

Bluff Town Council Minutes  
December 1, 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

**Minutes**

The meeting started at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray Castle Valley Council, Jazmine Duncan, Pamela Gibson, Tory Hill, Harry Holland, with Colleen Thompson. Boulder Council Steve Cox, and Bob Springmeyer

Approval of First Community Development Block Grant Minutes from November 17, 2020

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

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2020

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

**Unfinished Business**

**1. Introduction of Boulder and Castle Valley as Peer Towns for the Strategic Planning (All and Springmeyer)**

The Castle Valley and Boulder Councils, along with Bob Springmeyer, joined the meeting to share their expertise with the Bluff Council. Leppanen introduced the purpose, groups and let Springmeyer lead the session. He explained the need to look at short- and long-term issues and noted these were peer towns because of similarities in population and budgets. Bluff had more businesses and is dependent on tourism.

Information included:

How did the towns get municipal facilities? Loans and grants.

What advise did they have for getting along with the County Commission? Get involved on a County level, get on County Boards, build relationships.

How did they decide to hire a clerk? Training is important, following state laws and keeping track of changes.

Other issues were zoning, building permits, and planning commissions.

Springmeyer and the Council thanked the Councils for being so helpful.

## **2. Update on Bluff Cemetery Board (Leppanen)**

Lynn Stevens called Leppanen to discuss the Bluff Cemetery. He believes the County created the Cemetery Board but never did an official action. His understanding of ownership and control are similar to Leppanen and they agreed to meet with Kendall Laws and Mack McDonald about this issue. He reiterated the Hole in the Rock Foundation will reseed the hill burnt several months ago.

At 6:19 p.m. there was a pause as Leppanen switched reorders.

## **3. Update on Bluff Service Area Dissolution (Leppanen)**

Leppanen reported the certificate has been amended to show the correct county and sent to the County. We will work with Jackie Warren to move them out of their offices. Warren thanked the Council for the team effort.

## **4. Update on Bluff Gravel Pit on the West End of Town and Response by UDOT, Jared Beard (Leppanen)**

Leppanen reported that several groups have met with UDOT over the problem of the gravel pit in a residential area at the end of West 7<sup>th</sup> North, the Council, the neighbors, BLM, and archeologists. Recently heavy equipment was driven to the location which resulted in many calls and emails from neighbors. Jared Beard called Leppanen this morning to inform her that he did not know why UDOT took equipment to the site, there is no plan to use the gravel there. Gravel will be needed for next year's 191/163 project. Beard wants to research the history of the right-of-way, the nature of the site and the archeology. Mary Gilliam is highly knowledgeable of local geology and would like to work with the Council to find alternatives. Murray volunteered to be part of the group. While UDOT has right-of-way, blowing dust is a hazard and can stop a project.

## **5. Update on Community Development Block Grant and Ideas for a Project (Murray/Hook)**

Murray reported he had checked with Tristan and good progress is being made. A third suggestion for a project came from Tina Krutsky, a CC park improvement project. The project application is due at the end of January.

## **6. Roads: Discussion on November 23, 2020 with Drew Cooper about Street Addresses (Leppanen)**

The recent cemetery hill fire showed the need for an address system for Bluff; the out of town fire trucks had a hard time finding the way to get to the fire. Drew Cooper has generously offered to help the Town set up a system of street and home addresses. He will bring ideas and suggestions to the Council.

## **7. Update on Audit of Fiscal Year 2020 with Larson & Company (Sosa/Leppanen)**

Leppanen and Sosa have been working hard as a team to get very detailed information to Larson & Co., who said the price of the audit should be less than their initial quote because of their efficiency. The December goal for wrap up is on target. Leppanen explained after the wrap up Pelorus will create a financial report, Larson will present it at a meeting, and it will be submitted to the State. Leppanen and Sosa agreed it has been a good learning experience and Larson will continue to help us in the future. They are a good match for us and we will meet with them in February in Bluff. It is unlikely a full audit will be needed again for the next five years, unless we receive a large grant

## **8. Business Licenses for 2021 (Sosa)**

Sosa reported she will start preparing the 2021 business licenses and suggested the Town not impose a fee for them this year because of the continuing economic hardship

of our businesses. Murray motioned not to impose a fee, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers, and Sosa voted in favor.

**9. Airport Lease for 2020 and other year-end issues to wrap up (All)**

The Council will have a work session at 9:00 a.m. on December 15<sup>th</sup> to wrap up projects and unfinished business for the year.

**New Business**

**10. Outdoor Recreation Grants (Leppanen)**

These grants are open again and Leppanen signed up for the December 8th workshop. She forwarded the information to Jim Hook who is working on an ADA portion of the Bluff River Trail. Murray will check to see if the Main Street Project is involved in a recreation grant.

**11. Other**

P&Z is accepting applications for their two openings and will interview at their December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Emery Telecom will be sending post cards with information about hook ups and pricing. The County Commission voted 2 to 1 to send a letter to Biden to reinstate the original Bears Ears.

Jen Davila reported that the BWW meeting and budget hearing is at 6:00 p.m. at Twin Rocks tomorrow.

**12. Executive Session to Discuss the Purchase, Exchange, or Lease of Real Property**

**(All)** At 7:23 p.m. Sayers motioned to close the open meeting and go into closed section to discuss real property, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sayers and Sosa voted in favor.

At 7:58 p.m. Sayers motioned to leave closed session and adjourn, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sayers, Hook, and Sosa voted in favor.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

This meeting took place electronically in order to follow the social distancing guidelines given by state and local authorities. The public was able to connect and participate electronically.