**