

**City of Pierre Arbor Board**  
**May 15, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Ron Schreiner called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon in City Hall conference room. Attending were Chuck Humphrey, Rachel Ormseth from the Dept. of Ag, Commissioner Vona Johnson, Todd Kelly, Tom Farnsworth, Adam Kulesa from Capitol Tree Care and Dave Askins of the Capitol Journal.

Introductions were made. Rachel Ormseth brought the board up to date on the Emerald Ash Borer discovery in Sioux Falls the previous week, when it arrived, how it was discovered and public meetings were being held in Sioux Falls. Ormseth said it is not necessary for residents of Pierre to take any action at this time in regards to tree removal or treatment of Ash trees since the bug is not here. Farnsworth has placed several articles and one video on the City parks department web page for public view. The SD Dept. of Ag EAB information is accessible at this site. There have been no calls to the City office regarding the outbreak.

Schreiner and Farnsworth distributed hard copies of the 2013 preparedness and response plan and this was reviewed by the board. All agreed we are in the information/education mode until the bug arrives. Ormseth said it was a wise decision to have this plan in place as a guide for preparedness.

The board discussed the City street tree inventory taken by the Dept. of Ag in 2005, the inventory of Park trees taken in 2013 and reviewed a report on the number of ash trees at the golf course and cemetery. Ormseth said state wide, ash trees are about 30% of the inventory. In Pierre she agreed we are probably just under that percentage for ash or 25% to 30%. Todd Kelly reported the City has not been planting ash trees for many years or since we were aware of the threat of EAB.

Commissioner Johnson said she is getting educated and appreciates the guidance she is getting and will look to the Arbor Board for recommendations. She has not had any citizen calls.

The board briefly discussed costs of control, when to budget for EAB control, etc. but no recommendations were made at this time to the Commissioner. Citizen calls for inspection of a tree can be referred to Rachel, Ron or Todd.

Schreiner and Ormseth will brief the City Commission at their regular meeting tonight at 5:30PM.

The board will continue to stay in touch with the Dept. of Ag, Rachel and City officials in Sioux Falls so the appropriate decisions and actions can be taken in Pierre when needed.

The board thanked David Askins from the Cap Journal for attending and asking questions and putting out information to the public. Adam Kulesa was thanked for attending to share his knowledge as a tree care provider in Pierre.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40PM.