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Marbleton – parking, processing, public hearings

By Joy Ufford, jufford@subletteexaminer.com

MARBLETON – A growing dispute between certain residents led to an agreement June 8 by the Marbleton Town Council to install signs that enforce no long-term parking in front of other people's houses.

The lengthy discussion began with Town Attorney Thayne Peterson clarifying what rights property owners and the town have in rights-of-way or in easements. The concern is about RVs and other vehicles being parked where someone else believes they have the right to use the property.

"There is some confusion if the (disputes are in) rights-of-way or unimproved areas; the difference is who owns the land," Peterson said. "Most of these streets are rights-of-way where the town has rights to use, repair or upgrade the streets. The whole purpose is so a highway or street can be maintained or controlled."

Councilmembers Jeff McCormick, BJ Meador, Roger McMannis and Mack Bradley also attended.

Parking

Peterson said, "The town has authority to make people treat property adjacent to theirs in a clean manner, like shoveling snow even if the Town of Marbleton owns the sidewalks. We just haven't used it."

Two landowners might consider the dispute a trespassing issue, which the town cannot enforce but the Sublette County Sheriff's Office could as a criminal matter.

Mayor Jim Robinson asked Peterson about drafting an ordinance "for no extended parking on a right-of-way or in front of someone else's house ... overnight or for multiple days, to cause hate and discontent," Robinson said. "What is the best way to rectify this ongoing argument?"

"It's easy to come up with a parking ordinance about this," Peterson said. "A lot of towns don't allow RV parking on streets; it has to be behind a right-of-way on your property."

Robinson said, "I don't like the idea of not letting people in front of their own place. ... We want them to maintain it and if they maintain it, they can utilize it."

Peterson said the town can control who parks where – "We can put up signs that say parking prohibited for more than two hours in residential zones except on your own property."

That would turn the dispute from trespassing to parking, for which the municipal officer could write tickets. Robinson supported getting signs to post at each end

of town. "Get some signs then," Robinson said. "We don't need more ordinances; we need to clarify what we have on the books. Every once in awhile there needs to be something in writing."

Processing

Bradley was on the agenda to speak before the council as a private citizen and potential meat-processing plant partner. Peterson said as a councilmember, Bradley could only present information and answer questions.

"A little group of us is looking to put in a slaughterhouse but nothing in the ordinances address livestock in town," Bradley said. "Before we make this investment, we want to see if you can change the zoning to allow livestock overnight, for not more than 12 hours?"

The council, without Bradley, voted "aye" to have Peterson continue drafting an addition to the current ordinance with stringent criteria.

Read the complete article about this topic in the week's Sublette Examiner, on page 6.

Public hearing, payments

The council approved second reading of Ordinance 2020-01 to change its meeting time from 7 p.m. to 5 p.m.

It also approved liquor license renewals for the Marbleton Liquor Store, Waterhole #3 and The Bench. Previously, the council waived each business's \$150 fee to help them during the COVID-19 crisis.

The council also unanimously approved building permits applications No. 2020-08BP through 11BP for a modular home, two fences and a sidewalk.

Next, the council discussed the increased cost of installing another public restroom that came in substantially higher than basically the same one installed recently at the Marbleton Community Pond.

"There were two bids opened the other day for the park's public restroom and we accepted the low bid from Hughes Enterprises for \$62,000," Robinson said. "It was discussed that this building was higher priced than the other one. I will go on the record to say if I think anybody is trying to take advantage of the Town of Marbleton, I will not hesitate to refuse them."

Peterson said with the bid opened and accepted, the only way to try and reduce its cost would be by a "change order."

Brown said perhaps the time frame of having it installed by July Fourth was a factor.



HOLLY DABB PHOTO

As part of the Flag Day celebration, American Legion Interim Cmdr. Mike Edison, left, accepts tattered flags from retired Marine Phil Vrska to be disposed of by burning, Sunday, June 14, at American Legion Park. Fremont Peak Auxiliary and the VFW Post No. 4801 also recognized students winning the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay contest, the Patriot's Pen Essay contest and the Patriotic Art contest.

Commissioner explores CARES funding for hospital

By Holly Dabb, hdabb@subletteexaminer.com

PINEDALE – After doubt surfaced about local support possibly sabotaging state funding for Sublette County's proposed critical access hospital, Commission Chairman David Burnett wrote a strong letter of support to Gov. Mark Gordon.

Burnett informed commissioners that he was contacted by Rep. Albert Sommers, House District No. 22, and there were doubts about the county's support at the state level with the governor's office. He did not say where the doubts came from, but was concerned those doubts could halt and stimulus funds coming to Wyoming due to the COVID-19 virus.

Burnett drafted a May 29 letter to Gov. Mark Gordon, explaining the county's support and asking for consideration for potential funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

His strong response explains the county's \$1.35 million to purchase land where the new facility will be located. The commission has agreed to deed both the Pine-dale and Marbleton medical clinics to the Sublette County Rural Health Care Dis-

trict. The commission has also allocated \$20 million to a skilled nursing facility that would be part of the critical access hospital.

"The last two contributions are conditioned on the public vote this November to approve a new hospital district," Burnett wrote. "The RHCD would then re-organize as the hospital district in order to utilize the additional one mill levy."

Other support includes attendance at countless meetings with stakeholders to move the proposal forward. The county will also appoint a member to the joint planning committee to help guide the design and architectural planning for the new facility, he said.

"The use of federal funds from the CARES Act would also assist in completing this project," Burnett wrote. "If there is any opportunity to use those funds, would a member of your staff be willing to reach out to the county and discuss the possibility?"

As of Friday, Burnett said he has not heard from any staff members at the Governor's Office.

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