

Tropic Town Council Meeting

Minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting
Held March 13, 2014 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: Sheriff Perkins, Gaia Greenhalgh, Brett Chynoweth, Susan Garrad, James Garrad, Suzanne Catlett, Marsha Holland, Echelle Pollock.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff

PLEDGE: Sheriff Perkins

APPROVAL OF MINTUES: A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to approve the minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting held February 13, 2014. Second by Travis LeFevre. Motion carried.

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

THE COMMUNITY

Garfield County Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Danny Perkins was in attendance to give an update of the County's operations and answer questions anyone may have. There has been a change in the jail administration, Mr. Miller retired and Chris Hatch took his position as Jail Administrator. Sheriff Perkins attends the State's Legislative sessions and budgeting meetings; reported the County received a \$1 per-day per in-mate raise. Currently Garfield County house 92 State contracted inmates; a little over \$33,000 increase. The jail is all but paid off, \$49,000 is owed. Council Mike Burbidge asked if the relocation of the State Prison will affect the county's jail; Sheriff Perkins replied, No; Governor Herbert understands the need for satellite jails and the will continue to be a part of the State's Prison system.

Continuing, Sheriff Perkins names a number of inmate programs being offered in Garfield County as part of the State's prison system; GED and high school diploma classes, industrial arts, LDS Church indexing, and one of the most drug intensive drug rehab classes in the State. The days of warehousing inmates are over, the inmates are busy. Sheriff Perkins reported that those inmates that leave Garfield County Jail is doing better than others; they have a few more privileges and personal items, but most importantly the jail is small and the inmates treated like people. The Inmate Work Program will once again be available; an additional officer will be over this program. To take part in the work program, the charge is \$25 an hour for the Officer and \$1.50 for the inmates and \$.20 a mile for the van.

Another issue, Sheriff Perkins was called to testify at a high level meeting on Federal Law Enforcement; involving the BLM and the Forest Service. These Divisions have no congressional power to enforce state law; Sheriff's office has been working with them giving authorization when needed.

In patrolling Bryce Valley, Mayor Brinkerhoff asked how much time is spent in the area. Sheriff Perkins is not happy with this; reporting citations were down considerably, finding that most of the time is spent on search and rescues and traffic situations. He discussed these concerns with Sargent Cox of the State Hwy Patrol and will again, expressing the need to patrol Hwy 12. There are five-(5) assigned to the County and should be through here once a day. When there is a specific problem needing to be addressed, Sheriff Perkins encouraged Mayor and Council to call him.

Dog issues were briefly discussed; Sheriff Perkins encouraged the Council to get a dog pound, requirements are simple for someone to have a certified animal control officer. He encouraged the Town to look into it; it does help with the running at large issues.

OBAMA CARE: County Outreach Enrollment Specialist Suzanne Catlett was in attendance to notify the local leaders and the public of services available which provides information into the Nation's health care mandate known as OBAMA Care. Ms. Catlett office in the Kazan Clinic in Escalante, contact information will be available in the office.

Bryce Canyon ½ Marathon Sponsorship: A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to approve \$250 sponsorship, Second by Shilo Richards – Motion carried.

Business Association: Marsha Holland reported that BV Business Association is growing and active. With that, Marsha approached the Garfield County Travel Council for their funding and was asked about the “non-profit” status; which they do not have. Marsh researched the requirements to become “non-profit” and found it the request unreasonable due to the fees, timetable, etc., plus there many organizations in the County that are not “non-profit” but still receive funds from the travel council. The Bryce Canyon Foundation is in the process of becoming “non-profit”, which is through them the ½ marathon is sponsored. Her approach to the Council is to acquire a business license as the Bryce Valley Business Association “Business”; the association's funds go toward advertising and small donations to the hospital. A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to approve a perpetual business license, with no charge; being that the businesses already pay through taxes. Second by Travis LeFevre- Motion carried.

Another item needing to be addressed is measuring the Transient Room Tax (TRT); how are businesses doing? Sydney invited Marsha to meet and go over the State's report.

FINANCIAL/WARRANTS

Sydney reported the arrangement for Brett to participate in Ruby's Inn drug testing program is not possible, due to Brett being the only certified driver; if Tropic had a number of employees certified it would fall under the old plan. Brett will need to be enrolled in the Western States Consortium group. Yearly drug test enrollment for Brett's UDOT # \$125; testing can be done at Ruby's Inn.

Century Equipment decision was amended; purchase the machine and hold off on the snow plow attachment.

An upgrade for the Town's billing system Quick Books is needed; cost \$224.95. A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to approve the upgrade, Second by Jason Bybee – Motion carried.

In regards to the delinquent water bills, Sydney reported the cost of sending certified/receipt shut off notices is expensive; \$4 each, plus her time filling out the forms. The message printed on the bill clearly states the penalties for delinquent and disconnection of services; nothing further should need to be done. Along with this, Gaia expressed her frustration regarding the collection of delinquent payments; not knowing what exactly to charge. Sydney reported the total amount shown on shut off list includes the \$100 for disconnection, the reconnection fee of \$100 will need be added to the total being collected before services are restored.

