

## **City of McCallsburg**

The City Council of McCallsburg met on Monday, March 2nd, 2009 at 7 pm, in the McCallsburg City Hall for the regular monthly meeting. Mayor Loney called the meeting to order. Councilpersons Scott Anderson, Bill Lytle, David Muth, Ken Tiarks and Jeff Wells were present. There were also nineteen residents, one representative from the Zearing/McCallsburg Library in attendance, Kevin Jacobson (the city's water man), Dave Morgan from Electric Pump and City Attorney Robert Huffer.

Tiarks motioned and Lytle seconded to approve the agenda and minutes of the February 2nd meeting, and financial reports.

### **Revenue for February 2009**

General Income - \$3,108.68  
Road Use Fund - \$3,781.40  
Water Utility Income - \$3,416.02  
Sewer Utility Income - \$2,375.46  
Solid Waste Revenue - \$2,025.93  
Sales Tax and Late Fees - \$230.76  
TOTAL INCOME: \$14,938.25

### **Claims Paid for February 2009**

Garbage - \$1,600.45  
Electric - \$807.13  
Phone & Internet - \$98.66  
Payroll - \$1,442.89  
Publishing - \$92.94  
Taxes - \$141.00  
Water & Sewer - \$2,067.20  
Repairs & Maintenance - \$287.70  
Office Supplies & Postage - \$148.97  
Debt Payments - \$2,927.33  
Accounting - \$50.00  
IPERS - \$76.90  
Contributions - \$50.00  
Legal Fees - \$552.85  
Gasoline - \$738.06  
Dues - \$20.00  
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$11,102.08

Chris Erickson spoke to the council about problems he was having with his garbage service. Mr. Erickson said that his trash is not getting picked up and brought pictures to show the council members. Mr. Erickson called The Trash Man's office to complain and to ask that they also pick up a dresser that week. He was told the dresser would not get picked up. Two other residents along with Councilmen Lytle and Wells also stated that they have had problems with their garbage not getting picked up and that when they called the offices of the Trash Man they were not spoken to in a professional manner. Mayor Loney will call The Trash Man and ask them to come to the city's April council meeting.

Emily Banks as a representative of the Parks Committee informed the council that she had been contacted from the Woodmen of America. The Woodmen of America has offered to give the city \$250 for trees to be planted on city property. Mrs. Banks stated that the money would be placed with Country Landscapes as a credit for the city to purchase trees through. Mrs. Banks was not aware of a time limit but stated that the city would be eligible for this again in two years after this year's completion. Mayor Loney asked that he and the council be informed of the time and location of the plantings. Mrs. Banks agreed.

The mayor informed the council that there is a broken water line on main street in the area of two blocks of cast iron pipe and the whole length of Dubois has leaks. There are also hydrants that are leaking. The city's pumps have been working between 5–6 hours a day and should only be running about an hour and a half a day. Mayor Loney stated that DNR will not be happy about this and will be after the city if the problem is not taken care of soon. Mayor Loney asked the council to seriously consider replacing the water lines. Kevin Jacobson spoke to the council about the city's water issues. Mr. Jacobson stated that he had spoken to Jim Stricker from the DNR who says that McCallsburg discharges too much in the spring and that the city discharges too often. Mr. Jacobson told the council that if they submitted a plan of action and promises to spend X amount of dollars on repairs the DNR would give the city three years to complete the work. If the work is not completed in three years the DNR will place more restrictions on the city. Mr. Jacobson informed the council that according to the President's stimulus package 53.6 million was designated toward clean waste water and 20.3 million is to be used for drinking water. This will allow certain projects to be done such as water efficient lines and green infrastructure; i.e.: slip line sewers. Mr. Jacobson said he has already submitted the City of McCallsburg's intent to be an applicant for this funding. Mr. Jacobson put in for 12 blocks of sewer repair and nine 2 inch water mains. McCallsburg will need to do its own survey on resident incomes to apply for the grant. Mr. Jacobson estimated that it would be about \$30 to grout a joint and that there are joints every five feet equaling approximately \$3,000 a block. Councilman Lytle made a motion to allow Mr. Jacobson to talk to Jim Stricker from the DNR about submitting a plan to repair the city's water and sewer lines. Muth seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

