

MINUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL, UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION, BALLARD TOWN AND NAPLES CITY SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON APRIL 7, 2014 AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE UINTAH COUNTY CONFERENCE ROOM AT 147 EAST MAIN ST, VERNAL, UTAH.

PRESENT:

Uintah County: Commissioners Mark Raymond and Darlene Burns. Commissioner Mike McKee was excused.

Vernal City: Councilmembers JoAnn Cowan, Samantha Scott, Bert Clark, Ted Munford and Mayor Sonja Norton. Dave Everett was excused.

Staff and Guests: Ken Bassett – Vernal City Manager, Sherri Montgomery – Vernal City Administrative Clerk, Kelly Harvey – Airport Manager, Jessi Bowden – Chamber of Commerce, and Kristin Baumgartner – KLCY Radio Station.

WELCOME: Commissioner Mark Raymond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the special meeting of April 7, 2014. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Mark Raymond, Darlene Burns, and Councilmembers JoAnn Cowan, Samantha Scott, Ted Munford, and Mayor Sonja Norton voting in favor.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2014: *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2014. Commissioner Darlene Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Mark Raymond, Darlene Burns, and Councilmembers JoAnn Cowan, Samantha Scott, Ted Munford, and Mayor Sonja Norton voting in favor. Bert Clark abstained from voting as he was not in attendance of the March 11, 2014 meeting.*

ELECTRONIC SIGN: Commissioner Mark Raymond explained that this item was discussed last month. The County Commission recently sent a letter to the City transferring the County's interest of the sign to the City. Mayor Sonja Norton stated that the City and the County need to mutually agree on what to do with the sign. She added that the City does not have the money to spend on the expense of repairing the sign or taking the sign down and storing it. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan asked if the County could use the sign at the new convention center. Commissioner Darlene Burns confirmed that the County does not want to use the sign or spend the money to upgrade it. Commissioner Mark Raymond mentioned approaching YESCO to see if they have any interest in the sign. Mayor Sonja Norton suggested selling it. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan stated that there may be interest in someone using it for parts. Commissioner Mark Raymond stated that maybe they could find someone who was interested in the sign, and would not charge for the removal of the sign. Councilmember Bert Clark asked what the proposal was to fix the sign and relocate it. Councilmember Ted Munford explained that it was approximately \$80,000. Commissioner Darlene Burns explained that the County agreed that it would be easier for one entity to make decisions on the sign instead of jointly. Mayor Sonja Norton stated that if both entities agree, it is time to move forward.

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Councilmember JoAnn Cowan suggested that Adam Massey contact YESCO to see if they have any interest in the sign. Commissioner Darlene Burns asked if YESCO is not interested, then what is the next step. Councilmember Ted Munford suggested giving it to the Chamber of Commerce. Ken Bassett suggested bulldozing the sign down if YESCO does not want it. Mayor Sonja Norton suggested selling it for scrap metal. Councilmember Ted Munford asked Councilmember Bert Clark his opinion on the issue, since he was absent from the last discussion on the sign. Councilmember Bert Clark suggested getting rid of the sign if neither entity wants to spend the money to fix it. Commissioner Darlene Burns asked who should remove the sign. Mr. Bassett stated that if the County wants it off their property, they can decide what to do with it. Mayor Sonja Norton suggested that the County let the City know if there is any cost to remove the sign, and the City will share the expense. Commissioner Mark Raymond stated that they have confidence that their road department can remove the sign to be salvaged, and if there is any profit from selling the sign, the County will share it with the City. ***Councilmember Bert Clark moved to have the County remove the sign from their property and determine if they want to salvage or sell it. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bert Clark, Ted Munford, JoAnn Cowan, Samantha Scott, and Mayor Sonja Norton voting in favor. Commissioner Mark Raymond moved to have the County remove the sign and decide what to do with it. Commissioner Darlene Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Mark Raymond and Darlene Burns voting in favor.***

SELECTION OF AIRPORT ENGINEER: Kelly Harvey explained that on April 1, 2014, a panel from the County, City, and Airport Board met to discuss the RFQ (request for qualifications) for the airport engineering consultant services for the next five years. The FAA requires that there is a five year contract for an airport consultant for projects that go through the capital improvement federal funds. Mr. Harvey stated that they received three applicants for engineering and two applicants for planning. Mr. Harvey stated that they need both engineering and planning; therefore, it came down to two applicants. It was the recommendation of the panel (which included Ken Bassett, Bert Clark, Kelly Harvey, and John Stermer) to retain G.D.A. as the airport engineer and planner for the Vernal Regional Airport for a contract period of five years. Mr. Harvey explained that G.D.A. was already in the middle of construction, and it did not seem prudent to have another engineer come on in the middle of production. He added that changing companies at this point could cause major problems in the future. Commissioner Mark Raymond stated that the County has already discussed and approved G.D.A. and hopes that Vernal City will support this decision as well. Councilmember Bert Clark added that he attended this meeting in which they discussed this issue in depth, and they all agreed that they did not want to jeopardize the million dollar funding. Mayor Sonja Norton asked when the current contract expires. Mr. Harvey stated that it actually expired in January. Ken Bassett asked about the process of selecting and reviewing other proposals. Mr. Harvey explained that as far as the other two applicants and their qualifications, they were somewhat limited compared to G.D.A. However, the major reasoning in selecting G.D.A. was because they had gone through the master plan and had already done a lot of work. Mr. Harvey stated that hiring a new engineer or planner at this point, could create complications in the future, as well as cost more money. He added that if there are problems down the road, the FAA will not pay for the additional expense. Mr. Harvey explained that the airport has been trying to do this project for 30 years, and if they are

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not ready for this project, the FAA will give it to another airport. Therefore, it is critical to keep moving forward without interruption to avoid losing the funding. Commissioner Mark Raymond stated that Vernal City needs to make a motion to approve G.D.A. as the planner and engineer for the next five years. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve G.D.A. as the airport engineer and planner for the next five years. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Bert Clark, Ted Munford, JoAnn Cowan, Samantha Scott, and Mayor Sonja Norton voting in favor.*

AGRIUM HYDROLOGY REPORT: Ken Bassett explained that he met with Paul Poisture and Cindy Edmunds with Agrium, and they gave him Agrium's most recent hydrology report. Mr. Bassett stated that he wants to make sure this document is reviewed by someone who understands it to make any necessary comments to Agrium regarding the report data. Commissioner Darlene Burns asked if the report that was generated was information gathered by Agrium. Mr. Bassett explained that their consultants gathered the data. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan suggested paying a water engineer to review the report and explain what it means. Commissioner Mark Raymond suggested local water expert Bob Leek. Mr. Bassett explained that Mr. Leakes is in water rights. Commissioner Mark Raymond mentioned looking at someone from Logan State University. Mr. Bassett asked if they had Utah Geology Survey involved. Commissioner Mark Raymond answered yes. Commissioner Darlene Burns agreed that there needs to be a non-biased water assessment. Mr. Bassett stated that he would call John Stermer, civil attorney, to get his suggestion on what to do with the report. Commissioner Darlene Burns stated that she will contact Paul Inkenbrandt to see if he has reviewed the report and will attend the next joint City / County meeting to give his analysis.

MEETING SCHEDULE: Ken Bassett asked about the next meeting date. The consensus of the elected officials was to hold the next City / County meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. at the Vernal City offices in the planning conference room.

ADJOURN: There being no further business; Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adjourn. Commissioner Mark Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote, and the meeting was declared adjourned.

Ken Bassett, City Recorder