

**BRIDGER TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A BUDGET HEARING
HELD ON AUGUST 23, 2016**

The August 23rd, 2016 budget hearing of the Bridger Town Council was held at 108 South D Street in Bridger. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was brought to order by Mayor Shultz at 7:09 pm. Council members present were George "Butch" Wilm, Shala Cullum, Mark DeRudder and Randy Novakovich. Others present were: Delphine Coon, Laura McElhinny, Lynn White, Melva Lightburn, Library Director Krystal Zentner, Judge Bert Kraft, Police Chief Mike Buechler and Clerk Kirstin Sweet.

Clerk Sweet went through the Revenue Budget and explained where the funds come from and any changes that were made to the budget. During that process Library Director Zentner explained her reasoning for asking the Town for 2 Mills for the Library Fund. She believes that the Town benefits from having the library. Also, the county mill levies received by the Library have only increased by about 2% and the expenses have increased by about 5% even with budget reductions that have been made for this year. Clerk Sweet finished her explanation of the Revenue Budget.

Next Clerk Sweet went through the expenditure side of the budget and explained any changes made. During this time Judge Kraft explained why he is asking for an increase in his budget. He would like a larger salary due to the fact that he is required by the Judicial Standards Board to complete certain duties. These duties constitute more time than previously figured. Judge Kraft had created 3 different options for what his payroll line item may look like. Option A was what was currently worked, Option B is a double in hours and salary and Option C was a triple in hours and salary. Some discussion was had about what hours he is actually working and the hours currently worked are closest to Option C. It was thought by the council that the judge should be paid for actual hours worked but that the determination of that is difficult as he can get called at any time of day. The Council would like to see a log of hours. It was motioned by Councilwomen Cullum to put option C into the budget and to pass a new Resolution at the next regular meeting setting the Judge's salary at Option B. The motion was seconded by Councilman Novakovich. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Novakovich – aye. Clerk Sweet finished her explanation of the expenditure budget as well as going over some information on reserves. Some discussion was had regarding the Area Parks and Recreation Fund and the lack of enough reserves to operate past mid-July 2017. It was explained by Clerk Sweet that the committee will need to give the Town more money right away in July so that the Pool can continue to make payroll and cover expenses.

Councilman DeRudder motioned to accept the preliminary budget with the changes discussed at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Novakovich. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Novakovich – aye.

There being no further business Councilman Wilm motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman DeRudder. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilm – aye, Councilwoman Cullum – aye, Councilman DeRudder – aye and Councilman Novakovich – aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.



Mayor, Town of Bridger

ATTEST:



Kirstin Sweet, Town Clerk