

M¹**INUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL, UTAH COUNTY**
2**COMMISSION, BALLARD TOWN AND NAPLES CITY SPECIAL**
3**MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. in the Vernal City**
4 **Community Room, 374 East Main, Vernal, Utah.**

5 **PRESENT:**

6 **VERNAL CITY:** Ted Munford, Bert Clark, Cal Dee Reynolds, & Sonja Norton, and
7 Mayor Gary Showalter, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan was excused.

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9 **UINTAH COUNTY:** Mike McKee and Darlene Burns. Mark Raymond was excused.

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11 **STAFF PRESENT:** Ken Bassett, Roxanne Behunin and Kelly Hayes.

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13 **GUESTS PRESENT:** Adam Massey, Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce.

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15 **WELCOME:** Mayor Showalter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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17 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING:** Councilmember Bert
18 Clark moved to acknowledge and approve this special meeting. Councilmember Cal Dee
19 Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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21 **APPRECIATION FOR ENERGY SUMMIT:** Mayor Showalter thanked the County
22 Commission for the recent energy summit meetings they sponsored. Commissioner Mike
23 McKee agreed that the summit went well and voiced his appreciation for the participation of
24 Vernal City and other entities to help make the summit successful. Mayor Showalter noted that
25 the local governments can achieve so much more if they work together harmoniously.

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27 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2011:** Councilmember Bert Clark moved
28 to approve the minutes of March 25, 2011 as written. Commissioner Darlene Burns seconded
29 the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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31 **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GROUND LEASE FOR A FENCE AT THE**
32 **AIRPORT (THE 2011A PROJECT) AND A GROUND LEASE ON BUILDINGS AT THE**
33 **AIRPORT AS SECURITY FOR A \$711,000 LOAN BEARING NO INTEREST TO BE**
34 **ISSUED BY THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AUTHORITY OF UTAH, COUNTY,**
35 **UTAH; AND RELATED MATTERS – VERNAL CITY RESOLUTION NO 2011-13:**

36 Commissioner Mike McKee explained that the issue of wildlife wandering onto the airport
37 property has gotten much worse over the last year causing concern that a plane may hit a deer on
38 the runway. The Community Impact Board (CIB) was approached for funding to help with this
39 problem and a loan was approved to fence the property. The CIB Board requires the airport
40 property be put up as collateral until the loan is paid, and since the City owns 25% of the airport
41 the Vernal City Council will need to approve the lien. Ken Bassett stated that he understood the
42 FAA will reimburse the County for the majority of the cost for this project. Commissioner Mike
43 McKee confirmed that the FAA will reimburse the County, although it may take up to ten years.
44 Mayor Showalter asked if the CIB loan was non-interest bearing. Commissioner McKee

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45 answered yes - the loan was approved with no interest. Kelly Harvey explained that the
46 installation of the fence is almost finished. However, Naples City needs to vacate the road on the
47 east side of the airport on 1000 south before the project can be finished. Councilmember Clark
48 stated that vacating the street was necessary for the safety zone for the east / west runway.
49 Commissioner McKee explained that another concern of the FAA inspector who looked over the
50 airport was the ability to clear the runway quickly when it snows. A new machine with specific
51 attachments will be purchased to help clear the snow faster. Ken Bassett explained that
52 Resolution 2011-13 has been prepared by the bond attorney for the Vernal City Council to
53 consider allowing the airport property to be used as security for the loan from the Community
54 Impact Board. Councilmember Clark asked what the time frame is for the loan. Ken Bassett
55 stated the payments are spread over 20 years. Commissioner McKee stated that the plan is to
56 pay the loan off, in full, within eight to ten years. Kelly Harvey explained that the airport is
57 scheduled to receive between \$5 million and \$30 million dollars over the next five years for
58 upgrade improvements. Commissioner McKee agreed that the next FAA funding cycle will be
59 valuable to the airport.

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61 **VERNAL CITY APPROVAL:**

62 Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Vernal City Resolution No. 2011-13 authorizing a
63 ground lease for the fence and buildings at the airport as security for a \$711,000 loan bearing no
64 interest to be issued by the Municipal Building Authority of Uintah County, Utah.
65 Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll
66 call vote of the Vernal City Council:

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68 *Councilmember Munfordaye;*
69 *Councilmember Norton..... aye.*
70 *Councilmember Reynoldsaye;*
71 *Councilmember Clark aye.*

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74 **PRESENTATION OF ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE (EAS) PROPOSALS FOR VERNAL**
75 **AND SELECTION OF PREFERRED OPTION:**

76 Mayor Gary Showalter explained that a meeting was held with Great Lakes Aviation to discuss their essential air service, and the
77 meeting was productive. The County voiced their frustration with the reliability problems of
78 their service and demonstrated that the need for air travel was going to increase because of the
79 energy development that is scheduled to happen in the Uintah Basin. Commissioner McKee
80 noted that the contract for essential air service comes up for renewal every two years. The
81 Federal Government requested proposals and received bid packets from Great Lakes and
82 Seaport. He noted that even though the service provided by Great Lakes Aviation is not as high
83 as expected, the flight from Denver to Vernal is good for the business community. The bid from
84 Seaport only indicated a smaller plane that does not meet the requirements. Kelly Harvey noted
85 that it is a nice aircraft, but only has nine seats. Commissioner McKee stated that a meeting was
86 also held with SkyWest Airlines, and even though they did express interest, they were looking
87 for a substantial subsidy from the community as well as the federal government. Once
88 improvements are made to the airport, other airlines can come in with better planes and improved
89 service. There was considerable discussion regarding the enplanement numbers and the subsidy

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90 that will be provided once the number of passengers increases. Kelly Harvey stated that Great
91 Lakes does understand they have service issues and seem receptive to fixing them.
92 Councilmember Sonja Norton moved to recommend to the FAA approval of the bid from Great
93 Lakes Aviation for essential air service to Vernal. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the
94 motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Norton, Clark, Munford and Reynolds and
95 Commissioners McKee and Burns voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

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97 Commissioner McKee noted that a letter will be sent to Sea Port thanking them for their interest,
98 and the FAA will be notified of the decision.

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100 **ADJOURN:** There being no further business; Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adjourn.
101 Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote
102 and the meeting was adjourned.

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Ken Bassett, City Recorder

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