

Tropic Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting
Held May 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Tropic Town Heritage Center

PRESENT: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff **BOARD MEMBERS:** Shilo Richards, Mike Burbidge, Jason Bybee and Travis LeFevre. Marie Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk & Sydney Syrett – Tropic Town Treasurer.

OTHERS: Gaia Greenhalgh, Brett Chynoweth, Bob Sudweeks, Dennis Pollock, Falyn Owens, Kallie Bybee, Elizabeth Ahlstrom, Terrill Bybee, John Holland, Alberto Vasquez, Val Kelly

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff

PRAYER: Jason Bybee

PLEDGE: Dennis Pollock

APPROVAL OF MINTUES: A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to approve the minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting held April 16, 2015. Second by Jason Bybee - Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED BUDGET HEARING MINUTES: A motion was made by Jason Bybee to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing to amend the 2014-2015 Town's Budget – Second by Mike Burbidge Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE WATER REVENUE BONDS PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES: A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to approve the minutes of the Water Revenue Bond Public Hearing – Second by Jason Bybee Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to approve the agenda. Second by Jason Bybee - Motion carried.

THE COMMUNITY

BVHS Girls State Donation: Elizabeth Ahlstrom & Kallie Bybee have been chosen to attend Girls State – an organization teaching how government works while developing leadership skills & an appreciation for your rights as a citizen; it will be held in Washington DC. A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to give \$75 to each girl toward attending Girls State – Second by Jason Bybee - Motion Carried.

Garfield Memorial Hospital: Administrator Alberto Vasquez gave a report on the accomplishments and operations on the hospital in 2014; received the Pinnacle Quality Insight Patient Service award for excellence in Long Term Care and Most improvement on Clinical Quality Measures. Patient Satisfaction scored at the 95th percentile in the Nation. Project included Long-Term care expansion and remodel, which will be completed this summer 2015.

Scenic Byway 12: John Holland presented the 2014 Annual Report on Scenic Byway 12 All-American Road. One item completed in 2014 was a traveler's survey; eighty-five (85%) of visitors surveyed were aware of the National Scenic Byway, with 47% of those travelers considered the designation extremely important when they planned their vacation. Also, the bike path to BCNP is almost completed – looking at extending it to Bryce Valley area. Economic Impact \$12.75 million in spending in 2013 representing 8.5% of the total sales tax in the Garfield and Wayne Counties. (Complete report available at the Town Office)

Mayor and Council expressed concern with the road damage on Hwy 12, which has and will continue to be a concern traveling Hwy12; which impacts communities and the County, as well as the visitors. A letter was sent expressing concern to mayors, commission leaders, UDOT, etc. regarding a permanent fix to a section of road sluffing off into Bryce Canyon; no response has been received from UDOT. John reported that engineering to fix problem in underway;

Travel Council: Falyn Owens, Director of Tourism gave report on the impact of tourism in Garfield county through its marketing efforts of Printed ads, On-line marketing, Travel Guides, Website redesign, Campaign Mighty 5 Tour, etc. Tourism Related Tax Revenue is up 24.8% and Economic Benefit of Bryce Canyon NP is \$105.7 million; and BCNP 2013 - 2014 visitors up 8.7%. State Tourism Conference will be held at Ruby's Inn October 6th - 8th.

FINANCIAL/WARRANTS

The Town's financial activity was prepared and reported by Sydney; all was found in order. A motion was made by Shilo Richards to approve the warrants – second by Travis LeFevre. Motion carried.

Approve 2015-2016 Budget: A motion was made by Travis LeFevre to approve the 2015-2016 Budget as presented – Second by Mike Burbidge. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Stepping Stone Motel: A building approval application was received from Terrill Bybee for the construction of a storage shed. (A building permit from the County is not required for shed less than 120 sq. ft.) All was found in order – A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to grant approval on the shed – second by Shilo Richard – Motion carried.

Paul Tapar: A building permit was granted in 2013 for the construction of a new home; Mr. Tapar resubmitted an application to reissue an approval; no change has been made to the home's location, just the floor design. A motion was made by Shilo Richards to re-approve the issuance of a building permit – Second by Travis LeFevre. Motion carried.

Bryce Valley Lodging: An application for 11 additional cabins for Bryce Valley Lodging was also discussed in planning commission meeting. A number of issues need to be addressed & resolved before the commission would recommend approval: shared Main Street entrance/contact UDOT, emergency accessibility, resort tax issues, etc.

General Plan Future Growth: Much discussion was made on the direction Tropic Town is progressing, balancing economic structure and residential growth. Water/Sewer availability is a major concern. Current dormant connections, if activated, would deplete the resource and cause the Well to be used, which is a tremendous cost to be passed on to the residents; Tropic cannot authorize connections and not being able to provide the service. A review of the General Plan and what changes in policy was asked to be made; discussed extending an invitation to the water committee to work with the Planning Commission in reviewing the general plan and get a solid foundation as to the direction Tropic should be moving toward.

