



TOWN OF MILLS
EST. 1921

REGULAR TOWN HALL MEETING

May 22nd, 2019

Meeting called to order by Mayor Coleman at 7:00PM

Present: Mayor Coleman, Councilman McCarthy, Councilman Ives, Councilman, Councilman Hollander, Councilman Wales

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of the Meeting Minutes from May 8th, 2019.

Councilman McCarthy made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 8th, 2019. Councilman Hollander seconded. All Ayes Motion carried.

New Business Licenses: Three new business are as follows.

Cunningham Electric, Romo Construction, Royal Builders

Councilman Wales made the motion to approve the three new business licenses. Councilman Hollander seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Renewal Business Licenses: 19 business for renewal as follows:

Alliance Electric, B & R Properties, Caputas Catering, Colling Brothers Roofing, Cundy Biz, DK Hauling, Expressions School of Theatrical Dance, Halls Custom Paving, Loose Goose Trailer Court, Mountain View Haircuts, Moyle Petroleum/ Common Cents, O'Hearn Trailer Court, Plumbing Masters, Rissler Plumbing & Heating, S & L Classics, Transmission Distribution, Triple D Mobile Home Park, Wyoming Power Wash, Yellowstone Plaza.

Councilman Ives made the motion to approve the nineteen business up for renewal. Councilman McCarthy seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Ordinance 734, First Reading: Budget FY 20.

Councilman Wales made the motion to approve Ordinance 734 on first reading. Councilman Hollander seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-32: Fee Schedule for the Town of Mills.

Councilman McCarthy made the motion to approve Resolution 2019-32. Councilman Ives seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Approve the Payroll Reports and Expenditures:

- **Fire Employees:** 4-28-2019 to 5-9-2019.....\$14,217.45
- **Town Employees:** 4-29-2019 to 5-12-2019.....\$94,357.38

Councilman Wales made the motion to approve the payroll reports for the fire and town employees. Councilman Hollander seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Pay Bills on Voucher List and the Petty Cash Report and approve the voided and manual Checks:

- **Petty Cash:**\$0.00
- **Vouchers:**\$56,576.46
- **Manual Checks:**
 - Town.....\$11,088.05
 - Court.....\$0.00
- **Voided:**\$0.00

Councilman Ives made the motion to approve the vouchers, and petty cash report and approve the voided and manual checks. Councilman Wales seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Council Approval of the April 2019 Bank Reconciliation.

Councilman McCarthy made the motion to approve the April 2019 bank reconciliation. Councilman Ives seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Council Approval of the March 2019 Court Income Report.

Councilman Wales made the motion to approve the March 2019 court income report. Councilman Hollander seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Executive Session: Legal Issue:

Councilman McCarthy made the motion to go into executive session at 7:04 p.m. for a legal issue. Councilman Hollander seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Back from executive session at 7:29 p.m. No action taken from this executive session.

Council Update: Mayors' address to the residents.

Cedar Springs

As you may be aware, the Town of Mills was identified by the State of Wyoming as being within the impact area for the large Cedar Springs wind farm project in Converse County which will see construction start in August of this year. Mills participated in the permitting process as one of the affected areas.

As a result of a hearing held last week in Douglas over a two day period the Industrial Siting Council has voted to provide Mills with approximately \$19,700.00 per month for 17 months, or a total of \$335,000.00. As you may know we have a proposal to the NCFD to streamline fire response in our service area as well as that of Station 7 thru a contract. I have added as part of that proposal that the Town make available for use by the District 20% of these funds if they feel that working with Mills is in the best interest of the District. The remaining 80% (or 100% if no agreement is made with them) in my opinion should be placed in reserve to deal with impacts as they arise. If there are any remaining funds once the project is complete the governing body can reallocate them to an appropriate place at that time. We have already endured one impact from this project. This would be the approximately \$20,000 that the Town has spent to study the project and annualize the impacts while determining an approximate cost. Once Funds have been received by the Town I will propose another resolution to move this amount from reserve to General fund.

