

**DANUBE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2015 6:00 PM
Danube City Council Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Danube City Council was conducted on April 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Alex presiding.

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

Councilmembers absent: Al Strunc

Others Present: Janice French, Carlotta Eischens, City Engineer Lee Elfering, Police Chief Les Schneider, Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg, Fire Chief Dan Wersal, 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 a closed meeting following the Financial Review with Sara Beavers. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilmember Maurice 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 March 11, 2015
- Building Permit - Coop Country Farmers Elevator - Warehouse
- Bar Door Open - Steak & Shrimp Fry - Saturday, April 25, 2015
- DAAC Raffle Permit - Danube Fun Days - July 11, 2015

Open Forum

Dog Concerns - Janice French and Carlotta Eischens voiced concerns about multiple dogs running at large in Danube. Janice stated that there is a Pit-bull and a Golden Lab that are constantly running loose around town. Janice read a letter from Pat Slagter regarding her concerns about being out while the dogs are running loose in Danube. Police Chief Schneider reported that the issue with the Pit-bull is being dealt with and City Attorney Aaron Walton is also involved in with this case and is sending a notice to the owner of the Pit-bull deeming the dog as potentially dangerous. Schneider reported that there are steps that need to be followed in

the legal process and that the steps are being taken and it will take some time to get the issue completely resolved with the Pit-bill. Janice also voiced concerns about dogs being left outside all year round. The Councilmembers informed Janice that the City of Danube cannot enforce where the dog is being kept but if she had health or neglect complaints to report them to the Humane Society.

The Councilmembers discussed and agreed at the next Council Meeting Wednesday, May 13, 2015 Ordinance #74 Dogs - Licensing should be reviewed and updated.

Employee Report – Chief of Police

Chief of Police Les Schneider was present to give his monthly employee and Police Department report. Statistics for March 2015 were lower to last year at the same time with 42 calls, 26 reports, 25 traffic stops, 9 citations, 25 mutual assists and 1 home security checks. Additional business discussed:

- 2015 MCPA ETI - April 19th-22nd - Schneider will be attending the MCPA Conference in St. Cloud April 19th-22nd.
- School Building Schedule – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that March was a real busy month at the school. Events that have been going on include baseball, softball, volleyball, Just for Kix, and play practice.
- Squad Car Laptop Information – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that the new computer has fried the cigarette lighter in the squad car. Schneider brought a quote from Pro Action Safety & Sales to repair the wiring to handle the new computer. The quote is for \$ 714.11
Councilmember Standfuss moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to approve getting the wiring fixed in the squad car from Pro Action Safety & Sales for \$714.11. The motion carried unanimously.
- LMCIT Training April 1st – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that he attended the LMCIT Safety and Loss Workshop in Morton on Wednesday, April 1st.
- Vicious Dog Case – This Information was discussed in the Open Forum section.
- Blighted Properties – Schneider informed the Councilmembers that he will start working on a list of properties to receive a letter of items to be addressed from the City of Danube.

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 – When Chappell was here fixing a fuel leak Dan had them look at installing a high limit control for the boilers. This was one of the items on the Insurance report from Hartford Steam Boilers that they wanted done. Chappell quoted the work out at \$1,713.53. There will have to be some modifications done to some piping to make it correct and legal. After talking to Tri-Valley Dan has begun to make some improvements around the school. They had a list of things that needed to be corrected in order to be compliant for safety. So far Dan has removed a section of lockers in the gym. Dan has begun patching all the holes in the bricks in the gym. Dan has ordered ten light covers from Border States Supply for around \$240.00. There are a few things that need

to be painted also. The Councilmembers asked Dan to contact Al regarding the school and the repairs.

Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve Chappell to install the high limit control on the boiler down at the school for \$1,713.53. The motion carried unanimously.

- Water – The Wells averaged 27,000 gal/day in the month of March. This has been the average. There are no other issues at the present time.
- Waste Water – The Lift Station averaged 28,000 gal/day for the month of March. Dan will be doing a Pond discharge hopefully this month. We will need to get some extra riprap laid down in a few spots to make MPCA happy. This will be one in the next couple months. Dan has talked with Thul Specialties and they are in the process of rescheduling us for three manhole rehabs. These were approved last summer but they ran out of time before they could get here to do the work. The price was \$6,500.00 for all three manholes.
- Plow Truck - Dan got a quote from Shawn Malvin to do some repair to the Plow Truck blade and the skid loader bucket. The Plow blade was damaged from the pole incident. The skid loader bucket Dan would like to put a new attachment plate on it. The one that was homemade with the bucket has never properly fit the skid loader. There is too much play in it and it should fit tight. The total for both was \$1,210.00. Dan will be getting a quote from Schmoll's before proceeding.
- Streets – Dan is in the process of getting quotes for the area where the water main break occurred. Does the City want to do any air patching on City Streets this year. It was planned to do some last year but it was aborted. They did not get here early enough and the weather started getting colder. Did not think the patching would have been as effective if applied in colder climate. Dan is also waiting on quotes to repair sidewalk by school where the water break was.

The Councilmembers discussed do air patching on the streets. Mayor Alex informed Dan that surrounding towns will also be air patching and that Dan could contact them regarding seal coating and air patching. Dan will contact Renville about the air patching and seal coating. The Councilmembers asked Lee his thought on air patching. Lee spoke with the Councilmembers about milling off the streets and adding more overlay if the streets are honeycombed or aggregated really bad. The City of Danube would need to find a company that has reclaiming equipment and have them look at the streets to see if that could be an option. The Councilmembers also asked Dan to contact Renville County about the potholes on Main Street and getting them filled. Councilmember Standfuss asked Dan about getting the curbs painted this year. Dan said he would get the curbs painted this year. Councilmember Standfuss asked Dan to look into the cost for a sprayer for painting the curbs. Dan will get the two catch basins down by the school repaired this summer.

Water Tower – Lee Elfering

City Engineer Lee Elfering spoke with the Councilmembers about the water tower. Lee spoke first about the rehabilitation of the water tower. If the City of Danube did not do the OSHA upgrades the cost of the rehabilitation would go down estimated about \$30,000 - \$40,000. However even if these upgrades are not done there are some that would have to be done to ensure the safety of anyone who needs to go up the water tower. No company would give a solid answer on if the OSHA upgrades would have to be done. There may be some liability if the

OSHA upgrades are not done. A couple of upgrades Lee mentioned were the ladder would need a continuous railing and work down to the access hatch. Lee had concerns about the time frame that rehabilitation to the water tower would take. He stated that the City of Danube would only have the wells to pump water for about 2-3 weeks if the rehab goes well and no weather delays or other issues occur. Also, if the City of Danube did decide to rehabilitate the old water tower instead the City would have to put up signage of the dangers from the OSHA upgrades that are not done. However, if the City put up a new water tower the old tower could possibly be used during the construction depending on where the new water tower is built. Lee stated that he recently looked into how much it cost to build a new water tower and found some going as low as \$500,000 - \$600,000. These water towers were the golf ball style. Lee mentioned that the golf ball water towers are also easier and cheaper to maintain due to the smoothness. In 2013 a new tower was built for \$540,000 and in 2015 one was built for \$520,000. This is a decrease of \$20,000 in two years time. Lee stated that he felt the best value for the City of Danube is to build a new golf ball style water tower and not to rehabilitate the old one and the City of Danube also would be current with the OSHA standards with a new water tower. The development and planning stage along with the getting bids would take about 6 months and the construction time of a new water tower would take about 3 – 4 months. Councilmember Maurice stated that there may be a possible group interested in the old water tower. Lee suggested that if the City wants to build a new tower to put the bids out there in December, January, or February. The reason for this is that usually a better price can be attained due to companies trying to find work. If the group decided to take the old water tower then the City of Danube would incur no expense in removing the tower or worry about lead abatement. Lee estimated that the City of Danube could get another 3-4 years out of the old tower.

Employee Report – City Clerk

- Edward Jones Follow-Up – Investment Policy – John has received the Investment Policy and has reviewed it and now the City of Danube just needs to set up an account and then decide how much to investment and the terms.
- Audit Update – Sara sent Dotty an email with the adjusting entries and Dotty will get these entries done for the next City Council meeting.
- Items Ordered – Dotty ordered a new rug for the entry way and a dishwasher rack for the Community Center and both items have been received. Benson laundry also has been called to pick up their rug from the City Office building.
- Blanchard House – Dotty called and left a message with Robert Blanchard's daughter regarding the City Council's decision to not accept the house at this time.
- City Office Closed Dates – The Danube City Office will be closing early at 12:00 noon on Thursday, April 30, 2015 instead of being closed on Thursday, April 23, 2015. There was a reschedule due to the dentist being gone on the 23rd.
- Street Sweeping MN DOT & Snow Removal County – Dotty reported that the bills have been put together and are waiting for Dan's approval before mailing them. Once Dan has made changes or approves the bills will be sent out to the correct departments.

School Building Updates – None

Community Center Updates - None

Unfinished Business

5-10 Year Department Needs – Each Department was asked to bring forth any large purchases that they may have for the next 5 – 10 years for the purpose of the City to take into consideration with the financing of the Water Tower project and investing of funds. Below are the reports given by the departments.

Police Department – Schneider reported that a squad car would be the only item at this time that would be needed in 2020. The approximate value would be around \$35,000.00 for a new squad car.

First Responders – Schneider reported that there were no large purchases that they would have over the next 5 – 10 years.

Maintenance Department – Public Works Director Dan Kaufenberg presented a list of items for the Maintenance Department. The list of items is listed below. All prices are ballpark estimates and can and will change in 5-10 years.

Water

Water meters – The ones we have no longer are available. Dan has about six left and when they are gone that's it. For new water meters it will cost around \$50,000. That is for new meters, radios, handheld device and software.

