**December 11, 2012**

**Regular Council Meeting**

**Pledge:**

Mayor Juanita Mitchell and Council Members: Alex Weego, Darlene Fah, Jim Opelia and Alice Melzer were all present. Guests included: Don Fitzgerald, Gloriann Bartels, Deanna Hall, Karen Ackerman and Steve Peterson

Prior to the reading of last month’s minutes, Juanita Mitchell (Mayor), Don Fitzgerald (Councilman) and Alex Weego (Councilman) were sworn in to their recently elected positions, with their new terms to start January 7th, 2013.

**Minutes:** November 13, 2012 Regular Council Meeting:

Alex made 2 corrections to the minutes. Alex made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections, seconded by Jim, all in favor, motion carried.

**Financial Reports:** Darlene asked what the BH Transportation payment was for. Barbara stated that it was for repair on two fire trucks. Darlene asked why one of the RC Plumbing payments was crossed off. Barbara stated that they billed us less than the original bid, so she voided the first check and wrote a new one for the correct amount. Alex asked if BH Transportation is the company that we paid for the Fire Truck repair and Barbara stated yes. Darlene asked about the Orin Brissett check. Barbara stated that the Brissetts had paid their fire bill in full and that their insurance company sent the City a check for $575 for their deductible and that the check written to them was to refund this amount.

Alex made a motion to refer audit, Juanita seconded, motion carried.

**Maintenance Report:** Aaron stated that he would like to have an outlet installed for the shop heater, he will figure out the cost. He said it will take a little longer for him to put together an inventory check list for the shop. There were discussions about Norton Anti Virus software for the city computers and the bulletin board by the post office.

**Clerks Report:** Barbara stated that the bills paid prior to the Council Meeting were: BP, Hewitt Service Center, League of MN Cities, Minnesota Energy, RC Plumbing and the Orn Brisset reimbursement.
Water and Sewer: Juanita asked if everyone has come in to make a payment. Barbara said yes, except for Nicole Canfield still has her water shut off after three months.

Barbara reviewed her clerk notes.

 Barbara sent a letter to Dave Templin in regards to the girl scouts using the senior building with no response.

 She sent a letter to Denim and Diamonds declining any reimbursement for their liquor license.

 She stated that the city audit is set up for January 28. Everyone is registered to attend the conference.

 Barbara did the resolution adding the 10% administration fee to Todd County for unpaid balances on anything.

 She submitted the fire bill to Toddy County.

 Sentence to Serve has decided to not be a part of the Mill Removal after their visit to the sight.

 Barbara stated that it would be a good idea to build a shelf in the clerk’s office to hold the boxes that are piled up. Jim made a motion to build shelves in the clerk’s office, Darlene seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**: Craig Pomerenke discussed what he has found out in regards to his property located in City Limits. With help from his lawyer he plans to split his property into two separate parcels and sell one of them. He stated that he is considering his options if he were to build on one of the parcels whether he would have to connect to the City water/sewer system or if he could drill a well and build a septic system. Juanita stated that it is not feasible for the city to extend Wisconsin Street. Item was tabled so that city ordinances can be reviewed.

**The possibility of a controlled burn of the Mill was discussed**. Steve Peterson stated that there would be a cost to remove the refuge to a licensed site with the closest one possibly being in Pillager. Alex suggested that a date be set to meet with the City attorney to discuss the City’s options on the Mill.

**The weed complaint at 308 E**. Third Ave was discussed. It was noted that the property has been cleaned up by the bank and is now for sale.

**An ordinance #500-011 regulating animal within the City of Hewitt was discussed**. Aaron stated the City was not setup to hold a cat for 10 days. Karen Nauber stated that there was an effort to start an animal shelter in Long Prairie. Jim Opelia brought up the idea that the ordinance could be changed to say that only animals licensed with the City would be held for 10 days. Alex agreed with Jim and said that he would work on drafting the changes to the animal ordinance.

**Fire Truck Purchase**: Steve Peterson informed the Council that the Fire Department has found a truck that could be acquired in Fergus Falls for the sum of $71,000. Jim asked if this total included sales tax and Steve replied that there is no sales tax on equipment that can only be used for the fire department. Steve stated that the fire department hopes to recoup $2000 from salvaging their 77 chev fire truck. Fire Chief Peterson stated that the new truck could be paid for by the $20,000 grant from the USDA, a $25,000 loan and $20,000 from the capital fund plus an addition $6000 contribution would cover the $71,000. The truck purchase would cover new hard suction hoses, large intake valves for the side of the truck, a chrome cover and lever lock. It was stated that the delivery of the truck could be before the end of the year. The truck’s warrantee will cover the service cost for two years. Alex asked about when the grant will be paid and Steve stated that he wasn’t sure at this time. He also said that the Fire Department will have to ratify the truck purchase separately from the Council. Jim made a motion to authorize the purchase of the fire truck, Juanita second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Resolution 12-012 setting final levy 2013**. Alice motioned to except the resolution as written, Jim second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Fire Department Relief Assoc. Conversion to Fire Fighter PERA plan**. Gloriann stated that the fire department wants to do this. She also said that it will alleviate a lot of expenses from their current pension plan. They currently are at $500 which will carry over into the PERA. Juanita made a motion to except the fire fighter retirement plan model resolution 12-012, Alice second, all in favor, motion carried.

**Bertha Ambulance Service 2013 Contract Renewal.** 2013 amount due is $530, Juanita stated that no action is required, that we just need to pay this.

**Bertha Hewitt Post Prom.** Juanita stated that we would have to wait to donate until February to see what charitable gambling funds might be available. Alex asked if the prom will be held in Hewitt, and Juanita said that yes, Wally Wiese has been contacted and the post prom will be held at the Community Center.

Alex made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alice, all in favor, motion carried.