

**ROUND MOUNTAIN TOWN BOARD MEETING
DONALD L. SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTER
650 CIVIC DRIVE, HADLEY SUBDIVISION
ROUND MOUNTAIN, NEVADA
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

Members Present: James Swigart, Chair
Robert Spivey, Jr., Clerk
Samantha Faga, Member

Members Absent: Heather Enzi, Vice Chair
Nicole Silberschlag, Member

Also Present: Pearl Olmedo, Town Manager
Rebecca Hansen, Administrative Supervisor
Darrick Brown, Maintenance Supervisor/Interim Volunteer Fire Chief

Citizens Present: Jonathan Grim Hayli Kinzer Herminia Stumpf
Allen Stumpf Sergio Olmedo Arnold Knightly
Nick Charles



1. Call meeting to order/roll call

James Swigart called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Swigart – Chair, Robert Spivey, Jr. – Clerk, and Samantha Faga – Member, were in attendance.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. General Public Comment (FIRST)

Arnold Knightly from Nye County stated he had a meeting with Rebecca Hansen, Pearl Olmedo and Lorina Dellinger. Let the Board know Nye County will be launching the next round of the Nye County COVID-19 relief program, which will bring 1.9 million dollars of funding to assist businesses and residents impacted by COVID-19. The website for the program will be launched later in the week. The funds consist of small business grants, public rent assistance, mortgage assistance, public assistance for non-profit, and direct utility assistance. Olmedo states that they reached out to businesses in the community, they got into contact with four. Three out of the four businesses are interested in the information packet.

4. Approval of the March 9, 2021 agenda

Spivey, Jr. motioned to approve. Faga seconded; motion passed 3-0. March 9, 2021 agenda approved.

5. Approval of February 23, 2021 meeting minutes

Spivey, Jr. motioned to approve. Faga seconded; motion passed 3-0. February 23, 2021 meeting minutes approved.

6. Review and approval of the Wastewater Treatment Lagoons Nitrification/Denitrification Analysis prepared by Lumos & Associates.

Nick Charles with Lumos and Associates gave background of the State's Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) regarding deficiencies at the Town of Round Mountain's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Many of the deficiencies were corrected and the remaining deficiency with the State under the AOC is elevated nitrate in the ground water. There are three underground water monitoring wells around the wastewater treatment lagoons. Two of the three wells have historically maintained a concentration of nitrogen above 10. A few years ago, the lagoons were lined so they weren't leaking wastewater into the ground water. Over the last couple of years, they have been monitoring the groundwater levels in the monitoring wells so the State can consider the AOC completed. He has been working with Darrick Brown and Olmedo for a little over a year collecting data to see if there are any ways to make improvements to continue to see declining nitrogen concentrations in the monitoring wells. They have discovered a few things the Town can do to help. First recommendation would be complete rehabilitation on the rapid infiltration basins (RIBs). They looked at the RIBs and saw there was plant growth in it, which indicates nitrogen is in the soil. Rehabilitation would be removing the plant growth and top layer of soil until it is free of nitrogen and replacing with new clean soil. Second recommendation is general RIB maintenance and suggests the Town budget every 3-5 years to go in and do more extensive rehabilitation. Third recommendation is modifying when and how the water is discharged from the system. In addition to the two RIBs there is a pond used for evaporation. The pond is filed up every year and is left to evaporate, this has seemed helped with the nitrate concentration. It is suggested the evaporation continues and happens during the warmer seasons. Fourth recommendation is to upgrade the aeration system in the third sewage pond in the future if the nitrogen decrease trend does not continue. The fifth recommendation is the Town request an extension on the AOC, as it is set to be completed by the end of this month. The numbers have been going down, they just aren't below 10 yet and believes an extension on the AOC is justified. Swigart asked when the aeration was upgraded. Olmedo states in 2016. Every single year the Town has an expenditure with wastewater. Swigart asked what that normally runs for the budget. Olmedo asked if Swigart is talking about what tonight's recommendations would cost. Swigart replied yes. Olmedo said the Town is roughly looking at \$135,000 to \$925,000. That is why he is suggesting we build in these figures for rehabilitation of the RIBs. If the Board approves this document this evening hopefully the Town can get an extension from the State on the AOC. Spivey, Jr. asked what steps the Town will be taking. Olmedo replied to start off with recommendation number one and take soil samples to see how much soil needs to be removed. If the State doesn't approve the extension, then the Town will still go ahead with recommendation one and start soil sampling. The Town has no idea what the soil results will be, therefore unsure of the cost.

Faga motioned to approve. Spivey, Jr. seconded; motion passed 3-0. Wastewater Treatment Lagoons Nitrification/Denitrification Analysis approved

7. Hayli Kinzer requesting to reactivate gym card.

Hayli Kinzer stated she broke the rules by bringing Jonathan Grim into the gym without him signing the COVID rules. She stated it won't happen again and that she takes full responsibility and has reread the rules several times and had Grim go in and sign his COVID paper. Stated it is an asset to the community and she'd like to be able to utilize it again. Swigart asked how they know she won't do it again. Kinzer replied fitness is important to her life and her health. Swigart recommended Kinzer goes on a 6-month probation period with no violations, then gym use will be reinstated fully. Grim asked what the probation period entailed. Swigart stated just follow the rules.

Spivey, Jr. motioned to approve. Faga seconded; motion passed 3-0. Hayli Kinzer's gym card reinstated on a 6-month probation period effective March 9, 2021.

8. Discussion, deliberation regarding status of an Interim Volunteer Fire Chief due to resignation of Fire Chief Brown.

Swigart went over what was discussed last meeting. Reviewed the job description stating under direction of the Town Manager. Believes in his opinion the most qualified to be Fire Chief is Sergio Olmedo. He has background and training in all aspects of firefighting, Hazmat, Mine Rescue, First Responder, Assistant Chief and hiring from within he feels strongly about. Swigart stated the Vice-Chair suggested changing the Interim Fire Chief reporting to Hansen, the Administrative Supervisor, and Director of Emergency services. With that would like to go with a similar contract to Chief Brown's, with reporting to the Administrative Supervisor. Swigart asked S. Olmedo if he was interested in that and if there is enough time with his job to handle the duties. S. Olmedo stated yes, his supervisors supported him. Swigart suggested the Interim Chief come to the Board once a month to provide updates. To utilize the same contract with changed verbiage and review with Hansen. Hansen stated there is the concern with the difference between a volunteer and a paid Fire Chief, in regard to accountability. Swigart suggested putting in a unified with the Town Board and direction of the Administrative Supervisor. Swigart asked to decide if we need a full-time paid Chief or keep at a volunteer level as it has been the past few years. Spivey, Jr. reviewed two documents stating one says reports to Town Manager and the other says reports to Town Board and why it differed due to going out to hire someone versus promoting a volunteer in the department. If the Chief answers to the Board that works. If they put it to answer to Administrative Supervisor so there isn't nepotism then that works also as long as it works for the Administrative Supervisor, but the Administrative Supervisor still answers to Town Manager. The Fire Chief or Assistant Fire Chief should still have to come to a Board Meeting once a month no matter who they answer to, with a document stating what is happening in the department, especially in training. All training should be documented and how many hours they were trained, so if anyone tried to sue the town, we have the documents to show everything. He did some research, and it says to be a paid Fire Chief you need to be a firefighter 3 and we only have firefighter 1. S. Olmedo commented he isn't a firefighter 1, he went through the classes but that is all. Spivey, Jr. feels S. Olmedo should be sent to school to be a firefighter 1, to help benefit the department. Spivey, Jr. stated if others want to be a firefighter 1 as well, the Board should support them and help them get it done as it'll help the department. Swigart stated there is fine line between proficient and certified. Went over the number of chapters in the book to be a firefighter 1 and with the number of weeks it would take and the ability with schedules to attend every week, it'll take a few years to get to it. Then add in the turnover rate at the department. When Swigart was in the department they tried many times to get a firefighter 1 and it never worked out. Swigart stated we want to have efficient firefighters and it is hard for someone to be firefighter 1, 2, 3, etc. when they have a fulltime job, especially when we aren't a city and a lot of that doesn't pertain to our area. S. Olmedo states they have had interest in firefighter 1 and another department scheduled online classes, but some volunteers were unable to take them due to their work schedule. Spivey Jr. asked how different it is from the EMT course. Allen Stumpf states it is a lot different because EMT is mainly in book and most of it can be done online, while fire has some book and a lot of physical. Nye County offered a fire 1 class last year in Beatty and Pahrump just for the physical aspect training, and due to scheduling we didn't have the participation. P. Olmedo asked if it has to be a State certified instructor to conduct the training. A. Stumpf said yes, that is correct. P. Olmedo stated there is a lot of work that gets put into firefighter 1 and feels it would be good for the town to have but doesn't know if it is attainable. A. Stumpf stated that you need a State certified instructor and a Fire Marshall to sign off on a firefighter 1; Nevada has one Fire Marshall. Swigart thinks if the department is proficient at what needs to be done directed by the County and the State and have certifications for the equipment they use; it'll be enough as long as they keep up on trainings. Looking at other rural volunteer departments, he doesn't believe they carry the firefighter 1 certification. S. Olmedo said it would be a goal to get the department to firefighter 1 and assured everyone will be trained properly and continue to be trained. Swigart suggested bringing people to Round Mountain to conduct trainings if you can get the whole department to show up. Spivey, Jr. stated he feels the Chief should be certified. Faga commented this is still a volunteer position and doesn't know how someone could work fulltime, volunteer and still make it to all the trainings for firefighter 1. Believes it would be enough if training is being done and recorded. Keep track of what we're doing and continue to look at avenues for working towards a firefighter 1. Asked Spivey, Jr. if he is saying it should it be a requirement. Spivey, Jr. said at one point it should, whether it be in 3-5 years. He asked how much of it is online.