All was found to be in order – A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to approve the warrants as reported, Second by Shilo Richards – Motion carried.

A public hearing will be held prior to Town Board meeting on April 10 at 5:00 p.m. to amend the 2013-2014 Budget; posting will be made in the Wayne and Garfield County Newspaper, Town Website, Post office, etc. The public hearing to adopt the 2014-2015 Budget will be held in May.

PLANNING COMMISSION

It was reported the commission began reviewing and revising the General Plan; once revisions are made the process of public input and final document will be presented to the Mayor and Council for approval.

CULINARY/SEWER

East Fork/Spring Creek Collateral Agreement: Letters were sent to all East Fork water shareholders asking to allow using water shares as collateral to replace the waterline on the T-Hill system. A motion was made by Shilo Richards to agree to the East Fork Irrigation Company to include the Town's water shares in obtaining funding for the new line – Second by Mike Burbidge. Motion carried.

W/S Supplies: The Ahlstrom Subdivision has leftover water/sewer supplies; Brett reported the Town uses these supplies and has used some. A motion was made by Mike Burbidge to purchase the supplies at the listed price outlined with Scholzen's. Second by Travis LeFevre – Motion carried. Doug also asked for the relocation of the water meter on the property that used for the sewer expansion be completed, Brett will follow up.

W/S Billing Clarification: There have been a number of water/sewer resolutions passed that have addressed billing for both the resident and non-resident. In preparing letters to be sent to local businesses itemizing their water/sewer charges, Sydney includes a copy of the town code that supports the charges. Sydney reported finding conflicts in these resolutions. In 2007 a resolution increased the sewer base rate for Residents to \$18 and kept the Lodging Businesses at \$13 because of they use more water and pay the overages, this included eating establishments; B&B having more than 5 Rooms are charged a base rate of \$18. A resolution revising the Lodging Businesses' sewer rate was passed in 2011, increasing the base rates of motels, B&B, Inn's Cabins, etc. to \$18 and \$4.33 for each rental room. In the definition outlined in the 2011 resolution, eating establishments were not listed as getting increased to \$18. Brett suggested everyone be charged a sewer base rate and identify an amount per thousand (1,000) gallons being metered. Marie was directed to research neighboring community's sewer charges and report back.

In regards to the sewer line expansion payment agreement on homes that sell, Sydney asked the Council if the Town will continue to upholding the agreement or is it null and void. Council expressed the balance owed should be included in their mortgage and paid off; those agreements were made with the previous owners and should be terminated upon sale. The motion was made by Mike, upon the sale of the home through a mortgage company, the remaining balance owned for the sewer extension be paid in full before water/sewer service are restored. Second by Travis LeFevre – Motion carried.

ROADS/STREETS

Entrance Signs: Update on the Town's entrance signs were discussed; material(s), size, costs and donations, etc. James Garrad asked for the Council's approval to move forward in obtaining the permit Sydney asked that when

Road Deterioration: Council addressed the erosion of gravel along a number of streets and homes; Brett was asked to follow up.

Brett reported he had Calcium Chloride to spray on the following graveled roads: 550 North, 900 North, 1250 North, Southerland Court, etc. This lead to a discussion on Obie Shakespear's property; family wanting to close the road, the right-of-way will be research at the county.

PARKS/RECREATION

Council Member Mike Burbidge made a presentation to the County Commissioners regarding the water park and received \$11,000 toward the purchase of the splash pad; along with a number of private contributions and the donation from the ½ marathon the project has been funded. Fencing will be needed if dog issues become a problem. To avoid disruptions with family reunions/gatherings and other events schedule at the park, the feature will be located closer to the fire station; there is plenty of parking and grass area.

In providing a more enjoyable time at the park, another possible feature is a dog/exercise walking path, having workout stations located throughout; bag dispensers would be available to pick up after their dog. Being this is a public park, Mayor Brinkerhoff addressed the rental aspect of park use. Reserving the bowery/public facility does not ban others from the playground equipment, splash pad, restrooms and other areas of the park; clarify to those scheduling the park, make sure this is stipulated on the reservation form.

Requests have been received regarding the private use of bounce houses at one's event; it was reported because of the liability, those wanting to have bounce houses will need to provide documentation of personal insurance coverage.

A motion was made by Shilo Richards to secure the bid and begin construction, Second by Jason Bybee – Motion carried. Mike will follow up.

Heritage Center: Locks on south doors at the heritage center need replacing; it was asked that when new locks are purchased to key all doors the same, eliminating the need of numerous keys. Also, the building is settling need to repair the cracks; conference room also needs painting. New tables and chairs were purchased, were very much needed for weddings, conferences and other social functions; two additional round tables are needed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

N/A

EMPLOYEE REPORT

Brett requested authorization to purchase fertilizer for the baseball park; granted. LaMar will accompany Brett to St. George to pick up the new playground equipment.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Nothing further to discuss.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jason Bybee to adjourn – Second by Travis LeFevre. Motion carried.

Approved this 10th Day of April 2014
Marie H. Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk