

**TROPIC TOWN
PO BOX 130
TROPIC UT 84776**

Minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting
Held April 19, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the Tropic Town Heritage Center

PRESENT: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff **BOARD MEMBERS:** Jim England, Doug Ahlstrom, Mike Burbidge. Sydney Syrett – Tropic Town Treasurer; Council Member Shilo Richards and Town Clerk Marie Niemann were excused.

OTHERS: Gaia Greenhalgh, Nate Crowther, Karen Schroyer, Chet Hatch, John Harding, and Annette Chynoweth

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor WaLon Brinkerhoff

PLEDGE: Brett Chynoweth

APPROVAL OF MINTUES: A motion was made by Doug Ahlstrom to approve the minutes of the Tropic Town Board Meeting held March 6, 2012. Second by Jim England - Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Doug Ahlstrom to approve the minutes of the Work Meeting with Tristen DeMille held March 26, 2012. Second by Jim England – Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: A motion was made by Doug Ahlstrom to approve the agenda. Second by Jim England - Motion carried.

THE COMMUNITY

Powell Ranger District Prescribed Burns

Karen Schroyer, John Harding and Chet Hatch reviewed with Mayor Brinkerhoff and the Town Council the schedule for prescribed burns. There are three (3) areas that are schedule to be burned: Sunset Campground in BCNP, Ahlstrom's Hollow and Dave's Hollow; also in the Escalante Ranger District, Stump Springs also will be burned; project to last 2 years.

Karen and John addressed a number of issues brought up by Mayor Brinkerhoff and Council Member Mike Burbidge expressing frustration on the timing of the burns; noting timing is during the tourist season. Defending the projects, Brad clarified that the Park Service and Forest Service are two separate organization; having different objectives and use prescribed burnings differently. As to the timing, it was reported that burns are based on a number of factors: time of year, weather patterns, etc.; different times of the year produces different fire effects on the ecosystem. John stated that the main purpose of this visit is to provide information, keeping good relations with the communities; and he understands the community's concerns, but also encourages the Council to understand his job in managing the public land, so that when a wildfire does occur all is not lost. After much discussion, contact information was exchanged for on-site prescribed burn training for the Council to better understand the program.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Nathan Crowther: Introductions and a brief history were given to those who are unfamiliar with the project and the development of “Reserve and Bryce Canyon”. Nate wanted to clarify a few items, namely the road. Mr. Crowther was under the assumption that the road had been deeded; finding out that only a right-of-way was given, which he will correct and properly deed it. Nate was directed to contact Security Title and the County Recorder’s office.

There is a small triangular corner section to which he would like to place a permanent sign on; it would be attractive and inviting. Larry Rose has been contracted to clean weeds, brush, and trash from the site. Mayor Brinkerhoff and Council reported they are monitoring the littering; those caught will be given a hefty fine to violating. Board would like a drawing of the sign before approval. Continuing, Nate reported changes to his development, namely the size of the homes; smaller, low profile, cottage like homes, fitting into the surroundings better. There are 5 lots that are either sold or in the process. Inquired regarding the allowance of basements. The home’s construction plan will need to be reviewed with the planning commission; Mike asked if it is for living space, stating that a crawl space for storage/utilities should be okay. Jim cautioned Nate regarding the building on the North side; issues with flooding and to review the flood plain ordinance.

In regards to naming the road, two names have been given “Under the Rim Road” and Sutherland Court Rd; both property owners work this out, using Under the Rim Road leading to Sutherland Court. Once the road is deeded the Town will purchase the street sign.

CULINARY/SEWER

A sewer problem was reported at Jim Walstad on 200 North, roots are in the sewer line; would like to purchase an auger \$1,300 - \$1,400. Brett will look into the cost of an auger, bids, etc. Mayor acknowledged Brett for his work in rebuilding a fire hydrant. An altitude valve may be needed, cost about \$3,000; Brett might be able to rebuild it.

ROADS/STREETS

Sidewalks: Doug is waiting on two other bids for the construction of two additional blocks of sidewalk on Bryce Way. Possibly \$15,000 per block; Annette Chynoweth has \$3,000 in donation money. Jim expressed his concern with the cost. Discussion continued with the Council considered how the Town could possibly reduce the cost, some of which included the use of volunteers to frame, BV Builders donating some materials. Acknowledging the success of Mike’s efforts in organizing a community clean-up of the grounds at the Heritage Center, Mayor Brinkerhoff is not optimistic that the same enthusiasm will be given to assist in the sidewalk construction. He also acknowledged Annette’s ability and dedication to the project by organizing fundraisers. Continuing, Mike feels that this type of community service is needed and should be encouraged.

