

CITY OF OWEN AND VILLAGE OF WITHEE JOINT MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025

**LOCATION:** City Hall

**TIME:** 6:00 pm

**CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Mayor City of Owen Scott Jalling and President Village of Withee Larry Klabon  
Alderspersons: Ray Kilty, John Mael, Ken Martine, Jason Thornton; Bob Wilczek and Pam Jaffke

Village Trustees: Susan Kalepp, Randy Shelton, Nancy Amacher, and William Kroeplin

**EMPLOYEE ATTENDANCE LIST:** Owen Clerk/Treasurer Tracy Rau, Withee Clerk/Treasurer Ellen Niemi, DPW Director Chad Smith, Deputy Kelly Booth, and OWPD Chief Fehlman

**COMMUNITY ATTENDANCE:** Cindy Cardinal/ES-Enterprise Sentinel, Grace Dale, Rick Nelson, Tim Swiggum, and Dawna Fehlman

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jalling at 6:00 pm

**Public Comment:** None

**Discuss and Act on Bike Trail:** The DPW Director, Chad Smith, was asked to share the breakdown of cost for the City of Owen and the Village of Withee costs after the 80/20 grant. The grant that was approved for the bike trail will be in the City of Owen's name; To keep the cost down this year since neither municipality was able to budget the cost for 2025 the surveying will be done at the end of the year. The Withee portion of the trail should not be that much per our DPW Director. We can push the completion out, but it must be completed by 2031. The total project is 1,326,500.00, the grant received was for \$1,060,800.00 it is an 80/20 grant 80%Withee-\$93,154.00 and 80% Owen-\$591,799.00 this is reimbursable, but both will be responsible for their 20%. This will allow each municipality to budget for the cost. In a few years costs may go up. A Shelton/Kroeplin motion to move forward with the Owen/Withee Bike Trail and to have the City and Village Attorney's both draw up a payment agreement between the two entities to be furthered discussed. Motion carried.

**Discuss/Act on Police Agreement:** An agreement to have the attorneys from both municipalities draw up an amendment to the contract to make the mayor the tie breaker in the event it is needed. The mayor does not currently sit on the Police Committee and can break a tie. The representation is from Owen-3 and Withee-3; this has happened in past for the garage and possibly the 3<sup>rd</sup> officer. Visibility is the biggest concern heard from the Village, a few residents said they see the police on a regular basis. Tim Swiggum said "they may not always be seen but they are there, when you call them, it may take them a little while to get there but they always come. If they didn't show or blow off a call because it was a Withee or Owen resident, then you would have a reason to complain." It was a heated back and forth discussion from both municipalities and in the end, there were a lot of misconceptions that were cleared up. The mayor said the agreement is worded being a 35% Withee and 65% Owen if this is to continue like this then Withee should be paying 50% of share or they should drop one member off the committee. It was felt that Withee would not get an equal say if this were the case. Something needs to be done further to ensure this is not the case. The page of the agreement that came up was 4 paragraph 1; it was felt that the garage fix is a moot point; there was a lot of tension between the two municipalities, and no decision can be made due to this.

**Adjourn:** 7:41 p.m. A Thornton/Kilty motion; motion carried.

Respectfully given to the best of my ability, Kelly Booth, Deputy Clerk