

Upland Town Council Minutes: February 21, 2023

Public Comments:

- ❖ Stephani Tramelli, 962 S. Main St., has an issue with her neighbor concerning a fence. How can she get this resolved?

Council Reports:

- ❖ **Brian Hunt-** Mr Hunt reported that he has had a few constituents contact him about vehicles speeding on Main Street, 8th Street, and Washington Street. Could there be more of a police presence in these areas?
- ❖ **Matt Voss-** Not Present
- ❖ **Heath Slain** – Nothing to report
- ❖ **Warren Ross** -Reported that he and Mr. Sutherland went to the Fire Station to see the new fire truck purchased and paid for by Jefferson Township. Also Mr. Ross thanked the town for taking care of the light at the park. He suggested that they may need the timer looked at.
- ❖ **Ron Sutherland-** Nothing to report

ADA/Title 6 Concerns: Nothing to report

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm

The next regular Council Meeting will be held March 7, 2023 at 7:00pm at Upland Town Hall.

ATTEST: Mary Fletcher
Mary Fletcher (Clerk Treasurer)

SIGNED: Ron Sutherland
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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Carl Daudt, 540 W. Wakentin Ct., how does Upland's rates compare to other communities our size and are we in any way at a disadvantage? What is the status of the West Lift Station? Will that lift station likely need upgrades? Jonathan Perez said that because Upland is the highest point in Grant County we need more infrastructure to carry sewage uphill so comparing our rates to other communities is not a fair comparison but our rates will be on the higher end as compared to other communities. The West Lift Station is newer and is in good condition.

Stephanie Tramelli, 962 S. Main Street, Is sewer usage metered? Mary Fletcher explained that the sewer is not metered. Usage is based on water usage.

Cheryl Liston, 1312 S. Main St, Is there a way to get adjustments when watering yards, ect. Mary Fletcher responded that this is something we are looking into. Cheryl also asked if there are grants available for this project. Ron Sutherland responded that we did receive a \$1.2Million grant for stormwater and we did apply for the OCRA grant for the North Lift station. We are looking into others as they become available.

Paul Coyer, 745 Harsax Drive, asked if Taylor's rates should be higher than residents. He expressed his appreciation for the council looking towards the future. There should be a plan to systematically increase the rates instead of 115% increase right now. Ron Sutherland explained that the state requires us to prove that we can pay the payments for the \$9 Million loan over the next 30 years.

Diane Hovermale, 8199 E 600 S, What if we receive a grant after the loan is taken out? She commented that as a realtor, she does not see that the rate increase will affect the housing market. What is the capacity of the new project? Will the system be able handle new housing projects? Chris Harrison, Commonwealth, commented that future growth has been taken into consideration when designing the new sewer project.

Paula Brock, 295 Orchard, asked if meters are being read every month? Mary Fletcher answered that meters are being read and not estimated every month.

Ken Bailey, 601 Hess Dr., commended the council for tackling this project. What happens if the council does not raise rates and decides to not tackle this project because of lack of public support? We would not have a functioning sewer system.

Stephanie Tramelli, 962 S. Main St, asked if there was anything prohibiting residents from installing composting toilets? Jonathan Perez responded that the town has no ordinance or policy concerning this. Residents would need to check with Grant County to see if they have any restrictions concerning this.

Councilman Sutherland asked if the problems with sewage on the north side of town will be resolved with the new project. Chris answered that yes it will solve the problem.

Shederick Whipple, 540 S. Fifth St, what is the time time on the rate increases? Jonathan Perez stated that unless the council makes any adjustments to the ordinance, the rates would go into effect with April's billing.

Paul Brock, 295 Orchard, asked if there was an estimate on how much more the town will be collecting? Ron Sutherland referred her to the rate study. She also expressed concern about residents on fixed income. What happens if they can't pay the increase? Mary Fletcher responded that they are compiling a list of services that can assist those individuals.