Wastewater

The City still needs to address I&I problems with the sanitary system. Dan believes the City of Danube has leaky manholes yet. Thul is going to redo three this year. The City can judge from them whether it is worth the money or not. The cost is \$2,000.00 per manhole.

There are roughly 20 manholes that could use attention. It would also be advisable that the City does smoke testing to look for leaks. Dan does not have a price for this. Dan would guesstimate it around \$15,000.00. The ponds could use new slide gates in the control structures. They could also use more riprap in the future also.

Vehicles

1984 Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper – Purchased used in 1999 for \$25,000.00. Sweeper is nearing the end. Lots of parts either broke, bent, or missing. It has electrical issues. The water pump and spray system need replacing. Plus many more issues. A decent used one will run around \$50,000.00. New cost would be \$150,000.00 – \$185,000.00. Dan reported that the sweeper only has 1 to 2 years left at tops.

Dan saw a 2000 or 2002 Street Sweeper that was for sale and the Councilmembers asked Dan to look into the street sweeper and to report back the information for the City Council to review and discuss.

1973 Chevy C65 Dump Truck – gears are going out. First and reverse have a loud clunk when moving. This has been this way for 8 years or better. Clutch needs work. Brakes need work. PTO needs work. Window busted. Either needs to be replaced or money stuck into it to get it working properly. Used truck anywhere from \$10,000.00 - \$20,000.00.

1975 Ford 800 Grain Truck – Purchased used in 2006. Truck burns a lot of oil. Hard to say if the engine will last 5-10 years or not. Otherwise truck in decent shape. If engine doesn't blow truck should last another 5-10 years with proper maintenance. Dan reported that it could be possible to combine the dump truck and grain truck.

1986 Ford 8000 Plow Truck – Overall truck in good condition. Engine is starting to blow smoke more and more every year. We will need brake work done this year. The truck and box are rusting out bad. Dan lined the box with plastic sheeting. That has helped tremendously. Should hopefully get another 5-10 years out of the truck with proper maintenance.

Mowers

2009 Everride Warrior – Purchased in 2009 from Schoffmans. Will be nearing the end of its life cycle in next 5 years. Mower before that was purchased around 2002 for \$11,000.00. This was on the cheaper side. Next mower purchased should have a bagger system with it.

1983 Ford 1510w/Woods Belly Mower – Tractor is in good shape. Dan has replaced some of the key components already like the water pump, fan and radiator. Engine runs good. May need some new front tires soon. The mower deck has seen its better days. When it was purchased it was missing some parts that we were not aware of at the time. They help keep the mower deck stable so it does not bounce around so much. Without these it causes the belts to prematurely wear out by cutting them up. New belts cost around \$100 and we go through 2-3 per year. These parts are no longer available as well as many other parts for mower deck. Dan has looked into a 3pt mower and they run anywhere from \$1,000.00 - \$2,000.00.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Dan Wersal reported the fire department is currently looking into a Tanker attached Pumper combo truck for around \$250,000.00. Dan is waiting to hear back from the FEMA Grant that the Danube Fire Department applied for. If the Danube Fire Department receives the grant the out of pocket portion for the truck would be approximately \$35,000.00. Dan also informed the Councilmembers that once a year the Danube Fire Department is going to have a professional check over all of the vehicles to help maintain them longer and prevent costly repairs in the future. Dan concluded that the Danube Fire Department is in the process of changing over their turnout gear. The turnout gear is being purchased from the Smelt Fry funds and monies received from the Danube Lions from the pull-tab sales. Dan also shared with the Councilmembers about the shared services that Renville County has taken part in. The group gets together quarterly. There are 10 fire departments in the program. One of the things that have changed since taking part of the program is how the departments get paged out which creates a faster response time.

Financial Reports

The Councilmembers reviewed the claims list and receipts list from March 12, 2015 thru April 8, 2015.

Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Standfuss seconded a motion to approve the bills as submitted in the amount of \$28,109.35 (checks) and \$7,154.56 (electronic fund transfers). The motion carried unanimously.

The Councilmembers reviewed the Actual verses Budget Comparison for 2015.

The Councilmembers reviewed the reconciled bank statement for March 2015.

The Councilmembers reviewed the 1st Quarter Breakdown for the School, Water, Sewer and Garbage Financials.

New Business - None

Future Business

1. Ordinance 74 – Dogs - Licensing
2. Ordinance 83 – Sidewalk Improvement Districts
2. Ordinance 103 – Establishing Fees Fire Department Services

Correspondence

The Councilmembers received the following informational material in their packets:

1. Highway 7 & 71 Roundabout
2. Tatanka Bluffs Corridor Flyer
3. Xcel Energy LED Rebates Information
4. Mediacom Letter

Adjournment

There being no further business before the council, Councilmember Maurice moved and Councilmember Krogman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. With all members voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk

Gene Alex, Mayor

Dotty Schnobrich, City Clerk