

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, January 13, 2016 7:00 PM  
Danube City Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on January 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Alex presiding.

The following Councilmembers were present: Sharon Krogman, Dave Maurice, Phil Standfuss, and Al Strunc

Councilmembers absent: None

Others Present: Rick Marks, LeRoy Nere, James Krogman, Susie Lang, Mary Lee Black, Rod Black, Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Police Chief Les Schneider, City Clerk-Treasurer Dotty Schnobrich, and media.

**Approval of Agenda**

*Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of Subcommittee Meeting under Old/Unfinished Business. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

*Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as listed below. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Consent Agenda – please see notes to agenda items below**

*The following items are considered routine or non-controversial by the Council and will be approved with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member, city staff or citizen so requests, in which case the item (s) will be removed from the consent agenda and be considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.*

- Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 9, 2015
- Building Permit – Shed – Robert Breitreutz

**Open Forum**

**Susie Lang – Renville County Economic Development Coordinator** – Susie Lang introduced herself to the Councilmembers. She also spoke with the Councilmembers about the Renville County EDA and the changes that have been done and the things that will change over time as they refine their program.

**LeRoy Nere – Danube Senior Citizens** – LeRoy Nere asked for permission from the City Council to hang a 50” television and a shelf on the south wall at the Community Center for the Danube senior citizens. After a discussion on who would be allowed to use the television and that the City wouldn’t be responsible for any damage the Councilmembers decided that they would give the Danube senior citizens permission to hang the television on the south wall but not a shelf to be installed. The Councilmembers asked that the senior citizens use the current cart to put the other electronic devices on and wheel it out as needed.

### **Employee Report – Public Works Director**

In the council packets, Councilmembers received a monthly report for Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg. The report is below

- School – Chappell Central came in to tune the boilers. It was much needed. They found fuel lines that were 75% blocked and some modulators that weren't working among others. They also set them up to run together. If the primary one isn't working the other will kick in. There are some additional items that need to be fixed yet. Dan has included a copy of the estimate to his report. Little Lambs bathroom now has a new false ceiling tiles in it. The old ceiling tile was falling down and stained and no longer available to get. They also have gotten the Old Home Ec. Room cleaned up and are using it. *Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the estimate for the boiler work at the school from Chappell Central not to exceed \$2,500.00. The motion carried unanimously.*
- Plow Truck – The strobe lights among other lights have stopped working on the truck. Dan believes the power supply is bad and it will need a new one. The model that is in the truck is outdated and no longer available. Dan can find a replacement though. Cost for a replacement one is about \$750.00 new. There are used ones available online for about \$100.00. There is just no guarantee they will work.
- Water – The wells averaged 32,000 gal/day for the month of November. They averaged 30,000 gal/day for the month of December. Our fluoride levels have been maintaining required levels with very minimal usage of adding additional fluoride. The windows on the well houses need to be replaced. They are rotting out and leaking air. Dan will be getting some estimates on getting that done. Dan has submitted the yearly water use reports to the DNR.
- Waste Water – The lift station averaged 34,000 gal/day for the month of November and 34,000 gal/day in the month of December. One of the pumps was plugged on December 19<sup>th</sup> and had to be pulled to get unclogged. Everything has been working properly since.

### **Employee Report – Chief of Police**

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for December 2015 were slightly higher to last year at the same time with 39 calls, 23 reports, 21 traffic stops, 10 citations, 25 mutual assists and 4 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- School Building Update – Schneider reported that the school is being used daily and the schedule is very busy.
- Winter Season Issues – Schneider reported that Damon called him prior to going out to plow the streets and Schneider managed to get 60 cars moved. Schneider reported that Damon calling before going out worked good so he could notify residents and get the cars off the street for the snow plow.
- 2015 Budget Review – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that the Police Department was \$12,630.28 under budget for 2015.

- OSHA Safety Meeting (Dec. 16) – Schneider reported that he attended the OSHA safety meeting in Woodlake on Dec. 16, 2015 along with Dan Kaufenberg and Dotty Schnobrich.
- Liquor Licenses Renewed – Schneider reported that the liquor license was renewed for Millers on Main for 2016.
- 2016 Sheriff's Department Contract – Schneider reported that the fee for the computer software stayed the same and the bill is in the financials to be approved tonight.
- First Response Training & Meeting (Jan 28) – Schneider reported that the first responders will be having their AWAIR, ERTK and Blood Borne Pathogens training on Thursday, January 28, 2016.

