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Sherman needs to hire again for treatment plant

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SHERMAN — At their regular meeting on May 17, Village of Sherman trustees learned that there is a job opening at the Wastewater Treatment Plant because licensed operator Kyle Rhebergen has put in his two weeks notice.

Chief Wastewater Operator Jay Irwin told trustees that has accepted a new position, so it is necessary for the village to look for someone to take his place. "We're going to be posting the job," he said. "We're even looking at the possibility of a part-time person who would focus on lab work."

Village of Sherman Mayor Colleen Meeder said the job posting will say part or full time. She asked board members what the advertised salary should be. "We're really looking at a situation where the gap between someone who is already certified and a newcomer is significant," she said. "So, should we put \$18 to \$24 an hour on the posting?"

Board members agreed that \$18 to \$24 an hour would be appropriate. Irwin pointed out that it would be wise to 'focus on a broad spectrum of potential employees and see who is interested.'

Irwin reminded the board the department has previously lost two certified operators who resigned from the village when their training was complete. When an employee is in training, they sign a contract that they will work for the village for five years or else they will pay back a percentage of the cost of training.

Irwin said he believes the village

has to try a new approach. "Things haven't been working the way we wanted them to so we have to try something different," he said. "I'm not a big fan of the contract."

In a related matter, Meeder brought up the matter of unused vacation hours that have carried over, citing Irwin as an example. She asked that it be recorded in the minutes the balance of employee benefits as of pay ending May 14, 2023; and that trustees approve the full roll over of any unspent "unused paid time off", accrued vacation and personal time from fiscal year 2022-23, into the fiscal year 2023-24.

Meeder also asked board members to approve the payment to the Chief Operator for the inability to take all vacation time during the 2022-2023 fiscal year; with 50 hrs vacation to carry over into 2023-24. Both motions regarding 'unused paid time off' were subsequently approved by the board.

Meeder asked trustees to accept the payroll schedule for the Village employees' hourly wages, beginning pay period ending June 11th, 2023, payable Monday, June 12th, 2023. Board members approved the payroll schedule.

In another matter, Meeder introduced two resolutions pertaining to Stanley Hose Co. the first was a motion to record the fiscal responsibility to the Sherman Fire Department, as contracted with the Stanley Hose Fire Company, Village of Sherman Contract of \$24,860.56, which is payable July 2023. 'As of May 17, 2023, the Village has \$125,522 allocated to a minor special fund for Fire,'

she said.

Trustees also approved a motion to allocate another \$16,000 of General Funds to the minor special fund for Fire. This is an annual reserve fund for the purchase of the next fire truck when the need arises, Meeder said.

In other business, trustees approved several change orders for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project. These change orders will extend the duration of the project by 35 days and move the final completion date to August 4, 2023; with no change in scope and no change in contract price, Meeder noted.

Board members also approved two bond resolutions, one for the purchase of a snowblower and UTV, and one for the purchase of mowers and a street sweeper.

According to the first resolution, 'the Village of Sherman shall undertake the acquisition of a ribbon snowblower with sidewalk chute and a utility vehicle, and general obligation serial bonds in an aggregate principal amount up to \$38,000 (\$19,000 for each of the snowblower and utilities vehicle).'

According to the second resolution, 'the Village of Sherman shall undertake the acquisition mowers and a street sweeper and general obligation serial bonds in an aggregate principal amount up to \$35,000'

Meeder then requested that trustees schedule a Motion to schedule public hearings on the proposed bond resolutions and the CDBG Program. It was agreed that the public hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 14 at 6 p.m., to be followed by the regular meeting of the board.