Jill Wilson spoke to the council about her concerns with the funding of the library. She also passed handouts to the council. Mrs. Wilson said that she was aware that the city had offered \$20 to the Zearing Library for the next fiscal year. Attached to Mrs. Wilson's handouts was the state's Open Access Agreement. Mrs. Wilson stated she was concerned that she and other residents would not be allowed to use other local libraries if the city did not have a contract with an existing library. Mrs. Wilson said she had contacted other libraries to ask if the residents of McCallsburg would still be allowed access if the city had no standing contract with a current library. Most of the libraries said they had never faced this issue before and would have to bring it before their library boards. Mrs. Wilson also read a letter from Don Knott a resident who could not be in attendance at the council meeting. Mrs. Wilson also talked to the council about the extra services Sue Peterson provides through the library such as: delivering books to shut-ins, delivers books to classrooms in both McCallsburg and Zearing, she writes an article for the newsletter, she does story time for the daycare and the summer reading program. Mrs. Wilson also informed the council that there are standards for the different library Tiers to receive state funding. For a volunteer run library it would cost approximately \$7,000 just to open the doors. Mrs. Wilson also told the council what nearby communities contribute to their libraries. Mrs. Banks stated her concern that the town would be punished by the emotional conflicts between the council and the library board. Mrs. Banks was also concerned that if there was not a library in town there would be few activities for the summer camp to do in town. Councilman Muth stated that the city has had no written contract with any library, and while the city hasn't always been able to give the library what they have requested they have increased it every year for the past five years. Councilman Lytle stated that the city will run off of approximately less than \$35,000 next fiscal year from the general fund. Mrs. Banks stated that to the citizens that it looks like the council is upset about the grant and because of that is unwilling to fund the library. Councilman Anderson stated that the city has no money. Anderson also stated all that was needed was a viable solution and he would be willing to take any solutions the residents had to offer into consideration. Councilman Muth admitted he was upset with how the grant had been handled. Rebecca Smith stated that she did not believe the Library board has ever been requested to have the McCallsburg library open during evening hours. Mrs. Smith also stated that a survey had been sent out many years ago asking residents when they would like the library to be open and that is how the current hours have been set. Mrs. Smith also suggested that if the city were to sign a contract with

the Zearing library that possibly a new survey could be sent out or a request that the library be open one night a month. Councilman Muth stated that he had hoped the grant would be used for items that would belong to the McCallsburg library and would stay in McCallsburg so that more McCallsburg residents could use the facilities in their own town without having to travel to Zearing. Councilman Muth stated that himself, Kathy Oringer and Don Knott were supposed to work together to write the grant because Ms. Oringer had access to a 501C3 number which the City of McCallsburg did not. Ms. Oringer said that she wrote the grant and that the Zearing Public Library was awarded the grant not the City of McCallsburg or the McCallsburg Library. Muth stated that he and the council believed the grant would go through the Zearing Library board and then the funds would come back to the McCallsburg library. Jon Muntz stated that when McCallsburg started contracting with Zearing, McCallsburg no longer had a library and that all the citizens were in-fact the Zearing library. This means that even though the money went to Zearing the grant also helps McCallsburg. Mr. Muntz also said that if there are residents who can not use the facilities because of the hours that is not the fault of the library. Mrs. Wilson said that even though Zearing received the grant; money had not been designated by McCallsburg to be used as funding for the library; and wanted to know how the council had intended to fund the library. Councilman Tiarks stated that this was true, but even so the city still had no money. Tiarks said that the budget process came down to what was possible to cut. All human services were cut such as Legal Aid and MICA and finally it came down to cutting things that affected McCallsburg directly. Tiarks stated that the council's thought process was that they were unable to give the \$5,600 that the library requested so they gave what the law required. However, the council can not even afford to give what they gave the library this fiscal year and this year the McCallsburg Library lost an hour and so they were concerned that if council gave even less the McCallsburg Library would be cut back to two hours or even less. Yvonne Borton asked the council what the \$32,000 in the general budget was used for. The council explained that money goes to city wages, utilities, rent, office supplies and dues. Mrs. Borton then asked how much the city had in the general fund this fiscal year since they were able to fund the library with that money. Councilman Lytle said that fiscal year 2008-2009 had approximately \$42,000. Mrs. Borton asked if the city spread the losses over all areas of the budget. Councilman Lytle restated that all money had been cut from Human Services. Councilman Tiarks stated that the city is obligated by law to fund the fire department, and law enforcement so funding was not able to be cut there. Councilman Muth stated that; he also sits on the Fire Agency's board and that; in fiscal year 2009-2010 the fire department is looking at having a \$2,000 deficit. Mrs. Borton stated that the real issue was that there was no money to fund the library and so a new way needed to be found. Councilman Muth informed the council that there was a way through state law to assess \$.27/\$1,000 of assessed value but that the citizens have to request it be placed on the ballot and that the residents of McCallsburg would have to vote to approve it. Muth stated that it would generate about \$3,000 a year for the library. Tiarks stated that the money would be ear marked and be required to be used for the library. Tiarks also stated that the City of Colo did this to fund their library. Mrs. Borton asked if this would be money that would be added onto their property taxes. The council said yes and that it would go specifically to the library. Muth stated that the citizens could choose to make the assessment higher because \$3,000 is still less than what the Zearing library had requested. Councilmen Muth and Tiarks both stated that if future budgets improve they would be willing to add to the money given by the assessment. Councilman Muth stated that the \$.27 was only a suggestion from the state. Mrs. Borton asked what the citizens would have to do to say they wanted the assessment. Councilman Tiarks stated that the citizens would have to generate a petition to have the assessment on the ballot and then in November there would have to be a 60% approval for the measure to pass. The only ones who would be allowed to vote on it would be residents within the city limits. Mrs. Banks asked if any money had been given to the Parks Department, and suggested that if things really had to be tightened that the Park money could be cut. Lytle said that there was \$3,000 in the Parks budget and that money was only to cover the cost of mowing. Many citizens asked about the possibility of a fundraiser. City Attorney Robert Huffer suggested that a foundation be formed called Friends of the McCallsburg Library and that the foundation could hold fundraisers and work with the Zearing Library board to accept the fundraising

