

Bluff Town Council Meeting  
May 12, 2020  
Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.m.  
190 N 3<sup>rd</sup> East P.O. Box 324  
435-672-9990

Regular meetings are held the first three Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted in writing to Ann Leppanen (ann@townofbluff.org) at least 4 days before the meeting. Agendas and minutes are posted at:

townofbluff.org and audio, in addition, at the Utah Public Notice Website

This meeting was held electronically on Google Hangouts.

### Minutes

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray

Approval of Work Session Minutes from May 5, 2020

Sayers motioned to approve the minutes, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Hook, Murray, and Sosa voted in favor.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2020

Sayers motioned to approve the minutes, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Hook, Murray, and Sosa voted in favor.

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2020

Sayers motioned to approve the minutes, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Hook, Murray, and Sosa voted in favor.

### Unfinished Business

#### **1. Reopen 2020 Budget; 2021 Budget; Truth-in-Taxation and Proposed Tax Rate for 2021 (Leppanen)**

Leppanen explained that we would need to reopen the 2020 budget and 2021 budget to fine tune the figures. She will work with Linda Sosa and Linda Richmond. She has been in conversation with John David Nielson about Truth in Taxation. He has been checking with the State Auditor's Office who says, if we take over the same tax rate as the BSA had it is a simple transfer and doesn't require a hearing and notices. Leppanen's concern was for people in Bluff who are outside the BSA boundaries and have not gotten a local tax previously. It was explained to her that these people were noticed in our incorporation process and the rate in place will not be increased, so we can take the simplified route. Murray motioned to move forward, not raise the tax rate from last year, and take the simplified route, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Sayers, Hook, Murray, and Sosa voted in favor.

#### **2. Update on Bluff's Emergency Closure Ordinance and Resolution and Request to the Public Health Department for an Exception to the Governor's Executive Order (All)**

The Governor approved the Town to remain in red risk and will revisit this and other executive orders on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Council agreed to defer action until we know the outcome. The number of cases is still increasing.

### **9. (Moved) Reports on COVID-19 Task Force Meetings, Local COVID-19 Task Force Meetings, Business Owners of Bluff (Leppanen)**

Leppanen participated in today's BOB meeting which included Kirk Bengé and Natalie Randall. Bengé explained the current testing numbers, positives, negatives and deaths. He explained that people could be tested more than once. The testing process is moving toward contact tracing. Randall has a really good plan for businesses with San Juan Strong. The Bluff businesses have been submitting good plans based on red risk. If they submit their plans to Randall she will issue the business a certificate. Jen Davila and Vance Nielson are working on picking up PPE packs from the County for businesses that have registered for them. BOB is getting two free-standing sanitation stations for the Library and Post Office. Murray signed up on the Governors site and received PPE, free for households. Bengé informed that those with a least one symptom can be tested in Blanding at Centennial Park on Thursday from 8 to 4 and Friday from 8 to 2:30. Bring water and snacks. Murray would like to see saliva tests available in Bluff when they are ready for the public and Leppanen will bring it up at the next Task Force Meeting. These are now only on Wednesdays.

### **3. Status Report on 2020 Census**

Hook mentioned that Census people have been leaving packets on doors.

### **4. Update on Sunrise Engineering's 90% Meeting and Report set for May 13, 2020; Update on Request for Quote to Sunrise for Proof and Extension of Water Right**

This meeting is tomorrow at 10:00. They will supply more information on the needed extension of our water right and their report contains a Capital Improvement Plan.

### **5. Update on Bike Utah and Meeting with UDOT set for May 14, 2020 (Murray)**

Murray reported the bike path committee, Michael Haviken, Leppanen, Tim and Nancy Swanson and himself, has met several times. They have taken pictures of the road system and created overlays to show changes in highway speed throughout town and will present it at the UDOT meeting. Murray and Haviken have measured the length of speed zones in Blanding for comparison. BOB and five different businesses have sent UDOT letters asking for reduced speed through town, especially around the school. The focus of the meeting will be safety, reducing speed and crosswalks.

### **6. Update on USU Community Garden Project (Hook)**

Hook reported in addition to Reagan Wyatsalucy, an extension agent involved with economic development was at the meeting. Her interest is creating income and writing grants for the garden. If a grant is written for equipment, like a tractor, the Community garden could keep it. Wyatsalucy has contacted Kay, out at the Mission, and is moving forward with that possibility and setting up a board. People also suggested the bar well and CC as possible locations.

## **New Business**

### **7. Seal for the Town of Bluff (Leppanen)**

Murray will look into acquiring a town seal for legal documents and agreements.

### **8. Interview with KUER (Leppanen)**

Leppanen was interviewed about the Town's red risk status.

### **9. Reports on COVID-19 Task Force Meetings, Local COVID-19 Task Force Meetings, Business Owners of Bluff (Leppanen) (Continued from Earlier)**

Leppanen reported The County Task Force is meeting once a week on Wednesday mornings. She found it very helpful to be able to ask questions of the Health Dept., EMS, and Navajo Nation and share information. Jen Davila said most motels are open, the River Kitchen is serving take-out for lunch and dinner, and Twin Rocks will open for take-out on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. San Juan Strong at the County has been very helpful with lists of open businesses and support for them. Dawn Dilego still has masks available. Murray gave masks and face shields to the Town from a friend. Amber Johnson checked with Leppanen about the Town's status. Red risk effects the Sand Island closure and she will get back to Leppanen.

#### **10. Financial Report (Sosa)**

Sosa read the current bills:

P&Z Stipends - \$150.00

Sunrise Engineering - \$16,035.00

Helgerson Property Management - \$35.00

San Juan Record - \$35.00

River Canyon Wireless - \$80.99

Diamond Propane – \$491.57

Rocky Mtn. Power - \$185.17

BWW – \$60.00

Chris McAnany - \$2,365.00

Bankcard – \$471.43

    Google Suites - \$45.15

    Xmission - \$15.00

    USPS stamps - \$55.00

    Lt. Gov., register - \$25.00

    Skone, PPE – 280.35

    Skone PPE - \$50.95

Sayers motioned to pay, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sayers, Sosa, and Hook voted in favor. Leppanen explained the Sunrise bill would be held until the check came from Workforce for it, the Skone bills were for PPE, and directed Sosa to hold the McAnany bill.

#### **11. Updates on Roads, Water, Planning and Zoning**

The cattle guards have been inspected and Murray felt the airport and Butler Wash cattle guards were in the UDOT right of way. He will bring it up at the UDOT meeting. Leppanen will attend the BWW meeting and Sosa will attend the BSA meeting. Hook reported P&Z is revisiting ordinances and discussing changing deadlines for lighting because of the virus.

#### **12. Other**

Sayers will explore the possibility of using Zoom for online meetings.

Adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer.

This meeting took place electronically via Google Hangouts in order to follow the social distancing guidelines given by state and local authorities. The public will be able to connect and participate by call in or joining the video.