The regular meeting of the Colby Common Council was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Mayor James Schmidt. On roll call: Flink, Schmidt, Thieme, Hesgard, Oestreich, Hederer and Kaiser. O’Brien was absent. Also present were Mayor James Schmidt, DPW Higley, Clerk Gurtner and Library Director Calmes.

**Agenda** was posted by the clerk. The agenda will stand as the order of the meeting.

**Minutes** of the November 7th meeting were pre-read and reviewed. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Flink to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Financial Statement and Bills** were discussed. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Flink to approve the financial statement and bills. The bills include Item B from the agenda – Pay Request #8 for SD Ellenbecker of $250,183.45. The amounts approved are as follows: General Fund $310,594.08; Water Department $22,229.32; Sewer Department $34,049.45; TIF Fund $124,131.25; Revolving Loan Fund $12,950.00; Net payroll $26,817.30. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Construction Change Directive #10:** Change Directive #10 for ($525.43) includes omitting corner guards except 4; omitting all wood picture rail; providing wood chair rail in Community Room; omitting priming and painting of walls to receive wall paper by owner; relocate fire alarm horn/strobe in vestibule. Motion was made by Hesgard, seconded to Thieme approve the Construction Change Directive #10. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Pay Request #8 to SD Ellenbecker for $250,183.45:** Motion was made by, seconded by to approve pay request #8 to SD Ellenbecker for $250,183.45. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Public Comment:** Library Director Calmes reported that they are planning to move on December 11th and hopes to be open by December 18th at the new Colby Community Library. We are still waiting on some of the technology issues.

**Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission** met on November 13th.

The commission approved minutes and expenditures.

Kramer asked if there was a way a budget comparison for 2016 could be included in the financial report, either in graph form or as an additional line item. Hederer suggested contacting Colby City Clerk Connie Gurtner or Colby Deputy City Clerk Jessie Polivka to find out what capability the computer software has to generate more detailed financial reports.

Kramer questioned why there was no expenditure listed for an audit. Hederer said a separate yearly audit for the police books was discontinued several years ago, when the city of Colby took over the accounting instead of rotating the task between the municipalities every other year. Schmidt said the financials are reviewed annually during the regular city of Colby audit. Chief Bauer said he would discuss the issue with Gurtner and Polivka and give a report at the next Commission meeting.

Kramer asked about the line item charge for the Time System. Chief Bauer said it was a charge from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for accessing the data system.

Under Chief’s Report, Chief Bauer stated that the Click it or Ticket effort was delayed. Chief Bauer said the hours put in by Colby/Abbotsford Police Department Officers would be submitted through the Wausau Police Department for reimbursement. Chief Bauer said one squad vehicle was in the repair shop because it had been sideswiped by a motorist. He said there were no injuries in the accident. He said it would cost $7,000 to repair the squad vehicle. The motorist's insurance company has been contacted about paying the claim. Kramer asked if there was much of an investment in getting the Volvo going that was confiscated in a recent drug arrest at the Shell Station. Chief Bauer said the oil was changed and an exhaust leak had to be fixed. Chief Bauer said there would be no additional equipment installed in the Volvo. Chief Bauer said six youth had signed up for the Explorer program. Chief Bauer said Officer Wagner and the K-9 unit had done searches in the Abbotsford and Colby schools. Chief Bauer said four out of the six officers attended Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) recently. Officer Stubbe said the training opened everyone's eyes to issues including mental illness and depression and gave them a general idea of what people are going through. The Marathon County Sheriff's Department reviewed how they handle various crisis intervention situations. Officer Stubbe said compassion and fatigue were discussed in several scenarios. Chief Bauer said a Colby/Abbotsford Police Department goal was to have all officers go through the CIT program. Chief Bauer said the officers have been busy, with nothing remarkable to note on the activity report. Kramer asked if the Colby/Abbotsford Police Department received any money out of citations issued. Chief Bauer said no funds go back to the Department, but some funds go back to the municipalities.

Schmidt announced there was an oversight on the Commission's part regarding language in a paragraph of the union contract. He said it was not the Commission's intent to violate the provisions of Act 10.

The commission voted to recommend to the Abbotsford and Colby city councils that the union contract language be clarified as follows: The Commission agrees to provide retirement benefits under the Wisconsin Retirement System. Employees hired after March 11, 2011 will contribute the employee portion into the Wisconsin Retirement System according to WRS Rule or Law, but no more than the general employee WRS contribution rate. The Commission will contribute the employee portion into the Wisconsin Retirement System according to WRS Rule or Law for employees hired before March 11, 2011, but no more than the general employee WRS contribution rate.

Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Hederer to approve the motion to clarify the retirement portion of the police union contract. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Personnel/Labor Relations Committee** met on December 4th.

The meeting was held in closed session to discuss employee wages/benefits for 2018. Mayor Schmidt would like to discuss with the employees what the committee decided, so we will add this item to the January agenda.

**Public Works Committee** met on November 27th.

Treatment Options for Well #9, #12, and #14: Dave Krugler and Mike Voss from MSA presented options to the committee on different treatment options for the wells. The first option presented was for Well #14 which has an issue with uranium levels. The City has failed to pass the test for uranium on Well #14 for the last three quarters. If the City fails one more quarter the DNR will step in and decide whether the well needs to be shut down. MSA suggested using a Uranium Removal Portable Exchange System to remove the uranium from the water. The cost difference in the two options presented had to do with the number of gallons pumped per minute. Well #9 and #12 are having issues with high nitrate levels. The nitrate levels have continued to rise with each quarterly test. Two options for bringing the nitrate levels down were presented. Both options consisted of constructing a transmission main from Well #9 and #12 to the existing Water Treatment Plant so the well water can be blended at the plant. The difference in cost between the two options came in the different routes they could drill to get to the Water Treatment Plant. The committee questioned which of the wells the City is in need of more. Based on the gallons pumped per minute it is more imperative to fix Well #9 and #12. Together they pump about 110 gallons per minute whereas well #14 pumps about 40 gallons per minute. If Well #9 and #12 continue to have high nitrate levels the DNR will shut those wells down. Because Well #14 is violating on a secondary containment, the DNR will make the decision on whether to shut down the well after looking at the City’s water operation as a whole. The committee discussed funding options for these treatments and the loans and grants available to apply for.

Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Oestreich to recommend to the council to approve the engineering services for the grant writing, design & construction related to the uranium and nitrate issues at Wells #9, #12 and #14. Motion was made by Hederer, Oestreich to amend the motion to include engineering and funding assistance costs for each item as follows: Uranium Engineering $34,375; Uranium SDWL Funding $8,500; Transmission Main for #9 & #12 engineering of $86,500, SDWL Funding $25,000; CDBG Administration $38,500. Motions carried by a voice vote.

Review Construction Plans for 4th/Clark/Broadway Streets: The committee reviewed the engineering plans for the construction of 4th/Clark/Broadway streets. DPW Higley suggested going with ductile water mains opposed to PVC water mains that are in the plans. It was suggested to leave the plans as is and bid it with the option of ductile pipe.

**Central Fire & EMS District** met on November 16th.

The minutes were provided in the packet for the council.

**Mayor Schmidt:** Mayor Schmidt will report on the meeting of the United Communities of Clark County next month.

Mayor Schmidt would like to appoint: Joanne Bartnik, Lee Kashinska, Julie Johnson, Charlotte Haines, Yvonne Ruppert, Duane Webb, Karen Winkler, Janet Gurtner, Sharon Rachu, Dorene Newman, Donald Newman, Bev Fecker, Deb Ivacic, Donna Klemke and Henry Sanchez as election inspectors for the 2018-2019 term. Motion was made by Oestreich, seconded by Hesgard to approve the appointments. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Clerk Gurtner**: Clerk Gurtner reported that the 2017 tax rate has been calculated and tax bills should be in our office soon and mailed out by December 15th.

**DPW Report:** The following building permits were issued: Craig Ludwig, 203 E Adams Street, re-roof garage & house; Cynergy (Colby Travel Stop), 1210 N Division St, privacy wall for coffee bar. DPW Higley reported on the wells and pumping gallons for November 2017. He also reported on the precipitation and flows for November 2017 at the Sewer Treatment Plant. The John Deere tractor 3520 is in for repairs.

**Operator’s license**: Rachel Wolfe, 204 W North St, Colby, WI; Rebekah Raschke, 106 S 3rd St, Colby; Sydney Miller, N16740 HiLine Ave, Dorchester. Motion was made by Oestreich, seconded by Hederer to approve the operator’s licenses as presented. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Colby Pullers Club Permission for Pull on July 21, 2017:** Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Theime to approve the request to host a pull on July 21, 2018

**Security Health Plan Renewal:** Clerk Gurtner had reviewed renewal plan options with our agent. It was determined that the city could save about $1,000 per month of premium if we would increase our deductible form a $2,000/$2,000 plan to a $2,500/$5,000 plan. We are still able to keep our grandfathered status and avoid the Affordable Care Act plans with the change. Motion was made by Thieme, seconded by Hesgard to approve the renewal with Security Health Plan for 2018 with the new deductibles of $2,500/$5,000. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Johnson Block 2017 Audit Contract**: The proposal for the 2017 audit from Johnson Block is for $15,580. Last year the city paid $14,900 for the audit. The cost is determined on time and expenses and can fluctuate. Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Oestreich to approve the contract for the 2017 audit with Johnson Block at a cost not to exceed $15,580. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Office Hours for Christmas:** According to the Personnel Manual the city employees shall receive ½ day Holiday Pay for Christmas Eve and One day Holiday Pay for Christmas Day. Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, so the ½ day should revert back to Friday. Motion was made by Oestreich, seconded by Thieme to close the Clerk’s Office at noon on Friday, December 22, 2017 to observe the Christmas Holiday. Motion carried with a voice vote.

**Employee Christmas Gifts:** Mayor Schmidt reported that the city has given a $25 chamber gift certificate to employees in the past. Motion was made by Schmidt, seconded by Flink to give the employees a $25 chamber gift certificate to employees as a Holiday gift.

**Committee meetings for December:** January council meeting will be January 9, 2017 at 6:30 PM. Colby-Abbotsford Police Commission will meet on December 11, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the Police Department. Central Fire & EMS District will meet on December 21, 2017 at Station 1 in Colby.

**Adjourn:**  Motion was made by Hederer, seconded by Oestreich to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 James W Schmidt, Mayor

Attest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
 Connie Gurtner, Clerk