Fire Service

As you all may know we have two general options to provide fire service to our Town from our Station 9 under the current circumstances given that the Town has determined that a full fire department no longer remains a viable option for the Town.

The first and best option in my opinion is to contract with NCFD and partner with the entity that we currently share a 60% response rate with both us in their area and them in our area. I will now read the proposal letter to them:

The second option is to contract with a private fire service company that has the experience in dealing with the similar and identical issues that our Town is faced with. This is not a bad option at all, and would most likely save the Town the absolute most money, while providing a better service level that we currently have by providing labor more regularly in our boundaries, but it would not help take any of the burden off our partners at NCFD.

We have one proposal in hand with an indication that resources can be in place on or before the 1st of July. We are expecting one or two more in a very short time frame. Once we have them all in hand we will present them to the council and ask you to make a selection on one of them or the possibly a contract with NCFD if they make that an option.

We are also working on checking out the legalities and feasibility of several on the wonderful ideas that were brought up at the last council meeting by the public, and will share the results of those inquires.

The Town has been contacted by an attorney who is now representing the Fire Union. Our legal counsel is in contact with counsel for the Union. While the Town feels that the time for discussions between the Union and the Town have unfortunately passed, the Town will keep an open mind concerning any productive information that the Union and its counsel may provide. Because this does involve discussion on a legal matter between the Town and its representation and the Union and its representation, not much more can be said about those conversations.

I want to bring one more issue to the floor before I open this meeting up for first council comments and then public comments. I have been reminded by more than one individual in our community that in Wyoming we typically are not a people that rely entirely on the government at any level to provide completely for our needs, rather we expect the governments to provide a structure, and rely on ourselves and neighbors to solve most issues and handle difficulties we encounter. The point was generally being made that while there is need for time fire personal with the changes in today's society, there is also a need and a desire by many to fill in the gaps with a volunteer of paid volunteer aspect to fire and emergency response so there will be trained citizens in sufficient numbers to deal with large emergency events, but not a fulltime burden on the tax payer to fund such a labor force.

This is not an option for our Town today, but maybe in the future if there is a desire to do so by the residents of this community that want to take the time to be trained and prepared for emergency's. Mills is very fortunate that a long time resident of our community saw such a need and left a sizable donation that could be used to develop such an entity in the future.

Open Discussion:

Town Clerk Christine stated that when you come up to the podium please state your name and keep your talk to five minutes.

Tyler Houser:

Voice for all the fire fighters, we took an oath to protect the residents of the Town of Mills. 912 calls for service that is 912 times that we have been called to respond for service and make an impact in the town. By getting rid of the fire department that means that will be 912 times that the residents of Mills would be unprotected. There has been recent contract offers to keep the fire department open. We have offered to do tree maintenance, fire hydrant flushing and snow removal. We agreed to forgo raises and aid into any other task that the town ask for. The town has asked for the current schedule to be changed but the fire fighters think that would not be cost effective. It would cost the town more money. They want us to go to a 12 hour work schedule. We have proposed that we would get rid of FLSA that would be about a \$1000 per fire fighter that the town would save. The fire fighters tried to schedule a meeting but the Mayor and the Town Attorney did not show up. Instead the town sent off layoff notices in a letter that violates the contract. In the contract it states that each fire fighter is to get a letter that states that they will be laid off. We did get such letter. In recent events the town has switched EMS billing carriers. When we were with the other company we generated revenue of \$18,000 to \$30,000 a month. The town was trying to save the 10% fee that ends up being pennies. Since the town has taken the billing in house they have only generated \$18,000 over 4 months. If they go back the billing company they have used before the fire department could generate \$140,000 in a year to help keep the fire department operational. Our duty is to keep the residents of the town safe, which goes beyond emergency calls. We need to stand up and have a voice in the closing of the Mills fire department. Each resident pays taxes and they should not have to pay another company to come in and do the job that we can do. Tyler mention that the town had a general fund of \$2.2 million dollar increase in 2017 and that decreased to \$590,000 in 2018, with no explanation of how the money was spent. This budget the fire department has come in under budget for FY 19 compared to the proposed budget. With that being said the town in looking into a privatized fire service. That might sound good but the Mills Fire Fighters have sworn an oath to make the ultimate sacrifice to the residents of Mills and our own life. A privatized fire department does not share that same belief. They are paid by a private company to provide coverage for the town based on revenue and will have to

pay for engine use. The Mills Fire Fighters will be available after the meeting to answer any questions you may have.

Lynn Leslie:

I heard from a council member that you are willing to spend one cent funds to fund the County, I have attended a previously meeting that says we cannot do that. I think we should look to spend the once cent funds for the fire department. I am willing to help out in any way. It was not long ago that the school district was holding meeting to close our schools. The town is doing the same thing and acting just like the school district.

Mayor stated that we are not closing the fire department, which is station 9. We will be changing the way we administer fire service within the town.

Jim Rayburn: Lived here for 50 years

Jim stated that the Mayor says a lot of things but the residents do not know what he is talking about. The Mayor stated that where station 7 sits now it has a faster respond times to some of the annexations we have done in the last few years. Just as station 9 of Mills station has faster response times to some calls in station 7 area. Both are dispatched to calls in Mills and the County. The overlap that is going on between Mills and the County is costing too much that we can no longer do it the way we have been doing. The first thing we are trying to accomplish is the efficiency between the two stations that will help both of us out. If that does not happen then we will have no choice but to contract with a private contractor. Jim stated that you are saying that we do not need a fire station in the Town of Mills? Mayor stated that we will man station 9 with labor resources from County or hire a private contractor to provide the man power to staff station 9. Mayor stated that we are not dissolving the fire station in Mills. We have to look at the revenue stream. We need to look at the way we provide service in the most economically way possible. We have been working on this for years and we now have to deal with it. Jim stated what we are going to do with the people we have up there now? Mayor stated that it will be up to County or a private contractor to figure out how to man the station that meets our budget concerns. Mayor stated that there is a lot of communities just like us that are struggling with the same issue that we are faced with. Jim asked Mills does not have enough to fund the department? Mayor stated that the revenue stream that we get is based on our population and not a workable situation. It is the responsibility of the town to find ways to spend the tax dollars and provide the service. Mayor stated again that we are going to have a fire department that meets the needs of the town financially. Jim was upset that the big bird out there is a waste of town's money. Mayor stated again that there was a lot of private donations for the eagle. Mayor stated that if we did not have the eagle we would still be in the

same position as we are now. Mayor stated that we have had residents reach out to us and want Mills to look better. So we have a budget line for improvements of the Town and are trying to meet the needs of the residents. The Mayor stated that the eagle has not cost us that much, we have not used much resources to get it up and going. Jim stated well that is before we knew we were going to lose our fire department. You are to represent us. Jim wanted to know what Council members live in Mills. He heard that some do not. Mayor stated that to be elected to a position of the governing body you must live in Mills. Jim also asked how can Mills have their own school and fund the teachers, which is important but not as important as a fire department. The Mayor stated that the revenue for the schools comes from a different revenue source. Jim stated that money is money and it is all the same. Mayor stated that our of 72 mills, the town of Mills keeps 8 mills that breaks down to about \$372,000. I believe that 64 mills goes to the school district, you can look on the school web site and see what amount of your property taxes goes to the school district. If it something that the residents want to have their own school district then they would have to get a petition going. It would not be coming from the Town of Mills. It would be money that the residents are already paying to the Natrona County School District #1. The money would just be broken down out what is already paid to them to be paid to a second school district. It breaks down to about \$17,000 for each student. But we as town cannot start this process. We have already tried and it needs to be a resident that needs to get this going. The Mills residents would be the school board for a new school district in Mills.