Business License Approval: Two business licenses were tabled in April, pending further research on vacation rentals and addressing neighbor's concerns. It was understood that all business licenses are renewed annually; any violations to conditions, that may have been applied, will place the license non-renewal status. A motion to approve the business license for Mindy Grimshaw and Clint Mecham vacation rentals was made by Mike Burbidge - Second by Jason Bybee – Motion carried.

CULINARY/SEWER

Waste Water Facility Plan: A meeting was held with Sunrise Engineering, John Mathew from Division of Water Quality, Brett Chynoweth, Mayor Brinkerhoff and Mayors from Cannonville and Henrieville to discuss the BV Sewer District. Much discussion was on funding, environmental study, project details, sewer expanding, etc. It was asked that before moving forward, cost estimate will need to be given. All were in agreement that future approval of water & sewer connections are in question until answers to the lagoon's capacity and availability of water for additional connections with current connections at full rate. Other proposals were to look at cleaning the lagoon and selling the sludge, adding additional capacity; Brett and Shilo will follow up.

Water Committee Proposals: Sydney reviewed the committee's recommendations regarding the increase of water/sewer rates and connections. It was proposed that a \$7 increase be made to all sewer connections; and a \$3 increase to all water connections, which would include the ½ dormant rate of as well. Regarding the vacation home rentals, they would be treated the same as a B&B but change the rate to a commercial rate of \$42.00 for both w/s. Home offices would stay as they are; paying overages if any occur. The schools use much more sewer and should pay more. They found that Impact Fees seem to be in line with the surrounding communities and recommend leaving them as is for now. Accessing & Using the Well was also addressed, asking the Council to arrive at a cost to utilize it if necessary; having an emergency plan in place to address the increased costs to the system and charge the users accordingly. An Emergency plan is currently in place, should be reviewed and updated. A full report is on file at the town office.

Water/Sewer Agreements: Questions regarding the sale of homes that have a sewer line payment plan agreement were discussed, unless financial institutions and title companies' call to inquire of debt on the home, new owners will not know of the debt owed to the Town. File of those who signed the agreement will be reviewed and follow up with Security Title discussing a solution.

ROADS/STREETS

Town Gate: A letter was sent to LD Shakespear to resolve the issue(s) the family may have with accessing the wash. The gate was initially installed to keep the area from being a source of people's debris and giving the Town access to maintaining the wash to prevent flooding, since the residential development, debris is no longer a problem, but having access to the wash along with other property owners in this area continues is a must. The letter asked that a key be provided to the Town. Mike reported the lock and chain has been removed.

Reserve at Bryce Canyon Road: Mike was able to make contact will Nate Crowther, willing to deed it over. It was noted that on a number of occasions when Nate has said he would go to the County get it taken care of; nothing has ever was done; will follow up.

Road Repairs: Much discussion on needed road repair projects and asphalt prices, possibly using "road-o'mill" and a sealant; Brett will follow up.

Main Street Parking: It was reported that there is an issue of visitors parking along Main Street, blocking driveways to homes located next to businesses. Tropic does not have jurisdiction on Hwy12, but law enforcement can be called if blocking of driveways is occurring. A sign was placed in the area of concern, notifying guest of parking concerns.

Another item concern involved buses parking in the Heritage Center's parking lot; it was asked that buses park along Center Street and not in the parking lot.

PARKS/RECREATION

Brett reported on RV's parked at the Town's park, in the church parking lot and other places. "No Camping" signs are to be ordered and placed at the Town Park.

Scheduling of the Town's public facilities was reviewed; need to be more specific on the time, day(s), etc.; better utilizing the facilities. Office personnel explained that this is procedure; the date when the request was made and the day(s) of the event, along with time(s). For those that rent for weddings they usually request night before to decorate. Most larger events whether at the Park or Heritage Center is booked months in advance; weather does play a factor for outside events at the park, no one can foresee these situations; unless told at the time of scheduling, "due to inclement weather" reserve the heritage center; the office rents the conference center. Addressing the trash and other debris at the Town Park being left, yes there are those who traveling through, locals using the park for lunch, picnics, a kids birthday party, but have not reserved the park; we can monitor that. Need to be implementing the refundable cleaning deposit.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Beginning June 1, 2015 the cleaning of the Heritage Center will be the responsibility of Bob and the office personnel. A letter will be written to Raymond thanking him for his service.

A number of items have been discussed, but not completed i.e., dog ordinance/agreement, vacating roads, etc. It was asked that "Follow up Items" be listed on the agenda under Mayor's Report.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to adjourn – Second by Shilo Richards. Motion carried.

Approved this 11th day of June 2015
Marie H Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk