



TOWN OF MILLS
EST. 1921

REGULAR TOWN HALL MEETING

May 8th, 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 April 24th, 2019.

Councilman Wales made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 24th, 2019. Councilman Hollander seconded. All Ayes Motion carried.

Approval of the Executive Meeting Minutes on April 24th, 2019: One Legal and One Personnel Issue.

Councilman Wales made the motion to approve the executive meeting minutes from April 24th, 2019 for one legal issue and one personnel issue. Councilman Hollander seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Mayor closed the council meeting at 7:01 p.m. and opened the public hearing.

Mayor Coleman now declared the Public Hearing opened for an Application to the Wyoming Business Council to rehabilitate and Make Improvements to Water Storage Tank #1. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with state statues and has been set and advertised in accordance with the statutes. I would ask those individuals who wish to address the council on this issue to approach the lectern, state your name, and address for the record. Do we have a report on this item? No report.

Again, Mayor Coleman asked is there was anyone in the audience who wishes to speak in favor of this item. Again, is there anyone in the audience who wishes to speak in favor of this item? Mayor Coleman asked if there was anyone in the audience who wishes to speak in opposition to this item. No one spoke up. Again, is there anyone in the audience who wishes to speak in opposition to this item? For a third and final time is there anyone in the audience who wishes to speak in opposition to this item. Mayor Coleman mentioned that after all have spoken and there being no others to speak for or against this item, I now declare the public hearing closed at 7:02 PM.

Mayor opened the Council Meeting at 7:02p.m.

New Business Licenses: Five new business are as follows.

Allterra Construction, Central Wyoming Construction, Local Lawn Care, Rocky Mountain Healthcare, Sign Products

Councilman McCarthy made the motion to approve the five new business licenses. Councilman Ives seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Renewal Business Licenses: 21 business for renewal as follows:

Amber Valley Estates, Artistic Hairstyling, Chuck's Auto Repair, Computer Professionals, D & C Storage, Extra Storage, Full Contact Concrete, Integrity Auto Body, Jimco Sales & Manufacturing, Myzweil Store It, Redbox Automated Retail, Salt Creek Classics, Smart Home Pro's Sterling Excavation, 24 Hour Heating and Cooling, T & T Drilling, Triggers Mercantile, Vivint, Waters & Son Construction, Weathercraft, Wyoming Building Supply.

Councilman Wales made a motion to approve the 21 business license up for renewal. Councilman Ives seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Ordinance 732: THIRD AND FINAL READING: An Ordinance to Change Tract 5C, Robertson Hills from Developing Business to Mixed- Sized Residential.

Councilman Ives made the motion to approve Ordinance 732 on third and final reading. Councilman Wales seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-31: A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Community Block Grant Application to the Wyoming Business Council to Rehabilitate and Make Improvements to Water Storage Tank #1.

Councilman McCarthy made the motion to approve Resolution 2019-31, Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Community Block Grant Application to the Wyoming Business Council to rehabilitate and Make Improvements to Water Storage Tank #1. Councilman Ives seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Approve the Payroll Reports and Expenditures:

- **Fire Employees:** 4-16-2019 to 4-27-2019.....\$13,735.14
- **Town Employees:** 4-15-2019 to 4-28-2019.....\$88,482.87

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:**\$129,845.25
- **Manual Checks:**
 - Town.....0.00
 - Court.....\$3616.00
- **Voided:**\$1,155.32

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

Council Approval of the Catering Permit for Staggers:

Jennifer Holling and Carment Wisser were present to talk about their 3rd Annual Deklyn Dean Summer Shootout dart tournament. They are having it at the large hall this year because of more room and better atmosphere. They have teamed up with Wyoming Amusement. They will supplying the machine and the music. Staggers will be catering the alcohol. The event will be June 8th, 2019 from 8am to 2am. They understand that if the music gets loud they will have to turn it down. Jennifer stated that this is the same event from last year just in a different location. Councilman Wales made the motion to approve Staggers catering permit for June 8th, 2019. Councilman Ives seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Open Discussion:

Mayor Coleman read his opening statement.

I want to start off this public comment section of our meeting tonight by thanking everyone who has come out to talk to us about the funding issue of our fire department. I also want to take a moment to thank our firefighters for the service they have provided to our community. We as a council are appreciative and wish we had options that would allow us to continue in the way we have for these last few years.

The Mills Town council has worked for several years to solve the budgetary issues of the Town. Mayors and councils previous to this one have also tried to solve the problem with little success. We have made a great deal of cuts to many areas of the general fund. We have done things such as installing a voice over IP phone system to save close to \$3,000 a month on internet and phone service.