Tyler Houser:

He forgot to mention that at the last meeting it was brought up that the Union did not want to negotiate with the town. That was false, we have sent out a letter that said we would love to meet with the town and try to talk to avoid this outcome. We received a letter May 2nd, 2019 that said we would no longer negotiate with the Union. He had a copy of the letter. He also mention that he agrees that the town has had a decrease in funds. However, it does not show a negative balance to the town at this time. With the town coming in under budget as well as the fire department you can afford your fire department you just choose not to.

Dave Fratato: (Casper Resident and News Reporter):

He mention that in the lobby it shows our plans to redo the parks and what our future plans are. The average cost to put in a skate park is about \$135,000. Has the council revised the future plans to save money? Mayor stated that those are not set plans. We have done a master plan and public input for those projects. They are not set in stone that they will happen. It is all a plan and when we asked the residents what they would like to see that is what they told us. Now the next step is to see what grants are out there to help with those plans. They are not set in stone and when we have the money to start it we will. We are trying to

understand what the town wants. The crowd yelled "our fire department". He also stated that 14 years ago the fire department was a volunteer fire department. Has there been any talks to get it up and running with the crew you have while you get it all started. The Mayor stated that gets into some legal issues that I cannot comment on at this time.

Kathy Brennan:

I am concerned with the private contractor that you were talking about. Would they hire all new people and what is the cost of this. If so we are laying off 9 people that know our area and hire new people that do not know our area. We are already having problems with the new maps that are not showing the new areas and it would be a problem for new people to figure out. The guys know where places are. How much are we saving? Mayor stated he cannot comment on how they would staff. The contractor would probably look local first. The town would have no control in that process. As far as the cost, we have proposals coming and just like any RFP process when we get those together we will open them up and see what we have to look at. Kathy asked if the Mayor could say if it will save any money. Do we have any idea what it would cost? The Mayor stated that it would be \$200,000 to \$400,000 a year.

Kim Perez: (Concerned resident and speaker for many)

She stated that on the agenda Ordinance 734 first reading includes the fire department, does that mean we are approving the budget for the current fire department or the new one? Mayor stated that last meeting we gave a copy of the proposed budget that is not a balance budget for first reading. We would like an itemized budget of this budget. Get with the clerk's office. When is the next meeting and when the budget will be ready and balanced to look at? There are three readings of a budget before it is passed. Hopefully, that budget will reflect what we are finding out and finding more cuts to be made to make the budget balanced. All departments are being cut not just the fire department. We are making cuts to the needs and the wants and come up with something that meets the needs of the town. Kim stated that the Mayor gave us two options and wanted to know if it is still up in the air. Are we just wasting our time or is there still a chance that our fire department will be around. Now you give us two options, and we as the residents of the town have a third option. We voted you in we can vote you out. We have a third option she kept saying, the residents have a voice. We do not want the fire department gone. She has properties here and the response time for her family members that need urgent care she does not want affected. Kim also stated that the privatize billing system, the council did not trust the company they had before so they went in house. We are losing money. Who does the billing is it the water department? Mayor stated it starts with the fire department and get all the reporting done. Then we have trained personnel that finishes it from there. Kim stated it is the same person that generates our water bills? She went back on her water bill a year ago and she pays her water bill in advance and she had a

\$350.00cr on her bill. That means she has a credit. Then underneath that it says she has a delinquent bill and if not paid by a certain time will be shut off. I was told by your clerk that it is a problem with the system. If it is a problem in the system, and how do we know they are qualified to do the billing. We have other problems in the Mills government. We are here for a reason because we are watching you. We want our fire department here. We do not want your fire department here. Our opinion matters and Mr. Mayor you are one vote and you are not every vote. We want it reviewed tonight that our vote matters.

Councilman Wales:

Councilman Wales stated that he wanted a copy of the letter that Tyler Houser was referring to. He stated that he may not have all the answers but he is trying and he has a voice as well. We are all doing the best they can. We are looking at all options but what is still there is the problem. We are not getting rid of the problem. We have to come together and find ways to solve the problem not add to it. Come see on our side and see what we are going through.

Leah Juarez: Resident

Ronald she stated that if you are giving up your sit I would gladly take that from you. Leah asked all the council how they voted on getting rid of the current fire department. Councilman Ives stated Aye, Councilman McCarthy stated absent, Mayor Coleman Aye, Councilman Hollander Aye and Councilman Wales stated that he was not sure that we voted to get rid of them. He was not trying to be funny but Leah stated it in a different way. In reference to the cut I may have voted yes stated Councilman Wales. Councilman Wales stated that we did not sit to vote the guys out we voted to make cuts in a current department that is troubling. If you put 5 new people up here you will still have the same problem. We are here are trying to save this community. Leah stated that she can fix the problem. She asked Mayor Coleman that he said that one cent funds cannot be used to pay for salaries of the fire department. Mayor stated that as we move forward from a Town to a first class city there is rules on how the money can be used. Leah wanted proof of it. Can you show me the state statute that says this? She says that there is not a statute that states this. Mayor stated that beside state statutes when you are wanting to vote on how the one cent will be used, we do not present that money to be used to pay for salaries instead pay for other projects that if were not funded by the one cent would be attached to your property tax. Leah stated that he is correct. Leah stated that she has reached out to other council members from other towns and they have stated to her that the council can dictate how the money will be used. There is not any statute that says you cannot pay your fire staff with that money. Another issue that Leah brought up is the budget for the fire department needs to be around six hundred thousand, how can we bring in a privatized fire department for \$200,000 to \$400,000. Mayor stated that we when we review budgets we plan for future and look at past spending trends. We look line by line and see what

was spent and what would be coming up in the next year. Leah asked for the Mayor to resign and that they are looking into a third option and that is recall.

Town Clerk Christine stated that when the Mayor stated that we need \$200,000 to \$400,000 for the fire department that was the savings not what it would be to run it correct? Mayor stated correct.

David Little: Resident

David stated that the town said they cannot use one cent funds to fund the fire department but then they said they would use one cent funds to fund a privatized service is that correct?

Mayor Coleman stated that if we have a partnership with Natrona County Fire District we can by finding out what info structure needs they have and use it there but not on labor or those type of resources. If we recognize that there is cost associated with the needs that they need then we can help out there. David stated that going with option 2, a privatized service, he has heard rumors in the past that municipalities that have contracted with a private service will be paying more for that service. Sometimes it is in the amount of \$20,000 is this something we can expect? The Mayor stated that the contracts that we would be entering into would be no different than the contracts that we enter into with the Town Engineer. The Town would be paying for the service to provide that labor. The town would be paying a per hour cost for the man power in the station. So the \$425,000 would cover that service stated David. Yes stated Mayor. There would be a plus or minus with that number, each contract has come in at a different cost. David asked would there be any burdens for higher cost for the services they are receiving now? Mayor stated no. What is the town willing to cut next in another crisis? Mayor stated all the council can do is take the resources we have from the State revenue and local revenue and make the best of it. I cannot say what will happen in the future but all we can do now is take care of the matters at hand. David asked if there is any grants out there for fire service. How much has been paid for the study that Mills paid for to study the growth potential? Why not pay for a study for the fire service? Mayor stated that they have looked into grants that would add fire personnel but not existing fire personnel. David concluded with the future aspect of Mills, does the council see that the Town of Mills will be dissolved? Mayor stated absolutely not. Mills was founded in 1921 and was a subdivision of Casper. We have the fastest growth than any other town in Wyoming. David said he will hold him to it.

Dave Frato:

As a person who works with lots of contacts have you researched that they could hire the 9 folks that will be losing their jobs. Is that their contingency plan? Also another plan is what did you meant that you could not use one cent funds to pay for the fire department. Could you talk more about that? Mayor stated to the first question is that he would love for the contracted

company to hire the current fire staff, but at that time the town would have no involvement in that process. Dave asked if they could ask the union to help out with that. Mayor stated that with one cent funds there is a process we have to follow. Mayor stated that we are budgeting for the next 12 months and we have to be prepared for how we are to use the funds. When is the budget due asked Dave? Mayor stated it is June 18th, 2019. Mayor stated that we will have fire service. Dave wanted to know that the people vote for the one cent funds why can they not have a say it how it will be spent. Do the people have the right to do that? Why can't the people have a say? Mayor stated he would love for his inbox to be flooded with ideas on how to use the one cent funds. Dave said the residents should have a say in how the one cent funds are routed before the budget session ends. Mayor stated that the budget is in the clerk's office and come get a copy of the budget work sheet and help us how to make changes and offer ideas. The Council needs to make sure they have everybody's back and make sure that there is jobs in Mills and that the people will be taken care of. One cent funds are the people's money and then so how good the one cent is funds if the people do not have a say.

Allan Gruber: Resident

How many strawberries does it take to make a watermelon? You are trying to turn Mills into a first class city in the next 12 months. We don't want to be like Jackson. Mayor stated that we do not get to make that choice. The census will determine that. We are not ready to be a first class city. A first class city has a fire department. Name a first class city that does not have a fire department he asked. Mayor stated Riverton Wyoming. How many volunteers do they have and fire trucks? Mayor stated that we have to address the fire issue and we have heard some great ideas at the last council meeting. We are working through some of them. Allan said we need to forget about the first class city and get a fire department. Either get a volunteer or keep these guys hired. What happens after June? After the 1st of July one way or another there will have personnel at the fire station. There will be people at the building. Allan said at what cost? Councilman Ives said come to the work sessions is where you need to come. Councilman McCarthy stated that our budget work sessions are also open to the public. Kim Perez asked if the meetings are going to be advertised. Mayor stated that they are on Facebook, our website and here at town hall as well as the post office.

Leah Juarez:

She congratulated the Mayor for mastering the political world by dancing around certain subjects. One cent funds you are not answering, personally I do not want the current fire staff to be let go in favor of an outside agency to come in. I would like you to redirect the one cent funds to pay our current fire staff.

Scott Clamp: Resident

He wants to know how the town got so upside down. I know that a lot are blaming the Union. What is making us upside down? Mayor stated that this is not the unions fault. This fire service has grown so much that the town cannot support it anymore. It was a management error many years ago. Mayor stated that at this point if we had a partnership with Natrona County it would be there position to pick from. We have made changes in other departments to help control the budget. Scott stated that this hurts my heart since his dad was a volunteer fireman. He wished the council luck.

Dave Frato:

What are the efficiencies? And what are the avenues that the town is exploring? Mayor stated if we want to raise more revenue the Town would have to raise water, sewer and sanitation rates. The problem with that is that Mills has a large population that is on a fixed income that would be severely harmed. Dave said they are being harmed without a fire department. We still are going to provide that service in a more cost effective way. We are going to staff that station and how we provide service and get recommendations on how to provide such service. The fire department said they would forgo raises. The council can preach how good the outside would be, but nothing will be better than what is inside. Because the inside folks know the ins and outs of the town. Mills needs to take care of Mills people. Mayor stated that he cares about the community and just wants what is best for Mills. Dave said that contracts are money, and that contracts don't care about communities. Dave talked about response times and what will happen when Mills is not able to respond while having no fire department. He says the fire guy's care about the community and the fire fighters care about Mills people. The new people are not going to care about Mills. When the money starts to run out they will be gone. Mayor stated he knows the Mills people are not happy. The current governing body is doing the best they can with the resources they have. Councilman Ives said come to a work session and let us know how you would solve the issues we face. Dave ended with again that money is money and no matter people are going to ask for more of it. The current fire staff are willing to forgo raises to keep you all safe. At the end of the day, people want to be like these people and not worry about money. Kids are going to want to be like these fire fighters that care about the community and not like the contracts that when the money runs out people run.

Scott Clamp said watch out because the fire guys are union and when one gets a raise so do all. So have to watch out. It is not just the nine guys that can make their decision, they belong to a bigger web and they will dictate what will happen.

Dari West:

Dari is no longer a Mills resident. I move a few months ago. She worked for the Mills Fire Department. She also owns a business here in Mills. I am concerns on multiple side of this. I

understand that there is budget and rules we have to follow. Her concern is that those cities do not have all the industrial business that Mills has. We have lots of people that travel into Mills to work and do not live here. The safety of the people is the concern. You are forgetting the medical side of things. Natrona County can respond to fire but they do not have transportation. I am on medical leave currently from a back injury. The Wyoming Medical staff has a problem now keeping their ambulances staffed. How can Wyoming Medical Center magically have all these people to staff and run ambulance. Mayor stated back in June of 2018, a resolution was passed that said we cannot continue to go in the direction we are heading. Changes need to be done, and that is why we are where we are at. Dari stated that you took away all the part time employee making \$10.00 an hour risking my life, loved her job and that is her choice. But you have other town employees that are making more than others and maybe they need to make changes in their department. Maybe budgets need to be switched elsewhere to see a change in the process. Dari stated that the council needs are more forward posting the meetings and ideas. Dari just wants to be informed on when meetings are, she does not have Facebook. Posting on the website is very hard to navigate around.

Tyler Houser: Mills Fire Fighter

He just wanted to clarify that there is grants that are available. They are looking into multiple grants such as the Safer Grant. It is opening soon and will help with wages for new and existing salaries. They can help us, they are easy to obtain in situations just like this ours. If the town goes with a privatized service you will see an increase in your home insurance without even knowing. I have seen it many of times. You will not receive a bill in the mail. This becomes a claim to your claims. It has not been done to all of them but has been done in the past. Mayor stated that the problem we have is the fire department and the Town are not eligible for a federal grant for fire service because there was grant in 2014-2015 that was not properly closed out and it was closed out administratively by the federal government. That is one issue we have been trying to deal with when applying for federal grants with the federal government. Tyler stated that there is a petition process that we can go through. Mayor stated that grant writers told us to hold off for a few years. Mayor also stated he will look at the Safer Grant but what we have been told it is not for existing positions and can only be used to create new positions. Tyler stated it is designed for fire fighters wages, it is for departments that are hiring but it can be used to supplement budget for wages. In 2017 the Federal grant that was improperly done was for bunker gear and it has been a few years. Maybe this is something we can try, maybe we will not be awarded it but it is a try stated Houser.

Kim Perez stated that she wanted to know if negotiations done? Tyler stated yes it is. Kim asked the audience that they want the current council to go back into negotiations. That is what the people want. Mayor stated that he will have to turn it over to the Town Attorney, Pat

Holscher. Pat stated that he told the union to get an attorney and one finally made their appearance last Friday, which is late in the game. Pat stated that he cannot make comments on negotiations and frankly he said to Tyler you cannot make comment about it either. These are conversations that need to take place between your legal counsel and me and the Town and you can't and don't say anything. Your legal counsel does not want you say what you are doing. Kim says how can their voice be heard? When do we get to say who we want? We just want some answers. Can we go back into negotiations? Pat stated he can't answer her question. Their lawyer is going to have to get a hold of me more than once. How about get a mediator. Pat stated no we do not want that. I feel the union's lawyer is a good confident lawyer that will get back in touch with me and we can talk.

Mayor made a motion to go into executive session for a legal issue.

Executive Session: Legal Issue.

Councilman Ives made the motion to go into executive session for a legal issue at 8:59 p.m. Councilman Wales seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Back from executive session at 9:12 p.m. No action taken from this executive session.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman Hollander made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 9:12 p.m. Councilman Ives seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Mayor Seth Coleman:



Attested: Christine Trumbull

