

# Effort underway to restore Malta Lodge building

by Jurri Schenck

The local Mason's Chapter called the Malta Lodge #17 is looking to restore its 115-year-old building which was built in 1905. The Lodge has done many local philanthropic charity events and they seek to do more. The effort is led by members Eric Kay and John Brooks. Currently, they are trying to raise awareness and funds that will hopefully lead them to matching grants.

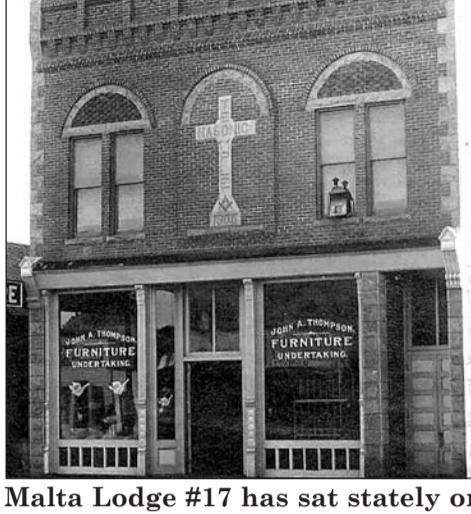
Kay explained that the building has had some DIY work done over the years, but it's been 20 years since any major work has been done on it. Some of the building is still original and it needs some refurbishing.

Kay said they tried to get some grants, but

that didn't work out. However, they were able to get an architect to come through and inspect the building.

The Lodge started a Go Fund Me page and set the initial amount at \$50,000 and although it will take more than that and they are going to do it a multi-phased process. They will start first with the front windows and the front facade on the north side of the building and get it cleaned up. They want the building to have more curb appeal and be more attractive.

A former master of the Lodge, Forrest Henderson, who now lives in Billings and runs a custom window company, inspected all the windows and doors and seeks to have more energy-efficient windows put in. They want to put the original sized windows back in as the year's past small windows were put in and different bricks were used to fill in the gaps. They want to create the original look on the front of the building. HVAC will be the last phase. The big things first are the windows and the electrical. The lodge room



**Malta Lodge #17 has sat stately on Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis since 1905. It is one of the oldest Masonic Lodges in the Big Horn Basin, and one of the oldest surviving buildings in town.**

grants, Kay said, "It takes money to make money. So we want to get some money in the coffers and then pursue some of those matching grants. We have talked to Suzanne Samelson and the Downtown Project. The trick is they will have to look at what is downtown because technically we are half a block outside. Samelson said that it was super doable. They are looking at that, having a building like ours is very attractive. Once we have money in the bank, we will look at the matching grants. We raise the \$50,000 and see how far that gets us and then take it from there."

For those interested in learning more about the Malta Lodge restoration and its history, you can look them up on Facebook searching for Malta Lodge #17 AF&AM. Their fundraising page is here: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/malta-lodge-17-building-renovation/malta-lodge-17-afam>. And for a dive into their history look here: <http://www.angelfire.com/wy/malta17/ourlodge.html>

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session May 19, 2020 at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Mike Chimenti (via Zoom), Council members John Dorman Sr., Bill Malloy and Dusty Lewis. Also, present were Mayor/Codes Administrative Assistant Fred Crosby, Clerk/Treasurer Tracey Van Heule, Public Works Director Ernie Slagle, Police Chief Julie Mathews, Town Engineer Anthony Barnett, Town Attorneys Mike Messenger and Marshall Keller. Councilman Tony Larson was absent.

**AGENDA:** Following the pledge of allegiance, Malloy made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the agenda as written.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Malloy made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve the financial statement for April 2020.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** None.

**ENGINEER: ANTHONY BARNETT:**

**PROJECT UPDATES:** Barnett noted he had received a draft copy of the Stump water easement and will have Messenger review.

**TOWN ATTORNEY: MIKE MESSENGER: FIRST READING TO INCREASE COURT COSTS:** Messenger read the ordinance which increases the court automation fee from \$25 to \$40 as required by the State of Wyoming. Malloy made a motion, seconded by Dorman and carried to approve the first reading of the ordinance.

**ADMINISTRATION: FRED CROSBY: WATER BASE RATE INCREASE: RESOLUTION 558:** Dorman made a motion and Malloy seconded to increase the water base rate by \$.90/month, effective June 1, 2020. In discussion, Crosby noted revenue had decreased and expenses had increased. Motion carried.

