

Cooperstown City Council
Special Meeting
February 26, 2019 – City Hall – 5:00 PM

Mayor Paintner called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Members present included Paul Paintner, Nic Zimprich, Deb Eslinger, Lee Watne, Tim Erickson & Larry Olson. Absent: Rick Cushman. Others in attendance: Travis Peterson, Harold Rotunda, Blaine Larson & Nancy Lunde.

Travis Peterson, Attorney: The city council met with Travis Peterson, the attorney who has purchased the Ratcliffe Law Office. He is currently the city attorney for New Rockford. He has acted as city attorney for Maddock, Fessenden and Sheyenne in past years. He was also the States Attorney in Eddy County for 16 years. He gave other background information on his practice and experiences acting as city attorney for those cities. He presented a Retainer Agreement to the city for consideration to act as city attorney for the City of Cooperstown.

Harold Rotunda: Our accountant attended the meeting to give an overview of the status of the city. He stated our financial condition looks good at this time. He stated we just need to be aware of services we provide, and we need to be proactive and charge for services. This will determine if we are an expense driven city or a revenue driven city. Are we going to spend what we have or are we going to pay for what we want to do. If you tighten revenues, then you spend what you have. He warned the council that if they want to keep revenues stable, they will have to increase one of the revenue sources. The city revenue stream comes from sales tax, utility bill revenues, property tax and a special assessment. This needs to be a part of planning for equipment purchases and if the city wants to plan to build or buy a new building. Mayor Paintner stated the incubator building south of town will probably be offered for sale soon. He would like the city council to think about the possibility of purchasing this to house city hall, the fire hall and ambulance. Harold also talked extensively about how the city budgets each year. They need to create a 5-10 year plan, for equipment purchases. He stated the Highway Fund is deeply in the hole. One way to try to get a handle on this is to control the overtime. Streets will be cleaned as quickly as possible without overtime and extra expenses. If citizens want more services or faster services, they need to expect to pay more. Many cities have increased their sales tax by ½ or 1 percent. The city may want to consider this to create a new revenue stream for one of these needs or projects.

City Forester: Nancy Lunde reported Megan Vig, City Forester has accepted a new job in Mayville, N.D. She can no longer remain in the position of forester for the city. Darce and Shawn Holcomb are considering either sharing the position or perhaps one of them taking the position if the city council would decide to support their appointment as city forester.

Zimprich moved, Erickson seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Nancy Lunde, City Auditor

Paul Paintner, Mayor