### **Employee Report – City Clerk**

- 2015 Audit – Just a reminder that the City of Danube audit is being held on January 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.
- OSHA Meetings – Dotty was contacted by Echo on Monday that there is a meeting being held Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in Echo. The January meeting is the AWAIR, ERTK and Blood Borne Pathogens which is mandatory for all employees and volunteers. Dotty contacted Echo to let them know that we do this meeting at night in order for the fire department volunteers be able to attend and there is no way Dotty could contact all the fire department volunteers to get the word out yet alone the employees of the City to make plans for this meeting last minute. Echo and Woodlake are still unclear if they are or aren't part of our group. Dotty contacted Deb Lingl with Bird Island about their safety group with Hector and Buffalo Lake. They meet 6 times per year in Hector at 1 pm, Deb will be asking at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting about Danube being able to join their safety group.
- Danube Resident Estimated Water Use – Dotty was asked by a resident from the City of Danube to speak with the Council about his prior water bills. The City of Danube was estimating his water use at 20,000 gallons per quarter and Dan got a meter put in before the second quarter of 2015 started and now with 3 quarters being billed out they have not used more than 9,000 in any one quarter and was wondering if the City of Danube would think about crediting back any amount to them. This household only has 2 people in it. If the City would credit the funds for the excess of 10,000 gallons of water and sewer use it would be \$385.20 for three years that they have been overcharged that could be put on their account. Dotty attached a copy of the previous three quarters with actual figures and a copy of the bill back when estimation was used. The Councilmembers discussed the issue and decided to give a credit to the resident for the over estimation.  
*Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to give a credit of \$385.20 to the Danube resident for the over estimation on the water bills. The motion carried unanimously.*
- Office Closed – The Danube City office will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2016 for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### **School Building Updates** – None

### **Community Center Updates**

Councilmember Maurice informed the Councilmembers that he and Councilmember Krogman are working on getting the snow cleaning issue resolved at the Community Center.

### **Unfinished Business**

*Water Tower – Lee Elfering Email* – The Councilmembers reviewed the email from Lee Elfering regarding the water tower color and lettering on the water tower. The Councilmembers discussed the issue and decided to stay with blue and white colors and Danube only once on the water tower. Dotty is to email Lee Elfering the decision from the Council.

*Subcommittee Meeting Highway 212 Access for the CCFE* – Councilmember Strunc informed the council that the subcommittee meeting was held on December 14, 2015 with Geri Vick and John Hager from MNDOT, Councilmember Strunc, Councilmember Standfuss, Craig Hebrink, Calvin Aarons, James Krogman, Mike McGraw, Representative Tim Miller and Senator Lyle Koenen present for the meeting. The subcommittee discussed an additional access off of Highway 212 for the CCFE. MNDOT said that they reconsidered the access and said that they would allow an additional access but would not give funds this project and the access would have to meet their specifications. The new access would have to have a right turning lane for the traffic going to the west and a by-pass lane for the traffic going to the east on Highway 212. The access off of Highway 212 would be a private driveway not a city street. The City of Danube would be responsible to submit the application to MNDOT for approval along with paying any fees relating to the turning lane and by-pass lane access on Highway 212 along with construction. Dotty informed the Councilmembers that she was asked to get a rough estimate on a cost to install a turning lane and by-pass lane. Dotty spoke with Lucas from Duinick's and he stated that he came out and measured the existing turning lane and by-pass lane in front of the CCFE and went further down and measured there and with the figures he entered he was coming up with a minimum of \$100,000.00 starting cost for the project. This is only a rough estimate. This estimate didn't include any work that may need to be done to the curbs or storm sewers to widen the road. Councilmember Maurice stated that he wanted a rough estimate that the City of Danube would be looking at with the turning lane and by-pass lane, engineering fees, architect fees, final assessments that would be forgiven. Councilmember Strunc did speak with someone who did by-pass lanes and turning lanes in Montevideo and he was quoted about \$65,000.00. Mayor Alex asked if there were any funds available for this project. Councilmember Strunc stated that there are no funds available for this issue. Councilmember Strunc said the next step would be to have City Engineer Lee Elfering to draw up the plan and keep this matter going forward, seems like to me the reasonable thing to do to solve this impasse that we have. Councilmember Standfuss stated that Lee could get some ballpark figures and put it on the table. Councilmember Strunc also said that it seems reasonable to him to do this because of the property tax burden that the CCFE is paying, it would take a hundred houses like mine in Danube to produce \$73,000 for the City of Danube we would be happy to build 5 or 10 highway accesses to have the opportunity to add that many houses to town and I don't know why we would do anything less for them, they haven't asked us to do a lot, it seems like a reasonable request to me. Councilmember Maurice stated that the CCFE hasn't even asked us to do this. Councilmember Strunc stated that the CCFE asked us to do that if we are going to change the policy that was made or agreed at a previous meeting. Councilmember Maurice stated yeah but they are content with what they have. Councilmember Standfuss agreed that the CCFE is content but the other side is not content. Councilmember Maurice stated that he is going to be hard pressed to vote in favor of spending tax payers dollars for that, I would think it should go to a city vote. Councilmember Strunc stated that it is not normally made by the citizens it is put on the council to make the decision that is why we get elected. Mayor Alex stated that he would like to know the accuracy of the \$100,000.00 quote; he can't believe that it would take that much