**ADMINISTRATION: OTHER:** Crosby noted the insurance company has not returned his calls regarding the roofing estimates vs proceeds. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Malloy and carried to award the cottage roof bid of \$2,900 and the sewer mechanical shed roof bid of \$3,290 to Apex.

Crosby noted about 28 people took about 80 cubic yards of trash to the landfill on free dump day.

Crosby and Slagle met with Hopper Metals on tire disposal. An agreement was made with Hopper Metals to dispose of the tires for \$7,200 to \$7,800.

Crosby noted the landfill permit was extended until July 1, 2023. After reviewing the transfer station application, the DEQ is requiring an archaeological review.

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS. ABSENTEE VOTING PLACES MAY BE ESTABLISHED AS PER 22-9-125 (ii). POLLING SITES MAY BE ALTERED AS NEEDED TO PROVIDE SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR THE SAFETY OF ELECTORS AND ELECTION JUDGES.**

**PARTISAN OFFICE TO BE ELECTED AT THE GENERAL ELECTION (will not appear on the Primary Election Ballot).**

One Pair (1) United States President and Vice President (four (4) year term)

**PARTISAN OFFICES TO BE NOMINATED AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION**

One (1) U.S. Senator (six (6) year term)

One (1) U.S. Representative (two (2) year term)

**FILING DATES FOR SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES, FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS, CEMETERY DISTRICT, CONSERVATION DISTRICT AUGUST 5, 2020 TO AUGUST 24, 2020**

**HOT SPRINGS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER ONE**

Four (4) Trustees (Four (4) year terms)

One (1) Trustee (Two (2) year term)

**HOT SPRINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL**

Two (2) District Directors (four (4) year term)

**HOT SPRINGS COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT**

Three (3) Trustees (Four (4) year terms)

**HOT SPRINGS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

One (1) District Directors (four (4) year term)

# Cases

from page 1

confirmed probable cases, with 607 recoveries.

COVID-19 cases shot up by 30 over the weekend. Recoveries also saw an increase of 24.

On Tuesday, the Wyoming Department of Health reported that another Washakie County resident previously identified as a laboratory-confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) case has died, according to the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH).

The older man had been hospitalized and was a resident of a Washakie County long-term care facility identified earlier as experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19. Two residents have died in connection with the outbreak. Testing has so far

identified 12 cases among residents and nine among facility staff. As of Tuesday afternoon, Washakie County reported 27 confirmed cases of the virus.

Weston County was the only county in Wyoming still reporting no confirmed cases as of Tuesday.

COVID-19 can be transmitted by infected people who don't yet have symptoms. Disease symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after virus exposure and include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell.

# Town

from page 1

sponded by saying they have "a pretty good history of less water usage for the past three years now running." Costs have also increased for water plant treatment chemicals, the population is down and there are a lot of vacant houses. Additionally, the water plant reached a million gallons of usage in the past week. The council passed the resolution increase.

Regarding a previous issue, Crosby said that he has not been contacted back by the insurance companies for the roofing quotes they had. Crosby asked if the council could award a couple of the quotes, especially for the cottage and the sewer lagoon mechanical shed. Apex was the lowest bid for both of these locations with \$2,900 on the cottage and \$3,290 for the sewer lagoon. The Council passed the award for these roof repairs.

Crosby reported that for the recent free dump day they had close to 80 cubic yards taken out from 28 people. "It was a lot more successful than last year."

The big dumpsters placed around town were overflowing each time they were dumped.

Crosby also had news from

Hopper Disposal from Shoshoni and the owner Michael Dimick who is in the scrapping, sanitation, landfill business. He has a tire shredder that cuts them

into pieces and he has a contract with Casper landfill who accepts the tire waste from him. He gave a bid between \$7,200 to approximately \$8,000 to make all the Town's tires go away. Crosby believes Dimick can make the tires go away before the fiscal year ends, by June. Tracey Van Huele the Town's Clerk / Treasurer, made the connection to reach Dimick. Dimick has a 14 foot tall, 6 axle trailer that can haul 500-700 tires at a time using a crane to load them. Crosby proposed that the Council meet Dimick to further discuss this potential service. Dimick noted that Thermopolis has four times more than the town of Buffalo in tires based upon his recent service with them.

The status of the transfer station is they have received approval to keep their landfill open until July 1, 2023.

Regarding the budget for 2020-2021, they anticipate the sales tax revenue to be

\$220,000 less than this year's. The items in the new budget are relatively similar to the current year's. Crosby said the different department heads are aware of the severity of the situation. Tracey Van Huele said that they will know the numbers of the effect of the COVID-19 from April in June. She said they need to monitor their numbers on a month-to-month basis. Crosby said if the effect is "horrendous, we will make adjustments. We have to."

Additionally, they will take out \$1.25 million from the reserves to balance the budget. Last year they took out \$1.23 million to balance that budget. Thus far this year they have not dipped into the reserves. Crosby noted that in about the past ten years they've had to dip into reserves twice and not to the degree they budgeted for.

There will be three readings of the budget and then publish it. Crosby recommended they pass the budget that night and have changes if they see things they find to fund something else. By the third reading they hope to have everything nailed down. The Council passed the budget on the first reading.



Please read & recycle the  
*Independent Record*

# Public notices

## MAYOR & COUNCIL: FIRST DRAFT OF FY 2020-21 BUDGET

Crosby briefly reviewed the budget. Malloy made a motion, Dorman seconded and carried to approve the first reading.

**MAYOR & COUNCIL: OTHER:** Chief Mathews noted the Dispatch area has been repainted, refloored and the new console was installed. Communications have been moved back into the area. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm. The next regular Council meeting is June 2, 2020 at 7pm.

### ATTEST:

Tracey Van Heule,  
Clerk/Treasurer

Mike Chimenti,  
Mayor

Pub. May 28, 2020

No. 8799

## PRIMARY ELECTION PROCLAMATION FOR 2020 HOT SPRINGS COUNTY

MAY 14, 2020 TO MAY 29, 2020 FILING DATE FOR OFFICES

SECRETARY OF STATE: FOR FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICES, INCLUDING STATE LEGISLATURE

COUNTY CLERK: FOR COUNTY OFFICES, PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN AND COMMITTEEWOMEN

TOWN CLERK: FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES

AUGUST 3, 2020 LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE FOR PRIMARY ELECTION.

MAY REGISTER AT POLLS ON PRIMARY ELECTION DAY WITH PROPER IDENTIFICATION.

AUGUST 18, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUESTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS. ABSENTEE VOTING PLACES MAY BE ESTABLISHED AS PER 22-9-125 (ii). POLLING SITES MAY BE ALTERED AS NEEDED TO PROVIDE SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR THE SAFETY OF ELECTORS AND ELECTION JUDGES.

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## HOT SPRINGS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

One (1) District Supervisor – At-Large (four (4) year term)

One (1) District Supervisor – Rural (four (4) year term)

One (1) District Supervisor – Urban (two (2) year term) unexpired term

## HANDICAPPED AND ELDERLY

If you require assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write, a person of your choice may give you assistance. Also, if you have questions regarding the accessibility of your polling place, please contact the County Clerk's Office at 307-864-3515.

## CAMPAIGN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

THE LAST DAY TO FILE A STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORT IS AUGUST 11, 2020. ALL CANDIDATES, CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES MUST FILE THIS REPORT SEVEN (7) DAYS BEFORE THE PRIMARY OR GENERAL ELECTION AS PER STATE STATUTE 22-25-106 (a) (i) AND 22-25-106 (b) (i). AMENDED STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTS ARE DUE AUGUST 28, 2020. AMENDED REPORTS ONLY NEED TO BE FILED IF THERE ARE ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES AFTER AUGUST 11, 2020 REPORT IS FILED. All state candidates must file with the Secretary of State, county and municipal offices with the County Clerk's Office. A candidate must file the statement before receiving a certification of nomination.

If a candidate fails to file a full and complete statement of Contributions and Expenditures in the time required, a vacancy in nomination will occur and the candidate may be charged with a criminal offense. Failure to file within one month of the receipt of late filing notice will make the candidate INELIGIBLE to run as a candidate for any state or local office for FOUR (4) years and until the required statement is filed and a late fee is paid.

Published in accordance with Section 22-2-109 Wyoming Statutes, as amended.

Rosemary DeSeyn  
Hot Springs County Clerk

Pub. May 28, 2020

No. 8800

