

**Regular Council Meeting  
Town of Valier Town Council  
Valier Civic Center  
July 14, 2014**

Mayor Bob Miller presided

1. Council Members present: Velda Loch, Steve Nelson, Dave Widhalm and Jessie Wunderlich.  
Town Staff present: Roger Skogen, Public Works and Jackie Sheble, Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Miller brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Mayor Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Mayor Miller called for a motion to approve the June 9, 2014 regular council meeting minutes. Alderman Loch moved to approve the June 9, 2014 regular council meeting minutes; Alderman Wunderlich seconded. Mayor Miller called for any corrections or addition to the June 9, 2014 minutes. None heard. Mayor Miller called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Public Comment.  
Cheryl Curry commented on how nice the town looked for Homesteaders' Day. She also wanted to tell the council that the Pondera Regional Port Authority's office has moved to 409 S. Main in Conrad and the open house will be Thursday, July 17, 2014 from 3-6 pm. The VADC survey only received about a 10% response. Some of the concerns were about signage into Valier, housing, roads and the boat dock area at Lake Francis.

Alderman Loch asked Cheryl Curry if she has received any notification about when the cell tower will be operational. Cheryl said that she has not been notified, but she has heard that AT&T is almost ready to go. They were hoping to be operational by the end of July, but are probably two weeks behind schedule. There is a possibility of Verizon also using the cell tower, but nothing is definite.

Marie Offerdahl inquired about the weed spraying in public areas. Mayor Miller informed her that around Main Street and Miller Parks have been done. Marie also inquired about dust control. Alderman Nelson informed her that products like calcium chloride is expensive and would not be fiscally possible at this time.

Mike Durnell inquired about the road work being done on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and why is 7<sup>th</sup> Street so wide. Steve Nelson asked why we were working on 7<sup>th</sup> Street when very few residents live on that street. Roger Skogen explained that the roads were platted to be 40' wide to accommodate side street parking and still have room for two vehicle traffic. This project was previously approved last year, but with weather and other concerns it was not started until now. Safety and snow removal concerns are why 7<sup>th</sup> Street is being worked on.

Marie Offerdahl inquired about the dip at the intersection of Dupuyer Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> street if that was to be leveled. Roger Skogen explained that with drainage issues it will remain.

- 5. Resolution #144 – Resolution of Intention of the Town of Valier, Montana to increase rates for the users of the municipal sewer system.

**RESOLUTION NO. 144**

**RESOLUTION OF INTENTION OF THE TOWN OF VALIER, MONTANA TO INCREASE RATES FOR THE USERS OF THE MUNICIPAL SEWER SYSTEM**

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Valier, Montana (the “Town”) has determined to undertake certain improvements to its municipal sewer system (the “System”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 7, Part 42, Montana Code Annotated, the Town is authorized to issue bonds for the purpose of financing improvements to its System; and

WHEREAS, based on the information provided to the Town from the Town’s engineering firm Morrison Maierle, Inc., of Helena, Montana, (the “Engineer”), the estimated cost of the improvements to the System (the “Project”) is \$2,064,000. The Town proposes to issue its sewer system revenue bond (the “Bond”) in an amount not to exceed the aggregate amount of \$775,000 to pay for a portion of the costs the Project; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary for the Town to collect sufficient revenues to repay the Bond and to pay the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the System; and

WHEREAS, under Section 69-7-101, Montana Code Annotated, the Town has the power and authority to regulate, establish, and change, as it considers proper, rates, charges, and classifications imposed for utility services to its inhabitants and other persons served by the municipal System. Rates, charges, and classifications must be reasonable and just; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 69-7-111, Montana Code Annotated, the Town Council of the Town (the “Council”) shall order a public hearing prior to the passage or enactment of an ordinance or resolution imposing, establishing, changing or increasing rates, fees, or charges for services or facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Equivalent Dwelling Units. The Town has previously adopted the EDU System based on the size of the connection as the method for determining the rates and charges for the users of the System. A ¾ inch service, which is the standard service for single family residential users, will be 1 EDU.

Section 2. Current Sewer Rates. The current monthly sewer rate per EDU for users of the System is \$37.00. The following table shows the current monthly sewer rate for the various users of the System and the number of EDUs for each size of service.

<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Multiplier</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Number of EDUs</u>
¾”	1.00	\$ 37.00	305.00
1”	1.79	66.23	7.16
1 ½”	4.00	148.00	8.00
2”	7.14	264.18	7.14

Section 3. Proposed Sewer Rate Increase. Effective September 2014, the Town proposes to increase the monthly sewer rate per EDU to \$56.00, which represents an increase of approximately 51% over the current monthly sewer rate. The following table shows the proposed monthly sewer rate for the various users of the System and the number of EDUs for each size of service:

<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Multiplier</u>	<u>Monthly Rate</u>	<u>Number of EDU's</u>
¾"	1.00	\$ 56.00	305.00
1"	1.79	100.24	7.16
1 ½"	4.00	224.00	8.00
2"	7.14	399.84	7.14

Section 4. Determination of Annual Budget for the System. At least once each year the Council shall determine the amount of money needed to pay the costs of the System including but not limited to: (a) the payment of the reasonable expense of operation and maintenance of the System; (b) administration of the System; (c) the payment of principal and interest on any bonded or other indebtedness of the System; and (d) the establishment or maintenance of any required reserves, including reserves needed for expenditures for depreciation and replacement of facilities, as may be determined necessary from time to time by the Council or as covenanted in the ordinance or resolution authorizing any outstanding bonds of the System. Based on the annual needs of the System, the Council will establish monthly charges for the use of the System.

Section 5. Further Rate Increases. Subsequent adjustment to the rates and charges for the use of the System will be made by a resolution of the Council duly adopted after a public hearing with notice thereof given as provided by law.

Section 6. Public Hearing. A public hearing on the proposed rate increase for the System will be held on August 11, 2014, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the Valier Civic Center, 514 Montana Street, in Valier, Montana.

Section 7. Notice. The Town Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to publish or cause to be published a copy of a notice of the passage of this resolution in *The Valierian*, a newspaper of general circulation in the Town, on July 24, July 31, and August 7, 2014 by law, and to mail or cause to be mailed a copy of said notice to all persons served by the System at least 7 days and not more than 30 days prior to the public hearing. The mailed notice must contain an estimate of the amount that the customer's average bill will increase. The Town Clerk-Treasurer is also authorized and directed to mail first class, postage prepaid, notice of all hearings to the Montana consumer counsel.

Passed and approved this 14th day of July, 2014.

7. Public Works Report.

These are highlights for the Public Works Department for the month of June, 2014. The Town pumped 3,049,800 gallons of water for the month, for an average of 101,660 gallons per day. Bulk water sold 57,190 gallons and Hydrant sales was 276,675 gallons for the month. The water sample was good for the month. Our Wastewater Treatment Facility samples for the month of June had no violations. We have been busy rebuilding 7<sup>th</sup> Street and have two blocks done except for some finishing work. The grader is broke down and as soon as it is fully repaired we will resume rebuilding 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

8. Law Enforcement Report.

Deputy Shannon Gabbard stated that 6 (six) arrests were made over the Homesteaders Day weekend. Four (4) were DUI, one (1) domestic complaint and 1 (one) was a fight at the Mud Run. Over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend there was 1 (one) complaint about fireworks in the city limits. Overall it was quiet.

9. Consent Items.

(A) Permission to Build:

Kurt and Tassie Christiaens would like to build an addition to their existing garage. This was recommended for approval from the zoning board. Mayor Miller called for a motion to approve the application from Kurt and Tassie Christiaens. Alderman Loch moved to approve, Alderman Wunderlich seconded. Mayor Miller called for discussion. None heard. Mayor Miller called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Nasrine Gill and Joseph Guevara would like to place a sign for their business across Highway 44 on Town of Valier's property. This was recommended for approval from the zoning board. The Council needs additional information on the height and width of the sign before addressing this request. No action taken.

(B) (C) (D) Claims:

Mayor Miller called for a motion to pay the bills consent items B, C, and D. Alderman Loch moved to pay the bills, Alderman Widhalm seconded. Mayor Miller called for discussion. None heard. Mayor Miller called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Announcements.

The Public Hearing on the increase of wastewater rates will be held August 11, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Valier Civic Center. The regular monthly council meeting will be held directly after the rate hearing.

11. Adjourn.

There being no more business to come before the Town Council, Mayor Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Bob Miller, Mayor

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Jacalyn G. Sheble, Clerk/Treasurer