Brown stated the only reason it was online this year was due to COVID-19; they created a hybrid class. Swigart asked how many hours it is for firefighter 1. A. Stumpf replied it is about 120 hours. S. Olmedo said it is one day of physical testing after all the studying and other courses. Swigart questioned once certified if you have to renew the certification. S. Olmedo stated he believed you do and that there are requirements such as continuing education credits you need. Swigart stated firefighter 1 should be goal but unsure if a requirement.

Item tabled.

9. Discussion, deliberation, and possible decision to appoint a new Interim Fire Chief due to resignation of current Fire Chief, effective on April 30, 2021.

Item skipped to agenda item 10.

Swigart reviewed the employment agreement used for the last two volunteer Chiefs. Asked S. Olmedo if he read the employment agreement. S. Olmedo stated not yet. Swigart suggested he should read it to determine if this is something he wants and if he had any suggestions for changes. Stated Spivey, Jr. wanted to add a firefighter 1 level certification within a time frame. Spivey, Jr. stated within a time frame the fire department felt was fair. Hansen commented we have to be very careful on what the Board required versus State requirements, as we are a volunteer level. Swigart agreed and requested it be looked into.

Item tabled.

10. Discussion, deliberation and possible decision regarding reporting assignment of Volunteer Fire Chief to A) to remain under Round Mountain Town Board or B) Town Manager.

Swigart stated the suggestion from the Vice-Chair to change the reporting assignment to the Administrative Supervisor. Hansen made the recommendation for direct reporting to stay under Town Board, but daily interaction can be written in the job description to report to the Administrative Supervisor. If the Board wants the Chief to report monthly to them, leave the direct reporting at the Board level. That way the Board still has authority over the Fire Chief if something needs to be done whereas the Administrative Supervisor has limits when it comes to volunteers. Spivey, Jr. agreed. Hansen stated she has no problems with the day-to-day reporting as currently collects training data and requisitions but would like the Board to be involved at the accountability level. Can work on creating a new job description or changing the job description from a paid to a volunteer, requested guidance on what the Board is looking for. Swigart asked if it would be ready for the next meeting. Hansen stated she will try. Swigart asked Hansen to review the employment agreement with S. Olmedo. Hansen asked if item 9 was tabled or if we would be going back to 9 prior to discussing the employment agreement. Spivey, Jr. stated they need to make a decision on item number 10 before they can decide on item number 8 & 9 and agreed with Hansen on who the Chief reports to. P. Olmedo stated Spivey, Jr. is right, we need a motion for item 10, so staff has direction to move forward.

Spivey, Jr. motioned the reporting assignment of Volunteer Fire Chief to remain under Town Board, with daily administrative functions reported to the Administrative Supervisor. Faga seconded; motion passed 3-0. Reporting assignment of Volunteer Fire Chief remains under the Town Board with daily administrative functions reported to the Administrative Supervisor.

Return to item 9.

11. Discussion, deliberation, and possible decision to designate Daniel C. McArthur as the Town of Round Mountain's auditor for Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022.

Olmedo stated the Town is required to designate an auditor before closing the fiscal year on June 30, 2021. The Town has been using Daniel McArthur's staff since 1993 for auditing.

Faga motioned to approve. Spivey, Jr. seconded; motion passed 3-0. Daniel C. McArthur will be the designated auditor for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

12. Discussion and decision to approve the PSST – Fire Spending Plan for fiscal year 2020 – 2021.

P. Olmedo explained PSST is the Public Safety Sales Tax and is tax money specifically for the Sheriff's Office and fire department. Each department is required to request at the Board level to spend from the fund locally. Hansen stated after speaking with the Fire Chief and department, there is one item with a dollar figure being requested. \$8,000 for a video surveillance system, to cover the cost of a system and installation at the Public Safety Building.

Spivey, Jr. motioned to approve. Faga seconded; motion passed 3-0. PSST – Fire Spending plan for fiscal year 2020-2021 approved.

13. Correspondence, awards, department updates, and announcements

P. Olmedo reviewed the correspondence:

1. Gmail from Arnold Knightly, RE: Vaccine and COVID-19 updates, rcvd 2/26/21.
2. Letter from Robert Spivey, Jr. rcvd 2/27/21.
3. Tonopah Town Board and Tonopah Library District Board of Trustees meeting agendas for 3/10/21.
4. Nye County COVID Relief Program and Policy, rcvd 3/8/21.

P. Olmedo stated that she let Arnold Knightly know that the Town office has been in contact with business in Round Mountain. Last year Nye County received no applications from the Round Mountain area for the Relief Program and Arnold Knightly reached out to find out why. Some of the disinfectant in the weight room is corroding the equipment, so we are looking for gym friendly disinfectant for the future. On February 25th P. Olmedo was on a conference call with County Commissioner Jabbour hoping to meet up at the COVID-pod next Thursday, March 18, 2021 to talk business. March 1st was a conference call with Lumos and got them to remove an item from the presentation. March 8th was a conference call with the Nye County Assistant Manager and the Public Information Officer, regarding Nye County COVID Relief Policy. March 10th will be a conference call with Nevada Department of Environmental Protection along with Lumos to discuss the State extension that is due by March 31st. March 18th will be another COVID-pod at the fire station, the pod will be by appointment for the first dose people. Nye County Assistant Manager invited us to attend a meeting in Tonopah on March 18th, it'll be a four-hour meeting on Economic Development Strategies. The fire extinguishers are ready for yearly maintenance the staff will be gathering them to have them ready for service on March 11th. T3 Mechanical will be down to give us figures on a new HVAC system in community center and weight room and adding an air purification system in weight room and cardio room. The Mammovan will be using our parking lot on the November dates instead of at the mine, due to internet speed differences. Next Town Board Meeting is March 23, 2021.

14. Review and approve invoices for the Town of Round Mountain for March 9, 2021

P. Olmedo requested to go to item number 15 first.

Faga motioned to approve. Spivey, Jr. seconded; motion passed 3-0. Invoices for March 9, 2021 approved.

15. Budget workshop for fiscal year 2021 – 2022

P. Olmedo went over Buildings and Grounds operating budget, minus the wages. Services and supplies are \$135,000 and Capital Outlay is \$539,000. P. Olmedo went over Fire Department operating budget. Services and supplies are \$134,100 and Capital Outlay is \$265,095. It was discussed to increase the budget on gas meters as the prices have gone up, waiting for numbers to come in. Discussed getting a new brush truck and taking the one from Hadley to Carvers and the one from Carvers to auction. Swigart suggested donating the truck to a different fire department. Brown stated the only issue with donating is the fuel gauge doesn't work and have been unable to fix it due to the part no longer being made.

Return to item 14.

16.General Public Comment (SECOND)

Brown submitted training records for this year. Swigart thanked Samantha Faga for joining the Town Board and thanked the fire department.

17.Adjourn meeting

Spivey, Jr. motioned to adjourn meeting. Faga seconded; motion passed 3-2. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.