monies as a way to pay for next years budget funding. Huffer stated that an informal foundation would probably work in this case however; any money donated would not be tax deductible unless there was a formal foundation. Mrs. Wilson asked the council if in budget year 2010-2011 the city's money improved would the council still be willing to fund the Library even though the foundation had been successful in raising funds for the library. Councilman Tiarks said that if the money could be found in 2010-2011 he would be more than willing to have the city continue funding. Many council members agreed. Tiarks said for him the funding was purely a numbers issue. Lytle also stated that a large portion of the approximate \$35,000 comes from local option sales tax. With the economy in the state that it is in, the State of Iowa is not guaranteeing that number. Tiarks stated that if the economy does improve and the city ends up having more money than they had planned on he would be willing to fund the library. Muth states that for him it has been a numbers issue in the sense of how many people are actually using the library here in town. Mrs. Borton stated that if the City of McCallsburg went a year or two with out a library that it would be harder for the city to get one back. Councilman Lytle and Tiarks agreed. Mrs. Borton stated that because McCallsburg is such a small community there is little to offer anyone in order to move into town and if the library leaves there will be even less. Mrs. Borton also stated that the town needs to think of anything they can do to keep the McCallsburg library functioning and in turn keep the town alive. Muth stated that according to the library reports that the council receives from Mrs. Peterson the McCallsburg usage went down by half and that he would like to see those numbers increase. Mrs. Borton asked what the citizens could do to keep the library open long enough to improve the usage numbers. Muth stated that other sources of funding needed to be found. Mrs. Borton asked the council that if the residents wanted to have a special assessment done would it be done fast enough to affect the 2009-2010 fiscal funding. Mr. Huffer said it would take a year and a half before the city would get those funds for the library. Mr. Muntz asked the council if they looked at all other options in the budget to make more funds available for the library. Lytle stated that the council spent four hours going over the budget and was unable to find extra funds. Mrs. Banks suggested to the council that possibly moving the City Office back to City Hall would save the city rent money. Mr. Muntz asked the council if they had thought of donating their city wages back to the city to fund the library before they council offered \$20 to the library. Anderson said he would be willing to give up his \$25 a month in city wages if every citizen in the chamber would also give up \$25 a month and match the council's time to help fund the library. Lytle agreed. Anderson then stated he would give up his \$25 a month and work for the city for free if everyone in the chamber would do nothing other than give \$25 a month to the library. Mr. Muntz and Mrs. Banks both agreed they would be willing to give \$25 a month. Anderson stated that if just the council gave up their wages it would only add up to \$1500 and so all citizens in the chamber would also need to donate to raise enough money to even get near the amount the library had requested. Mrs. Wilson asked the council that if a fundraiser were held would the city have to be taxed on the money they had collected. Mr. Huffer said to file for a 501C3 would cost \$500 to be reviewed and would take about 18 months. Lytle asked if fundraisers could be run through the Lions Club. Mr. Huffer stated that yes fundraisers could be run through the Lions Club and that for a short term solution it would be a good way to go, but while doing that the foundation should also work on the structure that would allow the foundation to be a permanent entity. Mrs. Banks revisited the issue for moving the city office back to city hall. Muth stated that last month the council had their regular meeting in the city hall and the fumes from a spill that occurred while the fire department changed oil two days before were so strong that it was difficult to sit in the city hall for the two hours of the meeting. Muth also stated that they couldn't have someone subjected to that fume all day long which is why the city office was moved in the first place. Mrs. Borton asked if it was possible to fix the city hall so that the fumes from the fire trucks did not enter the city hall. Mr. Tiarks said it would be possible to ventilate the city hall but thought it would be expensive and stated the city still did not have the funds. Mrs. Borton asked if the costs would be more than to rent for a year. The council believed that it would. Mrs. Borton said that she agreed the ventilation was bad. She commented that when she would help with elections in the city hall many times she would have to go outside for fresh air. Tiarks said that the repairs could be done but the city would need the money up front to pay for it. Muth stated that the city could even