to build that and as Al said why do we have to have a turning lane all of a sudden. Councilmember Strunc said we are not in the position to bargain we have to do what MNDOT tells us to do; if we are going to have an additional access going to the property that they are developing out there we need to pay for the highway access; when I built on the edge of town the dozens of houses that were put up out there the City never asked me to pay for a highway access; I don't know who paid for it but there was another road that went to the Highway and we were allowed access. This seems like a normal request for a normal way of moving that direction; I am in favor of going forward with it and spending; I am not going to be swayed by the amount it will cost; I think it is the right thing to do and we should do it and in my mind it is justifiable. Mayor Alex had concerns that if the cost comes back at \$200,000; that would be a lot of money. The Councilmembers discussed having City Lee Elfering to

*Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to have City Engineer Lee Elfering to come up with an engineer's drawing suitable for bidding for the turning lane and by-pass lane for a second access off of Highway 212 for the CCFE. The motion carried unanimously.*

Rick Marks asked of the Council which streets in Danube were truck routes. Councilmember Strunc stated that 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street were all truck routes. Rick Marks asked if the Council was doing a second access because it is much safer. Councilmember Strunc stated that he didn't know if it was a safety issue or a quality of life issue. Rick Marks asked what the Council was going to do about the other streets that have truck routes; there are kids and grandkids playing by those streets. Councilmember Strunc stated the significance in this is that we're talking 100 trucks a day that is not the kind of truck traffic we are seeing on 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Street; we are talking intense truck traffic; it's not occasional truck traffic like what comes 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Rick Marks stated the truck traffic that goes by his mom's house is all year long. James Krogman stated that he had over 670 trucks go by his place in 12 weeks. Rick Marks restated that I am talking all the time; I am talking all year long; they go by every day. James Krogman asked Rick marks how many trucks go by there in a year; what's your estimate? Rick Marks replied I don't know. Councilmember Strunc stated that it is a separate issue and if you want to bring it before the council to try and remove the truck route from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Street you can and we will address it at that time. Rick Marks replied I am just bringing up that there are other truck routes too. Councilmember Strunc stated one of the issues is that were the truck routes there first or were the people. Mayor Alex stated according to the minutes the Danube residents' were their first and then the truck route came about; In 1975 4<sup>th</sup> Street was added because they couldn't make the turn the bulk plant was still there yet and the CCFE was starting to get semi's and they would pull out and they couldn't make the turn and they went down to 4<sup>th</sup> Street so they added 4<sup>th</sup> Street to it. Councilmember Strunc asked if any of the residents' objected to it at that time. Mayor Alex said if they did they didn't put it in the minutes. Councilmember Standfuss stated I can see your point Rick but too I don't think it is as much traffic as it use to be when Danube Farmers Elevator was here; I am sure back then it was 50 to 75 a day would go by there. This facility is for a large area and a lot more trucks going in and out of there than there would have been for the Danube Elevator by itself to. Councilmember Standfuss stated it was something that we could definitely look at if that's what the residents' want.

### **Financial Reports**

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list and receipts list from December 22, 2015 thru January 12, 2016.

*Councilmember Strunc moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$18,069.23 (checks) and \$9,126.48 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.*

The Councilmembers reviewed the Receipts List from December 8, 2015 thru January 11, 2016.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual verses Budget Comparison for 2015 and 2016.

The Councilmembers reviewed the reconciled bank statement for December 2015.

The Councilmembers reviewed the 2015 Breakdown for the School, Water, Sewer and Garbage Financials. Councilmember Strunc asked Dotty to review the lease payments from Tri-Valley to verify that one is not missing for the year.

#### **New Business**

*West Central Sanitation – Garbage Day* – The Councilmembers reviewed the letter from Don Williamson from West Central Sanitation asking to change the garbage pickup date to Wednesdays to coincide with the recycling day. The Councilmembers asked Dotty to contact Don Williamson and ask that West Central Sanitation work with the City residents for the first few weeks after the change if residents forget to put their garbage out.

*Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to change the garbage pick-up day to Wednesdays. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Future Business - None**

#### **Correspondence**

The Councilmembers received the following informational material in their packets:

1. Memo from Renville County Public Works Memo – The Councilmembers briefly discussed the Renville County Landfill increasing fees.
2. Mayor Dave Smiglewski Email – Granite Falls Meeting with Representative Tim Miller

#### **Adjournment**

*There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Maurice seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

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Gene Alex, Mayor

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Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk