

February 6, 2020 Town Council Meeting

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Council present: Steve Cox; Mayor, Elizabeth Julian, Judy Drain, Conrad Jepsen, Gladys LeFevre, Council members, Judi Davis, Michala Alldredge; Town Clerks

Public present: Tessa Barkan, Julie Lesser, Dan Pence, Commissioner Jerry Taylor, Sylas Navar, Cheryl Cox, Ashley Coombs, Lisa Varga, Keith Watts, Kaden Figgins, Falyn Owens, Corry Johnson, Josh Ellis, Mark Nelson, Peg Smith, Donna Owen, Andy Rice.

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Pledge of Allegiance

Approve the minutes for December 5th, 2019 and January 2nd, 2020 meetings:  
Judi asked that a change be made from state audit to town audit in both sets of minutes. Judy made a motion to approve the minutes with the change, Conrad seconded it and all approved.

Presentations by Kaden Figgins and Falyn Owens

Kaden Figgins, Garfield County Planner & Economic Development Director, began by talking about Senate Bill 95, which is in the legislature this year. The proposed bill will do away with many of the existing Governor's Office of Economic Development programs. He talked about some of the programs that will be replaced, revamped or that will go away. He feels that this will be good for rural counties such as Garfield County. He detailed that some of the current incentives don't apply because there are not enough full-time, year round jobs for businesses or employers to be eligible to utilize them. He continued that in the new proposal each county will receive \$200,000 and they will create a Committee for Economic Development (CED) board. The board will consist of Kaden, a county commissioner, one mayor, another economic development person-perhaps a business owner and a citizen at large. That board will then decide how the money is appropriated throughout the county. All the applications will come to Garfield County versus Utah State for the CED board to decide how to appropriate the money. He then answered some questions and clarified a few points for the audience regarding specific programs that will go away or be replaced. He expressed that he believes all the mayors from Garfield county should meet to determine who will participate on the CED board. He stated that they are applying for a recreation

restoration grant this year to fix the Red Canyon bike trail. He is uncertain which changes to existing grants will occur based on the legislative outcome. He then talked about plans to create a dinosaur museum and science center in Escalante. The near future goal is to acquire land to build the structure on and then hire a director, preferably someone who would work pro bono. Commissioner Taylor added that once the bones of the project come together they will then assemble a committee. Kaden stated that he believes it will be a huge opportunity with tremendous potential for Garfield County.

Falyn Owens, Executive Director, Garfield County Office of Tourism:

Falyn handed out a booklet that detailed 2019 year end reports including marketing campaigns, international outreach, revenue, social media campaigns and a look ahead for 2020. She stated that the biggest thing is the new *Bryce and Beyond* Campaign. She is excited because this was created in an effort to get tourists to explore other unique areas in Garfield County beyond Bryce Canyon. As part of the public relations event there will be a contest from May to August. It will be similar to a scavenger hunt. People will pick up items and take photos at certain locations throughout the county. She then moved on to address the questions regarding tourism economic benefit, specifically the Transient Room Tax (TRT) dollars collected and what comes back to the community. She explained that she can detail mitigation dollars that came back into the county and what they were used for, but couldn't give a total of money generated in Boulder due to it being proprietary information. She reported that in 2018 \$2,184,613 was collected and the mitigation that went back into the county was \$998,274.86. She added that there is pretty specific language on what mitigation dollars may be used for. She reported that \$300k went to the sheriff's office, \$250k went to countywide sanitation costs, and \$448k went to emergency services (ambulance operation, search & rescue operation and the 911 phone service). She added that in 2018 Garfield County collected \$773,000 in property tax and without the \$998k in mitigation the county property tax would most likely be higher.

Next she addressed questions regarding event funding. She stated that the board takes a lot of time and effort to discuss and determine which events to fund. She added that the main purpose of the travel council is to increase TRT revenue as well bring in new customers and increase visitor stays in Garfield County. She explained that the board tries to identify whether visitors will come to stay for an event when they are determining whether to fund particular events. She then invited folks to ask questions. Mayor Cox reminded everyone that Gladys is the local representative on the travel council so questions could be directed to her as well. He also pointed out that Falyn doesn't get to vote on which events receive money but Gladys does. Falyn added that Commissioner

Taylor is the commissioner over the travel council and he could discuss any issues as well. Falyn stated that one misconception that she heard was that Boulder was the only town that had events that were cut from funding. She stated that Panguitch had three events that received zero dollars. Peg spoke about her disappointment in loss of funding support in the two events requested, specifically the writing conference. Mayor Cox detailed the events throughout the county and whether they were fully, partially or not funded. He pointed out that Boulder applied for funding for two events and both received partial funding that was requested. He then inquired about the rubric used to determine which events would receive funding. Falyn stated that the board is working to create a rubric and they currently base the decision to fund on whether they feel the event will bring visitors to the event and increase TRT dollars. Mayor Cox asked if all of the board members receive raw data about the event instead of anecdotal information that details solid numbers, etc. to make an informed decision. Falyn replied that they do share the full application with each board member. She added that there is room for improvement. Mayor Cox then opened it up for questions from the audience. Lisa stated that when people come to attend an event in Boulder and stay the night they are contributing to the TRT, even if they are coming from Torrey, UT. A person doesn't need to be coming from California to contribute to the TRT. She also stated that Boulder will never give the travel council the same amount of revenue dollars that other towns in Garfield County will. She asked the travel council to think about their criteria in the sense that every town in the county has its own vision of a tourism economy.

Commissioner Taylor said that he and Mayor Cox had that exact conversation and that the board doesn't expect Boulder to be like Panguitch. He furthered that Boulder should determine its own vision for tourism. He added that Boulder could reapproach the board and demonstrate passion for an event in order to sell it to the board. Mayor Cox asked Gladys why the board doesn't know what Boulder's vision is. Gladys stated that the board felt there wasn't adequate marketing to show how the events would increase tourism and TRT dollars. Falyn added that last year there was discussion of posting signage but it wasn't done so the dollars weren't awarded. Mayor Cox asked Falyn to explain why the 4th of July event was cut from funding. Falyn responded that the board felt that the event is a community event and all of the other cities fund their own 4th of July and other community events. The board doesn't want to fund community events because they typically don't generate TRT money or increase visitor stays. Mayor Cox asked if all the communities fund their own July 24th events. Falyn replied that the majority of them do, except for the Escalante rodeo. She stated that the board felt that there was enough revenue generated by overnight stays by people coming into the community to attend the event. Mayor Cox asked about the Escalante Heritage events

on Memorial Day and Labor Day. Falyn replied that heritage events also promote the Heritage center. Cheryl spoke regarding her grant proposals. She stated that the board chose not to fully fund the writers conference even though 2019 was the biggest year yet with a poet laureate in attendance and was widely recognized throughout the state and the western U.S. She explained that the summer concert series was introduced as an attempt to boost tourism and business in Boulder during the slower months. She stated the thing she is most concerned about was that when she presented to the board she felt like they hadn't seen her report prior to her presentation. She asked a person on the board if they had seen it and they said they had not. She added that Josh experienced the same thing regarding his 4th of July presentation. She feels that it is very important that the board see the reports and if they want to see detailed information about advertising and marketing then they should ask for it. Falyn commented that she emails the reports to the board and that there is always room for improvement. Josh added that he has submitted a few applications over the last few years to the travel council. He continued that it is super frustrating to drive four hours both ways to present for 10 minutes only to be denied funding due to things he wasn't asked to provide when he presented. He wanted to drive home the need for a rubric. He commented to Commissioner Taylor that passion is great but it needs to be fair across the board. He then provided detailed numbers from the 4th of July event based on the survey provided by the travel council. There was a discussion about the survey information and all the other funded events surveys being submitted. Syllas expressed a need for money to handle dumpster/waste needs when there are so many visitors in town. Mayor Cox discussed his confusion as to why the funding for the 4th of July was taken away when we provided the information they asked for. He asked Falyn to take it back to the board for reevaluation. Lisa then read a letter to the travel board talking about tourism vision and differences in the towns in Garfield County for the new board members. She then asked the tourism board to think about and reconsider Boulders modest request for \$6000 for the 2020 events. Mark then spoke regarding bike tours hut to hut across the mountain. A discussion ensued regarding this project. Peg asked about what she has heard at the commissioners meetings about ATV's events and expansion. A discussion followed. Next there was a discussion about the Glamping ordinance to restrict density and engineering laws for dwelling habitats. Mayor Cox thanked Kaden, Falyn and Commissioner Taylor for coming to the meeting.

#### Discussion of EMT Training Incentive Policy and Reimbursement:

Mayor Cox introduced EMS and turned the time over to Elizabeth. She reported that there were four people signed up for the current EMT course. She was contacted by

Taylor Nagel about reimbursement. It was identified that there was some confusion about when volunteers would be reimbursed for travel and training costs. Elizabeth met with Mayor Cox and Syllas and identified the miscommunication. She asked the council to reimburse Taylor and Andy for costs incurred thus far and on a bi-weekly basis through the rest of the training. Andy spoke about his enthusiasm to complete the course and serve the town as a volunteer EMT. He also explained that coming up with all the funds for the travel necessary to complete the training was too big a burden. He explained that he, Taylor and Nicole all thought they would be reimbursed for training expenses sooner. He stated that being reimbursed for the expenses throughout the training would be far more important and significant than receiving an incentive or bonus later. He suggested the TC set a per diem for travel and costs incurred to eliminate confusion for future volunteers. Gladys clarified about travel expenses versus course fees. A discussion about course costs versus travel costs and location and availability of EMT training proceeded between TC members and community members. Mayor Cox stated that the town needs a policy. Elizabeth added that we need to honor the existing EMT's as well. Mayor Cox reiterated that there were two separate but related issues to be solved at the meeting. One was reimbursement and the second was that a policy needs to be published. He furthered that Elizabeth is working on a policy draft with input from current EMT's. He reported that he and Commissioner Taylor have spoken about the issue of state cuts to rural EMS funding and how to address it. Mayor Cox stated that the TC needed to address the reimbursement issue first. He asked the TC their feelings about reimbursement. Judy felt it should be done individually and quickly. Elizabeth agreed adding that there is a state rate for mileage and meals. More discussion occurred about reimbursement versus incentives once a volunteer has been certified and making the process as easy as possible for accounting purposes. Josh suggested a vetting process to identify volunteer candidates and to provide the candidates with a better idea about what to expect as a volunteer. Additionally, the differences in skills and certifications for firefighters and EMT's was reported. Elizabeth referred back to Peter's thought about the firefighters and EMT's working and training together and working scenarios. Elizabeth wants to create a committee to identify real data and numbers to compare costs and potentially bring training to Boulder and/or Escalante. Gladys made a motion to reimburse the current trainees in the course (Andy and Taylor) for their travel costs incurred thus far for lodging, meals and miles at the state rate and bi-weekly throughout the remainder of the course. Judy seconded it and all approved. Mayor Cox reported that he spoke with Mark McIlff and he is not in favor of a contract for volunteers. He agreed with Josh's idea about a vetting process for future EMT's. Elizabeth asked that Corry and Josh and Syllas and Donna form a committee of

firefighters and EMT's members to discuss ideas for working together to run scenarios as well as potentially bring training to Boulder. Elizabeth will follow up and report back in the next few months.

#### Open and Amend 2019-2020 Budget:

Mayor Cox suggested that the TC put money towards Capital Improvements Projects for the parking lot and playground at the community center. He stated that in light of the event funding situation with the travel council the TC should honor what they have committed to do and put money in the recreation (events) fund and EMS account to get us through until June. Judy felt we need to put money into the EMS fund to aid in the radio situation. Mayor Cox spoke to Commissioner Taylor prior to the meeting and he reported that the county is still working on it. He furthered that one repeater is okay and one may need a booster. He estimated approximately \$15,000 remaining in that account to be used until May. Elizabeth reminded all that we need to be supportive of the EMT's in their communication with the county. She reported that there was backlash from the county to Boulders EMT's stemming from a misconstrued comment in a past TC meeting, which led to the EMT's feeling undermined. She also suggested allocating money to the EMS fund to enable costs for collaborative training between firefighters and EMT's. Mayor Cox reiterated that there was \$80,978 to allocate. Elizabeth made a motion to allocate \$20,000 to EMS, \$5000 for Recreation (events) and \$55,978 to Capital Improvements Projects. Judy seconded it, all voted unanimously to approve.

#### Department Reports:

##### Cemetery, Buildings, Travel Council:

Gladys heard that items from the free box were blowing all over town. Mayor Cox reminded her to meet with her committees and boards for needs for the upcoming 2020-2021 budget. He also asked her to check with Corry about the lock on the firehouse door. He asked about the electrical problems in the community center kitchen. She reported that the electrician couldn't find anything wrong.

##### Planning Commission, Roads:

Mayor Cox attended the Planning Commission (PC) meeting. He reported that they elected Colleen Thompson as the Chairperson and Matt Cochran as the Vice-Chairperson of the committee. Also, they will have four meetings on the Table of Use working group. The Julian conditional use permit (RSTR) was approved. He also reported that there will be an ordinance coming to the TC and a public hearing on it prior to the March meeting. He asked the TC to look at the proposed wording changes in the

document that Judi gave them (after the meeting) before the next meeting for a vote. He stated that the PC is also talking about capping the number of RSTR's, so instead of 15% it would be a hard cap of four per district. He looked at the curve on Lower Boulder road to identify what changes to make to alleviate dangerous driving. It was determined that the curve by Sam Stouts house needs shrubbery trimmed. Judy will look at the sign placement on the curve near the Barsch's. Mayor Cox reported that he met with Brian Bremner and Commissioner Taylor and then talked to Tracy Munson about making a left hand turning lane on HWY12 turning onto the Burr Trail road. Garfield County is looking at doing the groundwork, but UDOT doesn't plan to lay asphalt until 2021. They asked if the town was willing to put in \$50,000 from class C road funds. He told them we would put in the requested money and asked Garfield County and UDOT to coordinate to schedule the work. Judy asked how the meeting with Jones & DeMille Engineering (J&DE) went. Mayor Cox said they came and talked about the proposed project and will get back to us with an estimate.

Enforcement, Landfill, Grounds, Park Committee:  
Conrad had nothing to report.

EMS, Arts Council, Fire Council, Library Board:  
Elizabeth reported that the firefighters went to fire school and that Corry was going to report on it. She believed all went well. She reiterated that the Arts Council didn't receive the funding they had applied for from the travel council. She furthered that the library has been successful in fundraising this winter to cover their share of the community center internet fees. She hasn't heard anything regarding the fire council. She will get in touch with Peter for an update.

Mayor:  
Mayor Cox put together a Town Grounds and Buildings Maintenance position detail, a Janitor Position description and Groundskeeper Position description and asked for any input or additions from the TC members so we can advertise for the position(s) next month. He reported that he and the clerks met with Kyle Walker from Pelorus (accounting system). It will be \$2000 to set up the system and train the clerks on how to use it, and \$1600 annually for maintenance and to bring it up to date with the Utah State codes. He stated the money will come from the administrative fund to cover the costs.

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Clerks:

Judi presented checks issued for January. Elizabeth made a motion to approve the checks issued for January 2020, Gladys seconded it and all approved.

Public Comments:

No public comments

Conrad moved to adjourn, Elizabeth 2nd, all approved.