

TOWN OF GALE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
December 10, 2024

The regular board meeting for the Town of Gale was held on December 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. Board members present were Paul Halderson, Mike Oslie, Sharon Spahr, Kevin Duch and Matt Andersen. Also, present were Jim Stetzer, Jamie Stetzer Kevin Evenson, Donna Evenson, Josh Britton, Lucas Teska, Randy Mickelson, Randy Thompson, Dave Pantzlaff. and Sue Henderson was also present.

Paul Halderson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The open meeting law requirements had been met by posting and publication.

Matt Andersen made a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Kevin Duch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dave Pantzlaff from Ayres was present to information on the Smikrud Lane bridge project. The schedule and the funding were discussed Bid letting will happen on November 11, 2025 and the start date for the project will be after June 15, 2026. One fourth of an acre will be needed to be acquired for the temporary bridge and one hundredth of an acre for the actual new bridge. The cottonwoods will be removed. It will take about 3 ½ months to complete. The existing bridge is 14 foot and the new bridge will be 18 feet with three-foot shoulders.

Under specific matters for discussion which was agenda item four:

A Memorandum of Understanding will be done between Trempealeau County and the Town of Gale for the remaining ARPA funds. The east end of McKeeth Road is the road to be worked on. The price from Trempealeau County is \$136,000 for the project. This project is 8/10 of a mile. Mike Oslie made a motion to obligate the remaining ARPA funds of \$86,596.41 for the east end McKeeth Road project. Matt Andersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul had gotten pricing on new tires for the loader. There are two different tires that John Eckel gave the town pricing on. One of the tires would be \$1700 per tire and the other tire would be \$2000 per tire. Four tires are needed. Kevin Duch asked about the possibility of regrooving the existing tires. This will be checked into and brought back to the January meeting. Mike Oslie made a motion to table this decision until the January 2025 meeting. Kevin Duch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Matt Andersen made a motion to put the remaining money from the equipment fund into a money market to be used next year. This amount is \$33,989.81. Sharon Spahr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Matt Andersen made a motion to put the remaining money in the highway expense category into the money market as well. Kevin Duch seconded the motion. Motion carried. The exact amount will be determined once all of the highway expense bills are paid for the year.

The 2024 budget amendment was presented. Matt Andersen made a motion to approve the 2024 budget amendment with the \$11,146.22 coming from the diesel expense line. Sharon Spahr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board decided to pass on joining the WTA advocacy council.

No citizen appearances.

Under the machinery report it was reported that tire chains have been ordered

For the road report it was reported that snow fence and culvert markers have been put up. Signs and posts have been replaced as needed. Pot holes on river road have been fixed on the gravel section. Sanding was done as needed. Trees have been taken care of as needed. Smaller trees and trimming have also been worked. There was discussion on the trees that Joe Larson will take down for the town.

Correspondence was presented as listed

There was no driveway or building permits to report on.

A lake district meeting was held but Paul was unable to attend; so, there is no report.

Sharon Spahr gave the report on the Fire Board meeting. A new tender to haul water with has been ordered. It will take 26-35 months to get it. The fire department has the funds to purchase it. The fire department banquet was held. Kevin Evenson was one of the firefighters recognized. He was recognized for 30 years of service.

The caucus will be held on January 14, 2025 at 730 p.m. with the regular board meeting to start at 7:45 p.m.

Mike Oslie made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports. Matt Andersen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sharon Spahr made a motion to approve checks #27731 through #27764. Kevin Duch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sharon Spahr made a motion to go into closed session at 8:38 p.m. Mike Oslie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Oslie, second by Kevin Duch to come out of closed session at 9:23pm

Motion by Kevin Duch to give the road patrol men, Kevin Evenson and Randy Mickelson a \$1.00 per hour increase in wages for hours worked starting January 1st, 2025. January 1st, 2026 a .50c increase in wages. January 1st, 2027 a .50c increase in wages.

Second by Matt Andersen. Motion passed.

Motion by Matt Andersen to give the clerk/treasurer Sue Henderson a \$150 per month increase in wages, starting January 1st, 2025.

Second by Mike Oslie. Motion passed

Motion by Kevin Duch to give the 3 town employees, Kevin Evenson, Randy Mickelson & Sue Henderson a holiday bonus of \$271 (\$250).

Second but Matt Andersen. Motion passed.

Mike Oslie made a motion to adjourn. Sharon Spahr seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.