

TOWN OF CUSICK, WA

SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES (DRAFT, FOR APPROVAL)

NOVEMBER 1, 2022 | 6:00PM

The Town Council of the Town of Cusick, WA held a special meeting and public hearings on Wednesday, November 1, 2022, in council chambers, at Cusick Town Hall, 111 S. 1st Ave.

All Councilmembers were present and accounted for, constituting a quorum. The meeting called to order at 6:00pm, with Mayor Duane Schofield presiding.

Roll Call:

Present (In-Person)

Duane Schofield, Mayor
Everett Alford, Councilmember
Tina Alford, Councilmember
Afton Servas, Councilmember
Jessamyn Fitzhugh, Councilmember
Luke Servas, Clerk/Council
Brian Smiley, POC Commissioner

Present (via Zoom/Phone)

Kate Hupp, WA. Dept. of Ecology
Cathi Read, WA. Dept of Commerce

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance:

This Regular Council Meeting for the Town of Cusick, WA was called to order by Mayor Schofield at 06:04 PM.

Review & Approve Meeting Minutes – 10/04/2022:

Council reviewed the regular meeting minutes from October 4th. Councilmember Jessamyn Fitzhugh made a motion to approve the minutes, and Councilmember Tina Alford seconded this motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

WTP Transfer Pump

Councilmember Everett Alford presented Roger Brown's request that the Town purchase a replacement transfer pump for the wastewater treatment plant. After some discussion Everett made a motion to approve the purchase of a replacement transfer pump. Jessamyn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dog Ordinance/Registration Tags

The dog ordinance and registration tags agenda items were tabled with discussion scheduled to resume at the next Council meeting.

Nathan Johnson's Contract

Councilmember Afton Servas said that since she was the one who brought up the topic, she should put together some language for the additions she wants to propose to Nathan's contract. Afton asked to table this item until the next regular Council meeting on December 6, 2022.

Groundwater Wells, Arsenic Levels – Aquifer

Mayor Schofield asked Council to explore the possibility of drilling wells as a source of drinking water given a recent report that a well over at the former PNC site was found to have acceptable levels of arsenic.

Everett cautioned that this sort of an undertaking could be extremely expensive. Luke pointed out that the Town could drill several wells and none of them could end up having safe arsenic levels. Everett added that this is assuming we even find water, and enough of it, when we drill said wells also.

Cathi Read - WA Dept. of Commerce provided some clarification regarding Nathan Ikehara's – WA Dept. of Health comments at the Town's last water board meeting, which is where this topic originally came up. Cathi echoed some of the comments already made regarding the potential for finding usable water.

STAG Appropriation – Cost Match Waiver Request Letter

The Town has been planning to submit a cost match waiver request to EPA Region X for the STAG Appropriation that we were awarded for the WTP renovation project.

Luke and Afton prepared said letter that contained waiver criteria data that was researched by Luke and Cynthia Wall-Fuller – WA Dept. of Commerce, with help and guidance from Cathi Read and Liz Fortuanto – Desimone Consulting Group

Luke asked Council to approve submission of the letter, and for Mayor Schofield's signature.

Councilmember Jessamyn Fitzhugh made a motion to approve, which was seconded by ____, and passed unanimously.

Application for Funding – WWLS #1, Collection System Improvements, Groundwater Monitoring Wells

Luke explained that with Ecology's new funding program and based on feedback he has received from ECY, it could benefit the Town to apply for design/engineering funding for the lift station replacement project, and improvements to the collection system, and the groundwater monitoring wells that our permit requires we install.

Cathi Read told the Town that we are authorized to ask for funding for the lift station and the collection system, but not the groundwater monitoring wells. This had to do with the fact that the Town had not completed a Water Treatment Facilities Plan, but rather a General Sewer Plan.

Luke expressed concern with meeting the deadline set out in our permit for the installation of the groundwater monitoring wells if we must go through the entire process for that project separately later on.

Kate Hupp – WA Dept. of Ecology said that if such a situation were to arise when the time comes that ECY would likely be willing to accommodate changes to the timeline. She also pointed out that we were only talking about funding from ECY. The Town could end up securing other sources of funding as well.

Councilmember Tina Alford made a motion to approve requesting WA Dept. of Ecology funding for everything we can related to the wastewater system. Everett seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bernice Smith – Maintenance New-Hire

Roger has asked Council to approve hiring Bernice Smith as a temporary, on-call maintenance employee. Councilmember Luke Servas made a motion to approve hiring Bernice, at \$20/Hr., the rate Council agreed to. Jessamyn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjourn until 11/23/2022

The meeting was adjourned until the special Council meeting and public hearings on November 23, 2022 upon a motion from Councilmember Afton Servas, seconded by Luke Servas, which passed unanimously.

Signed on this _____ day of _____, 2022, by _____

Duane Schofield, Mayor – Town of Cusick, WA

Attested to by _____

Luke M. Servas, Clerk – Town of Cusick, WA