

TOWN OF BROWNVILLE
PUBLIC HEARING & BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 14, 2023 ~ 6:00p.m.
American Legion Post #92 ~ 67 Railroad Ave. Brownville

Public Hearing CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:05pm Renewal of Marijuana License

An application for renewal of a marijuana license for a Caregiver Retail Store operated by Andrea Witham D/B/A Triple Goddess Cannabis at 1497 Main Road in Brownville received no public comment. Andrea Witham and Shannon Lord were present for this portion of the meeting. Manager stated no complaints have been received in the prior year. Closed the public hearing for the renewal of the Marijuana License at 6:07p.m.

Public Hearing CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:07pm Proposal for the sewer increase.

A Proposed revision to the sewer rate schedules that will be effective January 1, 2024 was presented for public comment on the present and proposed rates for the Brownville Town Sewer Department. Nick Henry from HMV LLC gave the overview of the rate case. There we no questions or comments. Closed the public hearing for the sewer rate increase at 6:22p.m.

1. **Board of Selectpersons Meeting** Called to order at 6:22p.m.
 - a. Selectpersons Present: Byron Weymouth, Shelly Ekholm, Kevin Emery, James Hartin
 - b. Employees Present: Felice Lyford, Kevin Black, Jessica Wyman, Phillip Cook
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes from October 17, 2023

Motion: *Motion to approve the minutes from 10/17/23 as presented.*

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

3. Review of the Treasurer's Warrants (Payroll, Accounts Payable, Water/Sewer) – Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Board.
4. Marijuana License Application Renewal – Andrea Witham D/B/A Triple Goddess Cannabis

Motion: *Motion to approve the marijuana license application renewal for Andrea Witham, D/B/A Triple Goddess Cannabis located at 1497 Main Rd.*

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

5. Revised Sewer Rate Schedules – Effective January 1, 2024

Motion: *Motion to move forward with the proposed 15% sewer rate increase to become effective 1/1/2024 as outlined below:*

	Current	Proposed	Increase
Base Rate	\$50.00	\$52.50	\$2.50
User Fee	\$90.00	\$108.50	\$18.50
Total	\$140.00	\$161.00	\$21.00

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

6. Tax Abatements/Supplements - None

7. Building Permit Applications - We have one permit in Wellhead Protection for the Board to consider for approval for Dean Bellatty at 106 Front Street. Board discussed and saw no issues.

Motion: Motion to approve the building permit for Dean Bellatty at 106 Front Street for a building currently used as a shed with plan to modify and change use to a bunk house.

Motion: Kevin Emery Second: James Hartin Vote: Unanimous

8. Waiver of Tax Lien Foreclosure - The mobile home located on a different owner's land at 61 Pleasant Street assessed to Danny Corson and Marie Michaud is coming up for foreclosure on 12/6/2023. The Board discussed and felt it would be more of a liability to the Town than it was worth.

Motion: Motion to authorize the Treasurer or a Deputy Treasurer to sign and file the Waiver of Tax Lien Foreclosure (due to foreclose 12/6/2023) for Danny Corson and Marie Michaud for a mobile home at 61 Pleasant Street.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

9. Department Head Updates

ADMINISTRATION –

- Budget was updated and enclosed for review. No questions.
- Safety Works report/outcome was received at the end of October. Kevin is continuing to review and correct any deficiencies. Although there aren't any concerning issues, the documents are broken down by department and the packet issued to us was very large. A summary was included in the background material to the Board. No questions or comments.
- MMA is supposed to be sending up one of their Loss Control Consultants to assess and evaluate the Town Office, Davis Field buildings and the two Fire Stations. Date to be determined.
- We reviewed our computer replacement plan with Sierra Communications and are set to lease three new machines before the end of 2023 to replace one of the counter units, the assessor's unit and the water/sewer clerk's unit purchased in 2018 & 2019 with warranties that expired in 2021 & 2022. The new lease agreements are for \$60/mo for each machine for a term of three years. At the end of 3 years, we would look to replace the

units with new leases or purchase them. This was discussed last year and through the budget process. We are just following our replacement plan.

PUBLIC SAFETY –

- In October we responded to 32 calls, 22 were EMS, 10 were Fire. There was a significant house fire on Clinton Street in Milo that we, along with many other area departments, responded to under mutual aid.
- Received a donation of a snowmobile to pull the rescue sled from the Fire Auxiliary. They purchased it from one of the area clubs.

Motion: Motion to accept the donated snowmobile from the Auxiliary for the Fire/EMS Department to assist in performing rescues.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

- We would like to dispose of an old portable pump (junk, no value) as well as a used washing machine. Would like authorization to negotiate a sale \$50-\$100? For the old washer.

Motion: Motion to authorize the Fire Chief to dispose of the old portable pump and sell the old washing machine and negotiate a fair price. Proceeds to go to Fire Income.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

- Haunted Fire Station in conjunction with Rec. did not happen as we did not have enough volunteers to safely run it. We hope it will work again next year.
- Code – Shoreland Zoning Ordinance was conditionally approved and does not require another town meeting vote at this time.
- FD is in need of a new computer. We're exploring options to purchase through the 2024 budget cycle as the 2023 is going to be overspent as it is.
- WIFI, GPS etc, has been installed in 1422- cost of equipment and service for 24 months is covered by the state. We will be installing an iPad in there utilizing donation funds. This will provide: mapping, I am Responding, Dispatch CAD information, various real time apps for vehicle extrication, hazardous materials, as well as EMS run reports.
- Village Fire Station Roof Is completed
- Awaiting Quotes on renovating the Junction Station bathroom (really just a freshening up) with plans to come from the general TOP maintenance budget line.
- Washer (extractor) and dryer that we received via grant from Stephen King have been received and has been installed at the Village Station.

PUBLIC WORKS –

- The old Holder was sold to Mel Fournier for \$2,000 last week.
- The new Komatsu Loader finally arrived on Wednesday, November 8th.

PARKS & REC –

- Travel basketball season has begun.

WATER/SEWER –

- The old sewer jetter was sold to Adam LePrevost for \$200.

- Phil has been gathering quotes/information on insulating and installing a heating unit at the Quonset Bldg at the Treatment Plant so we can store our sewer jetter without taking up space in the public works garage. Two quotes for spray foam insulation, one from Statewide Foam and one from Circle D Sprayfoam were reviewed by the Board.

Motion: To go ahead with Quonset hut project (Insulation, new door and heat installation with funds to come out of Town owned Property up to \$25,000.

Motion: Kevin Emery Second: James Hartin Vote: Unanimous

10. Open Session

MRC Board of Directors Election Ballot – As members of MRC we have a say in who represents us on their Board of Directors. The candidate information and ballot were included in Board packets for review, and we need to choose one candidate.

Motion: Motion to vote for Melissa Dow Doane for a 3-year term to the MRC Board of Directors 1/1/24 to 12/31/2026.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous


11. Next Meeting & Agenda Items –Tuesday, December 19, 2023 – Liquor License Renewal – Wildwoods Trailside Cabin & Restaurant

12. **Motion** to Adjourn at 7:09p.m.

Motion: Shelly Ekholm Second: Kevin Emery Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Wyman, Deputy Clerk


Byron Weymouth, Selectboard Chair


Kevin Emery

James Hartin


Shelly Ekholm

(Vacant Seat)