PARKS

Mike expressed concern with the cost of spaying the Town’s facilities for bugs; would like to get another bid.

It was explained that the \$575 is spraying at the Park, Fire Station, Heritage Center, which includes the trees, rafters, windows, etc. Could cut back on the number of times a year spraying is done.

Scout House

Mike discussed possible ways to preserve the scout house; remove shrubs, gravel/fence and re-direct the sprinklers away for the building. All agreed it needed to be saved; it is the last and only historic building left in Tropic. No word from Superintendent Bradybaugh as to the progress of assisting the Town in the restoration of the scout house; need to follow up. The cause of the fireplace sink-age is due to the ground saturation; it was suggested that they tear down the fireplace and rebuild it. Other ideas suggested were that it be restored as a cottage rental unit; it would still need to be available for meetings and other public uses. Whatever is decided, the process to restore would need to be done in a manner feasible for the Town. Mike will follow up on the project.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Emergency Operation Plan has been updated; documents were signed by all, with the exception of Council Member Shilo Richard, not in attendance. Also the Rules of Procedure and Order for Town Board Meetings were also signed; copies will be available for each meeting.

DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNITY PROGRESS

Parameter Resolution #41912

Mayor Brinkerhoff read the resolution; discussed the purpose of it, which is to issue a bond for the sewer extension project. The project will be paid with sewer revenue. Council Member Mike Burbidge had questions regarding the bid, what if the bids are higher than what funds were given. Gaia explained that Tropic would be responsible for the difference. Council is hoping that bids are considerably lower than \$1.2 million. Council is concern regarding the Town's portion of \$50,000; will this be returned if the project is not done and is the Town required to put up the funds before the bidding process is complete; Gaia will follow up to clarify the terms and conditions of the grant. The motion was made by Mike Burbidge to pass the Parameter Resolution #41912 as prepared. Second by Doug Ahlstrom – Motion carried.

Awarding the Parking Lot Bid

Two bids were received for the construction of this project; they have been reviewed by the Mayor and Town Council. A motion was made by Doug Ahlstrom to accept the bid from Larry Rose Construction for \$102,020.16, contingent that there would be a cost reduction if the use of local gravel can be approved by the engineer. Second by Mike Burbidge – Motion carried. Funds used for this project are: \$35,220 from B&C Road Funds and \$68,000 from grant.

FINANCIAL/WARRANTS

An outline of the Town's financials status was review by Treasurer Sydney Syrett. A motion was made by Doug Ahlstrom to approve the warrants. Second by Jim England – Motion carried. Mike mentioned J.W. Disposal will pick up the trash from the Park and the Heritage Center; \$15 for each location once a week.

EMPLOYEE REPORT

Brett asked the Mayor and Town Council to consider using the 4th cell of the sewer lagoon for disposing of septic systems. It was asked if Brett foresees any potential problems; responding, Brett stated no, that was what the 4th cell was made for. Maintenance of septic systems was explained with much discussion on fees/charges; Town residents is \$18 a month/\$216 year, which would be added revenue to the sewer funds. Additional information is needed before allowing this.

Reviewed the Employee's Policies and Procedures, a few changes were made: accumulation of vacation and sick leave, regarding comp-time and /or overtime. Previously this time was to be used within 45 days, Mayor and Council changed having it used by the end of the year; cannot be rolled over. Other changes to the per-diems and use of charge cards were made: a small increase in per-diems, gas mileage, etc. and the use of charge cards is the individual's choice.

Building Permits: Council discussed minor changes to approved projects after receiving a building permit. Council agreed that if the scope of project changes, the project must come back to the Planning Commission and Town Board for re-approval.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor would like the Town to look at getting a more economical vehicle for the maintenance department; side by side, smaller truck, etc.

Entrance Sign Contest: A number of entries were received and a committee reviewed the ideas presented in the drawings. The following were chosen: 1st place of \$100 Katie Stewart, 2nd Place of \$75 Maren Stewart and 3rd place of \$50 was Hallie LeFevre. Recognition will be given during town board meeting in May; this will also be posted on the website.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Doug Ahlstrom to adjourn – Second by Jim England. Motion carried.

Approved this 10th day of May 2012

Marie H. Niemann – Tropic Town Clerk