We have left a position open in the clerk and treasures office and managed with three employees as opposed to four as had previously been done. We have left positions open in the police department, to the point that too often we have officers working with only the sheriff's department as backup. We have left open positions in streets and parks. Our parks are largely maintained by sanitation personnel after they are done with their route for the day. We have looked at the way we purchased supplies and inventory to find every dollar of savings possible. We have changed the way the Town invests its reserve funds increasing the annual return from .25% to 2.25%. We have created a division of the Police department that is charged with both animal control and code enforcement. This will have saved the Town approximately \$30,000 in the first year even with some of the startup costs. This has also decreased the response time greatly for animal control call response times for Mills residents. We have provided a budget tonight for your reference, with a complete, detailed version available soon on our website

We operate as frugal as possible in any area we can to free up dollars for the amenities that our fellow residents get more benefit from than they would from an extra phone line or internet connection. We continue to look for savings every day in the way we operate. These cuts are not enough to prevent one cent funds from being used to operate the town. When we look at how we operate the Town overall as to the general fund compared to other smaller sized Towns in Wyoming, we find one major difference is how we deliver fire and emergency medical service to the Town. Our cost per resident to provide fire service is very high in comparison.

In June 2018, the Town Council passed Resolution 2018-46 that stated we could not continue to provide this service in this way. We directed our fire department and all other departments of the Town to assist with finding a more cost effective way to provide fire service. These efforts did not produce a workable solution.

The Council voted on a second resolution at its last meeting that stated we would reduce the department to administrative staff only. This had to be done in a public meeting. It is our responsibility to make even hard decisions such as this one in a meeting that is open to the public. This may be uncomfortable for us and put us under a lot of pressure, but it is our duty to do so.

We regret that this decision had to be made at the time that it did, in what may seem sudden if one is not following the actions of this body, but due to time limitations created by Wyoming Statues this was the only option available to us. We were unable to ask for public input before this point in time, due to the complex legal issues attached to this budget issue, but we are here tonight to ask for it now. We understand the emotion attached to this issue and will take any criticism offered and balance it with our overall knowledge of the facts of the finances of the Town in search of a solution. We also welcome any other idea for consideration that would be brought to us for a resolution to this issue.

I and The Council are in our positions to serve a Town we care deeply about. We do not like making such tough decisions, but the fact remains that the general fund has grown to be more expensive than our Town can afford. While the complexities of this problem didn't originate with the current administration, it is a problem we are responsible for addressing and committed to solving.

As you know, Mills recently lost both of its' schools and its' library. While there were many issues that were out of our control, we fought hard to keep each of them. The same can be said for the Fire Department. We did not come to this decision without making many attempts to continue its operations as is.

First, the school. The Town has done the work and laid the foundation for a path to bring the schools and their portion of property tax and State of Wyoming funding allocated to each one of the Mills students back to our Town. If this is something our residents want, we need a handful of them to come forward take this plan and advance it on. The Town Council cannot do this, but we can aid in the process. There are many benefits to having a school district operated by the residents of Mills. It would

not increase taxes it would just shift which entity receives the taxes. Mills residents can solve this issue if that is the direction the majority wants to go. This entity would not be under the control of the Council, it would be controlled by its own board of Mills residents.

Next, let me talk about the library. The Mills Council was asked for what would seem to be \$40,000 per year to operate the Bob Goff Library, the Town already was paying for all the utilities and building expenses, NCPL was simply providing the labor for 20 hours a week. The Natrona County Public Library cannot use volunteers. The Town can use volunteers and with some part-time staff we believe we can operate the library for 40 hours per week for the same or less cost. We have received many book donations and continue to do so. All we lack to open the library is some shelving, furniture and a plan of what activities will occur. We have Mills residents that are working to move this forward shortly, and hope to bring more into the process soon. This would seem to be an appropriate use of the one cent funds.

Next let's look at the fire department. We must break this down into the major areas of service that would include structure protection, emergency medical response, accidents and environmental response, and wildland fires. Most of the calls are for emergency medical response. We are looking at options that will keep a quick response time for our residents, but that will be operated in a more efficient way. Second, we are weighing all the options available to the town to provide the response needed to keep the ISO rating of 1 that the town currently has for structure protection along with accidents and environmental calls. We are also weighing the best possible ways that the Town of Mills can offer a wildland fire response to the areas in and around our town where that is a concern, as well as being able to offer mutual aid to other organizations when needed.

I am certain that we can find a way to provide the different aspects of fire service to the residents of the Town, at the same high level we have now with more personnel available when needed, and still find a way to operate a library, fund park improvements, repair infrastructure, clean up our public spaces and provide many of the other services our residents have talked to us about and requested we work on. While we currently provide a high level of service to the Town we have a couple of things that we must consider. First for the majority of FY19 we have provided this service with only two fire personnel on shift due to open positions that took a great deal of time to fill. The expenditure savings that was created by this would not solve the budget issue, but it would drastically improve it. We had no choice but to work diligently to fill these positions per our contract. Another major fact that must be considered is even at full staffing when a Mills ambulance is responding to an emergency medical call that involves transporting, which most do, Mills has no structural fire response for anywhere between 45 minutes and 1.5 hours. Because of changes by Congress a number of years ago that made it easier to buy a home in rural areas like Mills, Mills saw a growth in number of new homes being constructed in 2010 and 2011. This growth has continued today and is helped by things like low water and sewer rates, and a 2% franchise tax by the town on electricity as opposed to 7% seen in some areas of Natrona County. If we want to see this growth continue, we must listen to the many residents that have asked us to clean up public spaces such as along the River, and so many other areas of the Town. One Cent funds would be appropriate revenue to fund this, but to continue to do so, we must first bring our general fund to more appropriate levels. With the creation of Economic Opportunity Zones, and Mills being placed in such a zone and other benefits like the free trade zone expansion. Mills is poised for growth if the economy continues on an upward trend. The Town must have funds available to do the positive things communities can do to be a catalyst for this. We undertook the RFP process to locate firms that can help Mills identify the best and most cost effective ways for the town to work to bring a grocery store, shops, restaurants, and industries that would strengthen not only the economy of Mills and Natrona County, but would be a compliment to the existing industries such as the mineral extraction industry we all rely on. We can do all of this and provide fire service at a high level. If we are willing to take on the hard funding issue and work to find a logical and emotionally controlled solution.

This Council works hard every day to make this community better! We're all passionate about our Town, but also recognize we have areas we need to improve. Unfortunately, this means we have to make tough decisions, but we do so based on facts. I assure you these difficult decisions are not made lightly, and we always have the best interests of our residents in the forefront.

In the days and weeks ahead, we look forward to sharing with our community a more detailed plan on how we will provide fire and emergency medical services to Mills. It is our hope that period of open comment fosters additional ideas that will be both realistic and financially sound.

But please understand that there are multiple options that will be considered over the next several weeks, and this council will choose an option that keeps response times and levels of service the same or better than they are today beginning the first of July.

With these details in mind, I ask that each person who address the Council tonight do so in a civil manner. We welcome your criticism and will listen to your thoughts and ideas. We respect you and ask you to show myself and council respect in return. I would also like to request that any member of the audience who resides in Mills be permitted to speak first. Then, when all Mills residents have been heard, residents of the greater Natrona County area should feel free to come forward. Please also be mindful of everyone's time tonight and limit your feedback to five minutes. Thank you again for being here tonight and contributing to this issue in a helpful, constructive way

Laura May:

Her concerns is with response times. Mayor stated that we have a amazing fire department rating to response times so I have done some research. I am a facts seeker. Drove out to Bar Nunn fire department. To drive from Bar Nunn to Salt Creek and West Yellowstone with no traffic and driving the speed limit it took me 8 minutes. Natrona County Fire Station #7, from Robertson Road to Mills Fire Station it took me 3 minutes 45 seconds. No traffic or stop lights. From Fire station #1 Casper to the Town of Mills it took me 3 minutes and 55 seconds. Why I am alarmed with these times, goes back to Oct 8th at 3am living on Connie Street when that fire explosion it shook her apartment. Our police department was there in less than a minute and it was not much more time for our fire department. So my concerns are, what happens when we have a tragic event. Do we have 5 to 9 minutes to waste on response time? Will we see a rise in fatalities? Our town is comprised a lot with trailer houses. Will we see a lot burn to the ground? We have a group of 9 men that serve the Town of Mills. They also have families. Think of the 4000 residents in Mills and the many business that bring their business to Mills. A fire department is not optional it is a must.

Mayor Coleman stated we will still be providing service and share the same concerns that you brought up. We have been struggling with. Laura agreed and understand that we have inherited a mess from previous administration. There is other means that we can explore to resolve the issue that you are faced with. Mayor stated that this is the fullest he has seen this room in the 6 years he has been here. We normally only have staff that are paid to be here. We would like to put up an electronic sign so you all know when our meetings are. I love to see you all out at meetings. We want your ideas and solutions to help us. Laura asked for to applaud the great fire service we have in this town. We need to get some of the business man with the council to help with the issues at hand and start thinking outside the box.

Scott Clamp:

Scott has lived here for nearly 60 years. His dad is the longest running volunteer fire department guy that is still living. He was at the meeting when they decided to get rid of the volunteer fire department and make it paid. I think we are late to the game. We lost a great squad and I think will be hard to get back to that. We lost good guys when we went too paid. It would have been nice to see the turn out we have now back then. We might have been able to save the volunteer fire department. His family has been on the volunteer squad. It not all on the council. He goes to a lot of the meetings. He saved the old fire hall by going out and getting 600 signatures. Save our history. It took caring and come to more than one meeting. We need a solution and I don't know what we need to do. But we need to hear your side of the story and let us know what you need from us. If we need volunteers than let us know. I know we have a union squad but if coming to meetings is what we need to do. He cares about this town. He owns a lot of blocks. The paid pushed the volunteers out. It is sad to see all the years of the fundraising for the fire department and now here we are. Need help he will start coming again.

Catherine White:

Lives in the new subdivision. I am a registered nurse. The fire department and EMS is huge for her. It is not an option to totally get rid of it. Mayor stated again getting rid of the fire department is not what we are going to do. We are looking at other options to help us out. We can't continue to do from within. Find resources with outside to help solve problems. Wyoming Medical Center is also under pressure. Her friend has a two year old boy. He had a seizure a couple of months ago. The Mills Fire department saved his live. Wyoming medical center could not find the location. If it was not for our fire department that two year old would be dead. She used to live in Casper. She stated that maybe we need to look at raising water and Sewer prices. Most would agree that a fire department is a necessary. Live and death is something you cannot take back.

Kathy Grunland:

Her concerns are that the council has already made a decision to disestablish the fire department and looking at options. As of June 30th we will not have a fire department that means we have less than 60 days to find out what is going on: What are our options? If you have made the decisions without having explored the options that is a poor planning decision and the residents of town will not have a lot of faith. Animal control you had gotten a building and cages and there was a lot of meetings and input, but now you are talking about life and property of humans. We have not heard anything. Mayor stated we are really looking forward to sharing them with you but were we are at in the process with a legal issue it limits us way more than we had with animal control. It is not comfortable for us but the time will come shortly but it is not yet.

Burt Harris:

Lived in Mills for over 70 years. I served on the volunteer fire department for 27 years. You are putting price on a life. Is your price worth a million dollars? Is anybody life worth a million dollars. I think you are making a big mistake. I think we need to watch for budget for a year and there is several people in this room that would help to get a volunteer fire department up and running. The Mills fire department is very professional and knowledgeable. They should be employed for 1 year. We have a building over here that would make a great volunteer fire department. We cannot use the one up there because a volunteer fire department cannot get across West Yellowstone. He will help form it and other will help. Get rid of fire department is not the answer at this time. You are elected by us and represent us. I know it hurts the budget but you have to listen us the people.

Jared Kelly:

Resident of greater Natrona County. I was a long time fire employee of the Mills Fire Department. In 2006 he was volunteer. From 2008 still a volunteer fire even though they were a paid department then. I became full time in 2013. In 2016 had a golden career that I could not pass up. Mayor can I ask you some questions. Do you know what mutual aide is? Mayor stated that when you build a budget you build it around the calls you have in your community. Then we are on a call then another entity can help and use our resources. Do you know often mutual aid is utilized in the Town of Mills? The Town of Mills responds to about 60% of calls outside of our community. Mayor gave some stats of the calls log that we had got. Jared Kelly did the same. He stated that these are open to the public. Mayor stated that the numbers are tracked through dispatch. We can go back and forth with the numbers. Jared asked what the skill level is our ambulance in the Town of Mills? We have a lot of paramedic and EMTI's. Do you know what amount of schooling is required? The Mayor understands this and will listen to what he has to say. Jared asked is it true or not true that he had asked the Mills Fire Department to stop responding to non-emergent transfers. Part of the union contract stated that they cannot respond unless they have a part time staff. If he had it his way he would still be responding to them but at the time that was not an option to the town. You are aware of the College EMT encourage them to come to Mills and work. County does not have ambulances. Mills is the closest. Wyoming Medical Center is the next one in line. He gave stats on calls. Mills covers the west side. If you take away the Mills Fire Department you will leave a big black hole. Councilman Ives asked him that when out ambulance goes out west who covers our town. Jared stated Mutual Aid. Wyoming Medical Center comes out and take the call. I thought you said that Wyoming Medical Center is shorthanded.

Leah Warez:

I put in a call to dispatch as well. Dispatch said it was 3 times as much. Mayor stated that all are dispatch when a person calls 911. All entity's get called. She asked if the council was a paid position. She would encourage to go volunteer. She said that when Wyoming Medical Center is out of ambulance then they call Mills. You are wanting the guys to put there life on the line

for volunteer is a joke. Find the money. Take it from the River. If we are going to use one cent money for the library we can use one cent money to fight fires and death.

Mayor stated that there is a budget summary at the podium. If you would like an itemized budget get a hold of the clerk's office and give us ideas where we can make cuts.

Leah also stated that she has been to a couple of meetings and just because we are not sitting in the seats, you are elected to represent our voice. Mayor agreed and will find solutions.

Linda Gruber:

When you call the fire department they come immediately. Why can no you not take money from the cop shop? When you call them they do not come. We had drug dealers outside our house. An hour and half later they come. Use some of the money they are spending by putting tickets on people's cars that do not have licenses.

Kim Perez:

Lifelong resident of Mills. Lives matter. She runs a nonprofit agency. I ask the people who utilize the benefits from her. What are your ideas and how do we fix this. We receive water bills, give us a questionnaire. Let us have a voice. She reached out the Casper Fire and asked if there is a call in Casper and Mills who get priority. He stated Casper. If there is a call in Mills and Bar Nunn, Mills get the call first. Who is held responsible? It has been published that all have made the decision to close the Mills Fire Department. Where are our options? If this has been going on for two years why have we not known about it, and when do we get to speak. This affects us all. We have an older generation here in Mills that is history. We cannot lose them because of slow response time. Lives Matter! The river is a great thing, parks are great but let's ask for volunteers. There is a lot that can do it. We can help out. Her agency helps out. They can do the cleanup. Who bought the trucks for animal control? Mayor stated they were existing town vehicles. We have people in our Town that have world of experience. Give us a questionnaire ask how we can help. We need to get through the gate keepers and talk about these things. We can let you know what we want. The budget where can we get a 2019 budget. Itemized budget is what she wants. If I go over or under I have to explain why. The town is the board of directors. We would like an itemized budget we would like to know the numbers. Give them the chance to explain and give ideas. She loves Mills and would like to stay. Casper said that Mills did not reach out to them. Can't the planner reach out to Casper about this because it affects their world. Ask and people will come.

Christine Trumbull Town Clerk addressed the council stating that with your water bills has been news letters that we have stated that we have committees that need your help. We have asked for questions. I have gotten people to tell us to quite wasting paper and don't do the newsletter. We have many areas where people can volunteer. I have 3 people come to me and say they will help out. Please read the newsletter and come help out.

Megan Shreve: Hailey her sister read a letter:

She read a letter. She is a resident and a nurse at Wyoming Medical Center. She understand the difficulty in budget issues. But laying off professional fireman and EMT is not the answer. The public should have been notified beforehand time. The Town has said they plan to contract with outside agencies but how come City of Casper was not aware of this. Why was the public not aware of this issue? The Town is concentrating on issues such as Summer Fest and Parks and the overall cosmetic of the Town. Why not concentrate on the safety of the residents. My husband and I would be in favor or raising our water and sewer cost to help fund the fire department which is vital and a non-negotiable asset of the Town. You also need to look closer into the billing and coding of the ambulance service. At the end of the day you cannot put a price on a life of a person. Concerns from the medical standpoint. First responders are important in saving a life. We need trained medical professionals and educated employees. You are elected officials and have the power to shut down the fire department. But please keep in mind the safety of the residents. You are setting yourself up for something devastated.

Councilman Ron Wales:

Ron stated that he has been elected by the people of the Town for 4 years. Reason why he ran is because he did not like things either. He would come to meetings and just sit and listen. But he said come to work sessions and you will see where he sits. On the edge of the seat. Not because he does not like to sit in the seat, it's because the seat does not belong to him. It belongs to you all. You will all trusted me to take this seat and have trusted me to represent you. When you sit there and think we do not care you better believe it eats us up. We have to face you when we see you. I have son that was a volunteer fireman. I was a volunteer fireman in Florida. We do care. We tried and are still trying. We don't want you to come up to us and say we let you down. I don't let anybody down. It does not belong to us. It belong to you all. We are not foolish. We are trying to get back to where we were and go advance the Town. It eats me up as well. I walk these street. We don't want to lose you all. We are not trying to take things from you all. I live by you all. I am your neighbors, I want to work with you and you need to work with us. Don't sit there and have an opinion and don't tell us. Please let us know. God Bless you all!!

Danny Excley:

He lives in the Lariat trailer park. He is new in Town. I do not drink or do drugs. The Mills Police are rude. You get in and out of the town as fast as you can. He walks the streets at night. He goes into bars to visit. The cops like to find a reason to arrest you. A week ago he was out at 10pm behind Beacon. He was pulled over by Officer Roden. Danny stated that the only reason people are on this street at night is to buy drugs. If there is drugs why are you not getting them? He claimed I was weaving all over the road. No reason to be driving after dark in the community unless you are drunk or trying to get drugs. If you can't be out after dark what is wrong with the town. I went up to Bid Tavern and they told him what the curfew is. No place can stay open because of the kids better be home. Only a resident the night the trailer house

was on fire. Why would I want to be in a town that has lots of schools, lost its fire department? The only thing they have going is the police. They can pay their salary by giving people tickets. Where he lived there was a volunteer fire department. The business in this town need to kick in a few cents and help fund it. This town property cannot justify a full time fire department. There is many that will volunteer.

Nora Parker:

Lives behind the Beacon Club. The reason why we don't come to the meetings is because we don't that warm and fuzzy feeling from you all. She used to come all the time. When she comes in and pays her water bill she has never met so rude girls that are in the office. I ask them what is going on with the Eagle and they just say they don't know. The big bird looks cool but we need a fire department more than we need that bird.

Robert Barnes:

Don't live in Mills. He has friends that work on the fire department. He had stuff brought to his attention that the business that are part of the manufacturing, trucking and oil and gas if you do research the insurance rates are going up 25% if you have no fire department. Why would they want to carry on a 25 burden on to their business?

Mike Nobles:

I have talked to lots of Mills residents this week. What is happening is not right. I had a seizure with some friends. The first one to get there was the Mills Fire Department. If it were not for them I might not be here. Since the mobile home fire, if it were not for the Mills Fire Department the damage could be worse. He would feel terrible if something happened to our senior citizens. We need to know that all will be taken care of. He asked for a round of applause for the fire department.

Darcie Gudger:

She stated that she is from a place did a subscription to the ambulance. You pay a set fee every month and if you need the ambulance the fee that you pay covers your ride in the ambulance. If you were not subscription then you pay the going rate. She has a son and worries that if we do not have a fire department what will happen. What happens when Bar Nunn has to respond to a fire call and they get stopped by the train? Sometimes that train can take a long time. We need to have a fire department and keep our fireman. It is nice to have nice parks and a nice walkway, but those can come later. These life and death services need to be the top priority and be number 1. Please consider a subscription service for the ambulance.

Allan Gruber:

He is married to a lady that write grants, not just small grants but big ones. He see that on the budget that we have a speed grant of 40,000. What does that mean? Somebody had to write this grant. Someone need to do their homework. There has to be a way around getting the money. He has seen it over and over. His wife gets money in and helps people all the time that has nothing. I care about my family and friends. The eagle is necessary. He stated he would like to have the real meat and potatoes. Take care of the important stuff that matter. Making Mills beautiful is nice but let's have some sympathy for the fire department.

Brittany Johnson:

Her brother in law is a firefighter in Mills. Her dad works in Mills. She is a therapist at Wyoming Medical Center. It terrifies her. 6 minutes without oxygen to the brain can be damaging. She has made calls to the police department for gun shots and drugs that goes on her street. We need a fire department for our town. She likes the small town feel. She has seen it over and over that Wyoming Medical Center cannot take in this volume of calls that they would be receiving.

Penny Keel:

Do not live in the Town of Mills. She lives out by the airport. Mills has saved the life of her father and mother. Mills can be out there in 4 minutes. Have they not been there they would not have survived? We are all fighting for our families. Do not let it fall on death ears. Just to let you all know that there is rumors going around that you are in cahoots with Bar Nun. That is why you are reaching out to them. She has been listening, and feels all that it is falling on death ears and your minds are already made up. Remember what you are giving up when you let them go.

Scott Clamp:

He stated that he has already talked and he said we have heard some good ideas from the lady on the subscription service and the grants and about the water bills. Who would be willing to pay it? One lady who stated she was a business owner stated that she would pay triple her water bill to keep the fire department. He did not see a lot of hands raised when he asked the question about who is willing to pay more on their water bill. Not to many people raised their hands so he asked again how many people are willing to pay more on their water bill. Scott asked the question to the Mayor would \$20.00 more a month per resident be enough to cover the cost of the fire department? A typical water bill goes for around \$40.00. Mayor stated that they have been breaking down the numbers and see that there would have to be a 20% to 40% increase in the services to maybe cover the cost. Rough numbers and something to look up. Mayor stated that when you raise cost usage goes down. So it hard to look at this on a one to one ratio. Need to call the insurance company's need to be called to see if rates will go up. A resident stated that she has already called and she said yes their insurance will go up. So Scott stated that paying more on the water bill be realistic. One guy stated that the town has 4000 residents and that would bring in \$960,000. Scott stated that we need to look at that if we lose

our fire department, we have already lost our schools and library. The people we need to be talking to is the County Commissioners. Our property tax is going to go down. I have been to meetings and don't get the warm and fuzzy but I have a say. These people are my friends and I know they get to little or no thanks. They are put in a hard spot. I was at the meeting that they voted the volunteers out and I thought that was a bad decision. Scott stated that if we would have had this type of support in a meeting the volunteers would never have been voted out. A resident stated that there was not the opportunity to discuss the issue. I have heard a lot of the people complain about having animal control. Well I have was at the meeting when they were talking about this and Metro was charging the town lots of money for little time on patrol. So the Town has saved us money. I have seen it and we were paying the piper for no service. A resident stood up and talked about her 74 year old neighbor that has cancer. She received a call from him and she was going to walk outside and walk up to Bills house. She then stated that Barney fife Wilson asked her what she is doing out at this time of night and started to pump her in the chest. There should be no reason for him to do that to her. Scott stated that the world we live in is not the world we wish it was or want it to be. There is some bad apples out there had our police department and fire department to be on guard. Scott finished up by saying that there is some good ideas that have been brought up so let's get some fundraisers going and work together.

Councilman Wales stated again that said we have our minds made up. Talking about the schools and that he was the last one to talk at one of their meetings. He knew looking at them that their minds were made up. What is a town without a school and grocery store? If you all think that we that we are throwing everything out to the wind your wrong. We do not have our minds made up. We are asking you now of your thought and ideas. We are trying and have been thrown under the bus by the school district.

A resident stated the resolution that was passed last meeting stated the fire department is de-established that means it is gone before we had any input. We think your minds are made up because now it is gone. Mayor stated that this is where it get complicated and I am sorry that I cannot get into it. The resident says it is vague and we just want to know. Trust us someone said. Attorney Pat Holscher stated the basic reason for that is Wyoming State Statues gives a municipality and a union fire department all of about 10 days to work this out. It gives very little time and give both the union and municipality in a nearly impossible situation when it talks about budgetary issues. If the person who drafted the Wyoming State Statues on these things every tried to work things like this out would know that it takes a long time. They would not put a narrow time line. From start to finish it is about 30 days which is not enough time when it comes budget deficient at the level we are talking about here. Basically we open the book and shut it and that what is going on here. A resident stated that it would have been nice to hear this explanation along with that instead of coming later. Resolutions regarding this issue go back to 2018 on this topic. This is not the first time this issue has come before the council. This is the first time that there has been this many people here to listen. A resolution back in June of 2018 directing the current fire chief to explore all the options that we are talking about tonight.

Justin Wisser:

He asked if there has been a fire chief. Pat stated there has always been a fire chief. Justin stated that for the last 3 years there has been no fire chief. There has not been a consistent fire chief for the last 3 years that I know of. So who is going to do that? Justin stated that there has been interim Chiefs. He stated that they have called County and they go out to the lake looking for our address. The Mills Fire Department knows where we are. We have a daycare on Natrona Ave. Mayor stated that we have been battling this issue for a long time. We are trying to work through it. With the zip code issue of 82604 still reads over to Casper. We are trying to work through the issues associated with that. Justin understand that. Casper does not know where we are at. Mills knows Mills. I was raised in Mills. I have two business in Mills and both are in high demand of fast response times.

Leah a resident stated that the council has known about this for 2 years and why has the public not been notified before on this topic. A suggestion if something big is happening please let it known to all what is happening. Social media is huge. If it is important people will find a way to come to the meetings. Build a good relationship and trust with the public. Mayor stated that that is something we have been working on that has been lost is getting information out to the public. We are trying to build an email list. We are improving our website. We mail out separate issues so you all know what is happening. Any other ideas that you all have on how we can get information out to the residents please let us know. A resident stated she has an idea that you went from a 3rd party billing to in house. Maybe looking into the coding and billing for that service to make sure that all the information is there that is needed. Town Clerk Christine Trumbull stated it is up to the medical guys to do that. If it is something that I cannot do since I do not put the information into the system. Sometimes the guys put things in wrong. I cannot change what they put in or I am liable for that. The Mayor stated that there is reasons why we brought it in house. First we were giving 10% right off the top to the 3rd party billing agency. The past problems of the town put us in the bad situation. We will not be defrauded again.

Kim Perez:

Is this a done deal..... Have we all showed up here too late? I want to know are they going to be here Aug 1st. Do I have to worry about response time? She stated to the Mayor that in one of his articles he states that they are not going to use Casper services. Who are you going to use? Did we waste our time and what can we do as a community and what is going to happen. Mayor stated that he will refer to the Town attorney again.

Pat stated there is only a limited amount that we can say when it involves two separate parties and the structure that the law imposes. We remain open to visiting with the members of the fire department about any topic. The union needs to know how to approach us on this topic. They need to know how approach us in a way that decisions can be made with them. Are you wasting your time by showing up here? You definitely are not. We appreciate your input and we want input from the fire department. But time does march on and there will be a time that

it will become too late. We need to plan for alternatives and cannot sit on our hands. Kim asked again with that being said you just answer is it too late. Pat stated that nothing is that easy in the real world, especially when it comes to the legislative put structure on it. At some point it will become too late. So it is too late, in my view it is not too late for parties to come and discuss for a plan that is rationale with the budgetary concerns of the town. A resident asked can the council repeal the resolution that they passed to give more time. If you want a result that you most fear is have a town that will have no emergency services that would guarantee that this would be accomplished. The deadlines are real and need to be addressed. A resident stated so the union needs to come to the table. Pat stated that he said all he can say in these circumstances. Why the fire department has not called in an arbitrator. This involves legal issues that pertain to the union and legal issues which cannot be discussed in this type of meeting.

Ruth Pitts:

If the fire department goes down can you not rebuild from there? The Mayor stated that yes we can. Does the volunteer have to be part of the union? Pat stated again, that with the current changes if a fire department has an occasional volunteer the union must negotiate on his behalf as well as the full time fire department. That is a recent decision that came out of Sheridan and Gillette.

A resident stated that if you disestablish the fire department does that mean they are laid off? Mayor stated yes. So no one will be a fire fighter and will have administrative employees. The administrative people who will be in charge are they certified fireman and EMT? Yes the Mayor stated. They will be acting in an administrative role. Who will be responsible for a person's house being burnt down? I will hold somebody responsible. The administrative people will be in charge of the other aspects of public safety stated the Mayor. Can resident take some kind of training that will help the Town our while things are being decided upon. Mayor stated that they are still looking into that.

Jane Rayburn:

Is there a date when a decision will be made? Mayor stated I cannot give an exact date but very soon.

Another resident stated that we no longer want to pay our fireman with one cent funds. The Mayor stated that this becomes a problem when we are moving from a town to a city. We have to account for this a certain way. Mayor stated that if you look over the budget sheet that has been prepared for you it will explain how we plan to spend the funds from General fund, Enterprise funds and One Cent funds. So a resident stated that we plan to go the next level? Mayor stated that it is not that we plan to it will say we have to. The council is only at first reading of the budget and we plan to make more cuts. How much would have to raise water bills to pay for the fire department? You can not keep striping the residents of things they want. We used reserve funds to buy the old Mills School. We have people that are interested

in buying it from us for what we paid. This will be a benefit for the Town of Mills. Mayor stated that we have a budget that maintains the buildings so we took money out of there help pay for the eagle that will beautify the area. The resident stated that she understands but feels that the priorities are out of whack and you are not concerned with keeping the residents safe. We understand that we are waiting for the union to come back with a negotiation. Pat stated that it is more complicated than that. The union does not have an attorney to speak through. Nobody is dumping on the union. The union is a victim of the structure as the Town. We are not saying that the union is a bunch of bad guys. A resident stated is there a number that the union can come back to you with? Mayor stated that we need to be around \$600,000, a year instead of the one million.

Town Clerk Christine stated that she heard someone say earlier that we have 4000 residents, Yes that is right we have that many residents but we only have 1800 water bills that go out. With our enterprise funds we have to use some of that money to pay Casper. The more you use the more it will cost. I just figures a rough estimate and each person who receives a bill would have to pay around \$60.00 onto your bill. We would then have to charge more excessive use of water. Scott Clamp asked again what it cost for a business license in the Town of Mills. Christine stated \$65.00. I would think that the bigger the company the bigger the bill should be. We should started billing by the amount of employees. It is not fair for a smaller company to pay the same as a big company. We owe the town for letting us live here.

A resident state what is the requirement for a fire department when we go to the first class city? Mayor stated the same. Pat stated Wyoming statues are silent on it the municipality must have a police force but it does not say it has to have a fire department. Does that mean the City of Casper does not have to have a fire department? That is correct Pat stated. A resident stated that when we become a first class city do we get any more money from the state? Mayor stated that when the census comes out in 2022 or 2023, the revenue will come from our number of people in the town. Scott stated that can we have another meeting before this goes away. Is this the only meeting? Mayor stated the next meeting is on the May 22nd. I hope to have more information at that point and invite you all back for this type of discussion. Pat stated that the union can speak for themselves and yes they are invited. Can the council ask the union to come? Mayor stated that he will try to get them here. Ruth stated that can we put out the electronic sign when the next meeting is. Another resident asked if we can have some hard numbers on how much our water bills will go up to keep the fire department. A resident stated if we can put up a suggestion box in the front office.

Nora Caves:

I have lived in the town since 1940 and I am on a fixed income and cannot afford any higher water bills. We have lots of residents that are older and are on fixed incomes. It would put hardships on the older people.

A resident asked how many paid full time employees do we have working for the town. Christine stated we have 53. What happens to the guys pensions? Nothing stated Christine. What happens to the fire equipment was another question.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman Hollander made the motion to adjourn the council meeting at 9:14 p.m. Councilman Ives seconded. All Ayes-Motion carried.

Mayor Seth Coleman:  _____

Attested: Christine Trumbull  _____