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(S.D.)-Edgemont Council Considering Purchase Of New Backhoe

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 02/25/2014 08:21 AM

(Edgemont)-The Edgemont City Council met on February 18 for their second meeting of the month with several members of the public in attendance and two council members absent.

The Utility Committee recommended selling the current backhoe, which is a 1990 model, and taking a lease/purchase option on a new one. The cost would be \$20,000 annually (\$1666 per month). Action will be taken on this at the March 4 meeting.

The Law Enforcement and Safety Committee reported that they are asking residents to sign a complaint at City Hall when they observe traffic or other law violations. Also discussed was the possible need for stop signs at 7th and C St. In a related matter, Echo Brosmire expressed concern about the intersections of 3rd and Fiddle Creek Road and Highway 471, where two intersections are treated as one. With more and more traffic on Fiddle Creek Road, there is concern that there is more risk of accidents. Sheriff's Deputy Martha Jarman agreed to speak with the county highway department regarding signage as this is outside of city limits.

The Personnel Committee recommended a pay increase for Rheta Reagan from \$8.93 to \$10 per hour. This also will be acted on at the March 4 meeting.

The council approved unanimously the purchase of a Magikist Pulse Jet Hot Water De-Icer at a cost of \$2841. Mayor Carl Shaw believed this equipment would eliminate the need to dig up frozen water lines. The Magikist does not work on sewer lines as it is made for a 3/4" line. The committee was unable to find anyone in SD using this equipment but Shaw stated the equipment is "popular in Minnesota and Wisconsin."

During public comment, Bobby Whittaker, owner of the old Piggly Wiggly building on Main Street, reported to the council on his work done so far and his plans for the building. After the city filed complaints regarding the integrity of the building, Whittaker had obtained a demolition permit from the city and had the large front awning removed. He also repaired some fencing on the side of the building where the outside wall of the building previously was, and is repairing a gate at the back entrance. Future plans include fixing the front of the building and removing the plate glass windows, then rebuilding the outside walls. His 3-5 year goal is to put a roof back on the building and use it as a business/hobby location for restoring antique cars and motorcycles. Whittaker stated that there is no structural connection between his building and the Nut & Bolts building.

Katie Darrow of the YMCA met with the council to request some changes in the pool management contract. This was referred to the Finance Committee.

(Story courtesy Anne Cassens, Edgemont Herald Tribune)