

Town of Encampment
Special Meeting
July 20, 2023
5:30 p.m.

The Town of Encampment met in a special session at the Encampment Town Hall on Thursday July 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Shannon Fagan presiding. Council members present were Stas Banach, Bill Craig, Ashley McKinney and Steve Reichert. Town personnel present was Doreen Harvey, Clerk/Treasurer. Audience member was Jon Nelson of North Fork Engineering.

The meeting was called to order by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Banach moved to approve the agenda with the addition, Reichert seconded and the motion was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Lagoon Project- Dredging: The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the cost overrun of the dredging as bid in option #1 of the sewer project bids. The funding shortage was approximately \$148,000.00. Clerk/Treasurer Harvey advised the council that she had contacted the attorney as asked and that the town attorney had advised her that the answer to the question of whether or not the council could use the 2019 Specific Purpose Tax portion passed for park improvements for the sewer project is not cut & dry. She noted that he cautioned the council not to do something that will put us or the town at risk. He was not able to answer the question by meeting time and is reaching out to get more information on the issue.

Discussion ensued about the dredging portion of the sewer lagoon project which was bid as an alternate in the initial bid package. Mr. Nelson noted that cell one is a priority with 24"-30" of sludge in it currently. The total cost of the dredging with permitting included is \$398,000.00. He advised that he went through his notes on phase #1 and phase #2 for total dollars and commitments. The short fall is \$148,000.00. Clerk/Treasurer Harvey noted that the 2019 Specific Purpose Tax has been performing well and that there is \$35,922.28 in interest earned from the investment that could be allocated, noting that there will be future earnings as well. She also reminded the council that \$37,033.10 of ARPA direct funding had been purposed to the sewer project in order to leave that amount of the 2009 Specific Purpose Tax in the reserve. She noted that if the council chose, those funds could be reallocated toward the shortfall. Mr. Nelson noted that there was also a project listed on the intended use plan and that \$125,000.00 of match from reserves would be needed for another principal forgiveness loan.

Discussion returned to the possibility of reallocating the portion of the 2019 Specific Purpose Tax intended for park development on the sewer project. Mayor Fagan reported the language in the resolution for the passing of the tax. Councilman Craig noted that he did not believe that the council saw the final project listing after it had been changed just prior to being placed on the ballot. He stated that he did not believe council would have voted for those changes. It was reiterated that the development of a public park was the last priority on that list. Clerk/Treasurer Harvey noted that all communities were having cost overruns on projects on their lists. Council members noted that the highest priorities do benefit the town. Council returned to the discussion of making the choice about the dredging. Craig noted that in his opinion it has to be done now, or there could be another \$90,000 added to it for mobilization, not to mention where costs might be in the future if dredging were to

become a stand-alone project. The possibility of moving forward with dredging was discussed and reviewing phase two with the two lagoons. Craig noted that he had visited a site that is similar to what ours will be and that it was working great. He noted that he believes that we can make it work. Banach agreed stating that we have a place to dispose of the sludge now and agreed that prices could soar and noting that the sludge had doubled in 5 years.

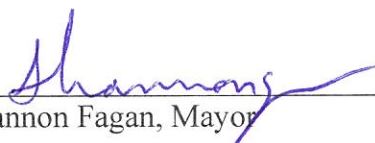
Craig moved to approve going ahead with the sludge removal portion of the project at a cost of \$398,000.00, Banach seconded and the motion was passed.

Reichert asked about the timeline. Mr. Nelson noted that 14 days to substantial completion and 4 days to final completion, is all that would increase in the timeline.

With no further business, Craig moved to adjourn at 5:58 p.m., McKinney seconded and the motion was passed.

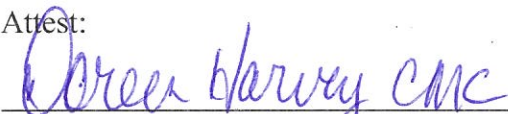
Doreen Harvey, CMC
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: August 10, 2023



Shannon Fagan, Mayor

Attest:



Doreen Harvey, CMC, Clerk/Treasurer