

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION SPECIAL JOINT MEETING HELD JANUARY 22, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the Uintah County Conference room, 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah.

PRESENT: Uintah County Commissioners Mike McKee and Mark Raymond, Vernal City Councilmembers Bert Clark, Sonja Norton, Cal Dee Reynolds, Ted Munford and JoAnn Cowan, and Naples City Mayor Dean Baker. Uintah County Commissioner Darlene Burns and Vernal City Mayor Gary Showalter were excused.

STAFF PRESENT: Ken Bassett, Vernal City Manager and Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder.

GUESTS PRESENT: Ed Zurbuchan, Mary Bernard, Lewis (Smokey) Beck, Jim Jensen, Jeff Cox and Brian Baldwin.

Commissioner Mike McKee asked that future agendas reflect that this is a meeting for residents of the County and each municipality, and invite elected officials from Naples City and Ballard Town to participate.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: Councilmember Bert Clark moved to acknowledge and approve this special meeting. Commissioner Mark Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Norton and Reynolds and Commissioners McKee and Raymond voting in favor. Councilmembers Munford and Cowan were not present for the vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2009: Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of November 20, 2009 with one spelling correction. Commissioner Mark Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Norton and Reynolds and Commissioners McKee and Raymond voting in favor. Councilmembers Munford and Cowan were not present for the vote.

RECYCLING PROGRAM: Commissioner Mark Raymond explained there is a company willing to present a cooperative recycling program to the County and City. He introduced Mr. Lewis (Smokey) Beck, Mr. Jim Jensen and Mr. Jeff Cox with the Pro Recycling Group. Mr. Smokey Beck explained that they have helped local governments design, install and maintain recycling systems. The program can include material such as paper, plastics, pro-polymers, and cardboard. He suggested that an analysis of the recyclable material in the community be completed to see what items can be recycled and determine if the recycling program would include residential only or residential and commercial. Commissioner McKee reminded the

elected officials that they approved purchasing equipment for a recycling program several years ago. Ken Bassett stated that a shredder and bins were purchased for the program, and a facility was leased to sort the items with the help of the Can Do Crew. Brian Baldwin, director of the Can Do Crew, stated that the recycling program is currently using two balers and three trailers with bins for the public to drop off their recyclable items. The bins have been placed in front of the IFA store, at the Junior High, and another trailer will be placed at the college. The main focus is to collect mixed paper and aluminum. Also, Wal-Mart will accept cardboard and plastic bottles. He explained that the Can Do Crew collects the recyclable material from the bins along with going to government offices to collect paper. Once enough paper is collected and sorted, the Uintah Basin Applied Technology College uses their driving program to transport the material to Salt Lake City. Any metal that is collected is taken to Basin Industry. Commissioner McKee asked if there were enough trailers with bins throughout the community. Brian stated that the goal is to have a bin on each side of the County. Councilmember Cowan asked if the Can Do Crew employees are paid. Brian stated that they are paid a small amount. The money for the program comes from the City, County, and what is received for the recycled material. Councilmember Sonja Norton asked what system would be most economical if the program is expanded. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan stated that a baler would be too dangerous for the Can Do Crew. Jeff Cox noted there are strict OSHA standards for operating the baler equipment. Ken Bassett asked if a larger baler is necessary to increase the volume of recyclable material being gathered. He stated that in some areas recycling is mandated, and a separate container is required for residential recycling. Councilmember Cowan explained that the School District is providing a facility for the recycling program, and the leased facility is no longer needed. She suggested that the program be advertised to encourage the community to recycle. Commissioner Mark Raymond stated that another option may be to allow RDT to collect the material for a small fee from residents that are interested. Councilmember Bert Clark stated there is also an industrial component that will greatly increase the volume, but would require more sorting. After further discussion, Commissioner McKee suggested that the recycling sub-committee evaluate different options and bring back a recommendation. Smokey Beck suggested that a survey be sent out to the community members to see what is wanted and what they would be willing to pay for a recycling program. Jeff Cox stated that the most aggressive program mandates residents to pay for a separate recycling can that is picked up from the curb. Jim Jensen stated that some communities allow the residents to sign up voluntarily for the recycling can. Ken Bassett asked what happens to the recyclable material once it is picked up. Jim Jensen stated that the hauler usually bales the material at their facility and ships it to a recycling plant. Smokey Beck stated that a projection of the amount of recycling material being placed in the landfill can be calculated based on the total tonnage. The consensus of the elected officials was to stay with a voluntary program. Brody Pritchett, owner of RDT, stated that his company is interested in hauling the recycling material, but does not want to get into baling. He stated that they can advertise the recycling program on their monthly billing. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan explained that Park City has a sorting station for old lumber, cloth, paper etc that is quite successful. Also, possibly

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one of the college classes can help with a phone survey to see how much interest there is in the community. Commissioner Raymond thought the Impact Mitigation SSD possibly could help fund the study. Ken Bassett stated he would contact USU to see if they can do the survey. After further discussion, Commissioner McKee suggested that Ken Bassett head up the recycling sub-committee, and the committee should include representatives from each municipality, the County, Brian Baldwin, and Brady Pritchett. Councilmembers JoAnn Cowan and Cal Dee Reynolds are willing to sit on the committee. Dean Baker stated he would appoint someone from Naples City. Mark Raymond was asked to represent the County. Commissioner McKee stated that residents are becoming more accustomed to sorting, but possibly an educational campaign is needed to voluntarily to move toward more recycling. The suggestion was made to have the committee also look at the impact of lowering the landfill cost if recyclable items are sorted out.

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL ROUTE: Commissioner Mike McKee explained that Dr. Daniels with Ashley Regional Medical Center and members of the Emergency Preparedness Committee approached him regarding establishing an emergency hospital access route for major events. The suggestion is to close certain roads such as 200 North to traffic to provide better access for emergency vehicles. Law enforcement personnel will be needed to help clear the roadway and keep order for the life flight helicopter to land or take off. Councilmember Cowan noted that there are two four way stops along 200 North by the hospital that helps with traffic control. Commissioner McKee explained that it would be helpful if vehicles did not park in this area when there is a major incident and prevent the life flight helicopters from landing. Councilmember Cal Dee Reynolds stated that there have been times that the road has to be closed to prevent cars from blocking the helicopter. Commissioner McKee suggested that the City review the emergency route and plan. Councilmember Cowan stated that the Public Safety Committee can look at the options with input from the police department and make a recommendation. Commissioner McKee suggested Dr. Daniels, Si Hutt and Michelle Dana also be invited to review it.

LEGISLATIVE TRIP UPDATE: Commissioner Mike McKee explained that the Commissioners met with Governor Herbert, local BLM officials, State BLM officials federal representatives regarding the difficulty in getting extraction permits issued. He stated that the meeting was somewhat effective, and it is hoped that the permit process will be streamlined in the future. Councilmember Cowan stated that the rumor is there is a lot of companies that have permits and are not using them so new permits are not being issued. Commissioner McKee stated that there are special interest groups that do not want permits issued for any reason and continually advocate that permits are not being fulfilled. Commissioner McKee stated that they also went to Washington D.C. to meet with key congressional Legislators, and they understand the new regulations on the drilling pads and particularly how categorical exclusions are damaging the industry. The energy bill approved under the old administration streamlined the

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process so once the environmental work was completed for a specific area, drilling permits could be issued for the same pad using the study that had already been completed. Now there are new drilling guidelines, and the reports can only be used under extraordinary circumstance. Councilmember Clark asked if the new guidelines were only for Utah. Commissioner McKee stated that it pertains to all BLM land. If the energy source is green, then it does not have as many obstacles. He stated that the oil and gas industry feel that this is an assault on them from the new administration. Councilmember Cowan stated that the federal government is moving toward trying to create jobs, and they need to know this issue is hindering that goal. Commissioner McKee agreed and stated that the County has had a 13% job loss which is the highest in the State of Utah. He stated that the local BLM office is trying to work with the County on this issue. There was some discussion regarding the upcoming Legislative session. Ken Bassett stated that one of the main topics for the session will be ethics and the State Retirement System. Councilmember Cowan stated that the mineral lease funds need to be protected so the services of the special service districts do not fall back on the City or County. There was some discussion regarding the special service districts assessing fees. Commissioner McKee stated that there is also a push to eliminate the tax on restaurants which would hurt the County.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Commissioner Raymond moved to adjourn. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Kenneth L. Bassett, City Recorder