use TIF money but that would still require the city to pay for it upfront and then TIF would reimburse them. Tiarks stated that the city borrows against TIF and even if the city did that it would still not be a quick solution. Anderson stated that the city is only allowed to borrow so much money and that McCallsburg is already quite close to hitting that limit. Tiarks also stated that as mentioned earlier there are water and sewer issues that were going to have to be paid for that the council hadn't planned on. Mrs. Borton agreed that the council has many things to think about that the citizens do not understand and that maybe some of that could be cleared up with better communication other than posting minutes. She said publishing them in the newsletter was a possibility or other ways to get the information out. Muth stated that citizens should come to the meetings that are held every month. Tiarks stated that the minutes are also posted on the city's website. Muth stated that at most council meetings there are only two residents in attendance and a sheriff's deputy. Mrs. Borton stated that they didn't know there was a problem but now that they do they showed up to find out how it could be solved. Anderson pointed out that yes the council is paid approximately \$69 but that it is quarterly and that rent is \$250 a month which equals \$3,000 a year but that he covers the cost of propane for the city office which is approximately \$2,000 a year. To move the office back to city hall the cost of the utilities would also have to be factored in. Muth stated that the remodeling on the city hall could not be done for under \$25,000. Once the costs go over that amount the project has to go out to be bid on and also requires an engineer or architect just to meet all the government requirements. Mrs. Banks asked again that all money for fiscal year 2009-2010 has been accounted for. Lytle promised Mrs. Banks that once the meeting was over that the council would pick through the budget one more time. The council and the residents in attendance all commented on what a fine presentation Mrs. Wilson had done. Tiarks also commented that Ms. Oringer and Mrs. Peterson both presented an excellent presentation and that he is aware they do a lot for the community. Mayor Loney also explained to the chamber that the council does not have the power to disband the library. Mrs. Smith said she would like to see the council go to the library board and say this is how much money we have, what can we get for this amount; if the council is able to find any extra money. Mrs. Wilson agreed that meeting with the library board would be a good idea and that the citizens would still be willing to try to raise money to add to the city's funding. Tiarks stated that the tax assessment was still a good option to consider and mentioned that the City of Colo was able to do that. After working the figures Lytle mentioned that for the citizens to get enough money from a special assessment to cover the cost the Zearing Library was requesting there would need to be a one dollar per thousand dollars of assessed value done, which would come to a total of \$6,000. That would equal about \$40 on a \$40,000 home. The council also reminded the citizens that the vote would have to receive 60% of the votes which is approximately 180 people to be passed. The council thanked the residents in attendance for their time.

Dave Morgan from the Electric Pump Company informed the council that there was an opportunity to purchase a set of used pumps and control panel from the City of Zearing. Mr. Morgan mentioned that Zearing purchased a new lift station and had these items that were no longer of use to Zearing. Mr. Morgan stated that he thought the control panel would be very useful to McCallsburg. The control panel is stainless steel and the current panel McCallsburg had was in serious need of repair because it has been exposed to water on several occasions. Mr. Morgan also stated that the new panel would eliminate the issue of someone be lowered into a confined space to operate it and that a local electrician could be hired to install the panel. Mr. Morgan estimated that the panel would cost about \$1,500 and \$2,000 to install. When the panel was new to Zearing it cost approximately \$8,000 to \$12,000 and today the cost would be \$14,000. Mr. Jacobson said the pumps could be used but would need work done to make them suitable for the city's use. Mr. Jacobson said as long as the city repaired their INI's the current pumps would be adequate. Tiarks mentioned that TIF funds would be able to cover the cost of the panel. Mr. Morgan suggested that if the council could pay all at once a \$2,500 bid would be sufficient for all the items, however if the city would need to make payments then a \$3,000 bid would be reasonable. The council decided to wait on Mr. Morgan to check the current pumps before a decision was made.

Councilman Lytle made a motion to approve resolution #09-02 which would set March 9, 2009 as the date for the City's Budget Hearing. Tiarks seconded the motion. All ayes – motion passed.

The City of McCallsburg received only one bid for the 2009 mowing season. The bid was from Mr. Gibson with the rates the same as the previous year. Councilman Lytle made a motion to approve Mr. Gibson's bid for \$310 to mow the trail and park. Tiarks seconded the motion. On Roll call voting aye: Anderson, Lytle, Muth, Tiarks and Wells. Motion passed.

Mayor Loney passed out estimates the city received from John Deere for a new tractor. The council instructed the clerk to make copies for each council member to review. The issue was tabled until the April council meeting.

The city received an application from Story County Emergency Management to receive a used siren from the City of Ames. Mr. Loney informed the council Alliant Energy would install the siren if the city bought the pole from Alliant. Councilman Lytle made a motion to move forward with the application for the siren. Wells seconded the motion. All ayes – motion passed.

The Kybo for the park was furnished by Portable Pro last summer for \$75 a month. Councilman Lytle made a motion to continue with Portable Pro for the kybo service providing the rate had not increased. Anderson seconded the motion. All ayes – motion passed.

The City of McCallsburg received a request from the Colo-Nesco Prom Committee to help fund the after prom activities. Councilman Lytle made a motion to give the Prom Committee \$100. Tiarks seconded the motion. All ayes – motion passed.

The council reviewed the compensation amounts requested by the fire department. Councilman Lytle stated that the fire department has been doing quite a bit of training recently and that the City of McCallsburg is fortunate to have a wonderful volunteer fire department.

The clerk showed the council a list of the classes she was planning on taking this year at the Iowa Municipal Professionals Institute in July. The total cost was \$276.00. The clerk mentioned she did plan to apply for a scholarship to help with the costs but would not know the results from the scholarship until after April. Councilman Anderson made a motion to pay the cost to cover the clerk's classes. Lytle seconded the motion. All ayes – motion passed.

The clerk informed the council that the Census Bureau is requesting that a Census committee be established for the City of McCallsburg. No action was taken.

The city has received an application for a Community Disaster Grant Program. After reviewing the grant the council concluded that if any money was received from the grant it would be used to pay for the control panel for the pumps. Councilman Tiarks made a motion to apply for the Community Disaster Grant. Wells seconded the motion. All ayes – motion passed.

Mayor Loney informed the council that the Resource Recovery's Spring Free Day would be April 25, 2009. The council asked the mayor to contact The Trash Man and request two dumpsters for the day. The council agreed to have the dumpsters available to the residents of McCallsburg from 8am-10am.

Councilman Lytle stated that the clean up on the Trail needed to wait until the plants started to bud so that the council could determine what needed to be kept and what needed to be removed.

The council reviewed the budget and asked that the Zearing Library Board be invited to the next council meeting.

The next regular council meeting will be held Monday April 6th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Tiarks made a motion to adjourn. Lytle seconded the motion. All ayes – motion passed.

Wallace W. Loney, Mayor

ATTEST: Sonia Dodd, City Clerk

Disclaimer: City Minutes are not official under approved by council.