

Town of Dutch John



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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Town Council Regular Meeting
Dutch John Conference Hall
October 11, 2023 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES FOR MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE: Sandy Kunkel, Al Pulham, Trevor Brooksby, Amy McDonald, Harriet Dickerson, Terri Winn (excused). Matt Lucas, Amanda Lucas. On-line Nathan Zilles, JD Guymon.

1. CONSENT AGENDA

1.1 Minutes of meeting: September 27, 2023

1.2 Business Licenses: None

1.3 Expenditures: Daggett County \$617, G&H Garbage \$2,978.05, Dominion Energy \$33.23 BVE \$472.18 Vortex Productions \$15,000

1.4 Correspondence: Mayor Kunkel and Ms. Dickerson had zoom meeting with Karen Peterson from Sunrise Engineering regarding a land use planning grant which can be applied for called the Tech Plan Assistance grant, It is given by UDOT to help small towns with various needs. They are willing to assist in preparing a grant for us. If received, this money could be used for a master road plan. There is a 7% match. Nathan Zilles explained another grant they mentioned - the Ombudsman Grant for land use. It is a grant that can be applied for at any time and is for training or land use. He can help us with submission for this grant.

1.5 Cicada Cove Escrow Release Funds: None

Mr. Pulham moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Ms. Dickerson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Guymon reminded everyone that the Chili cookoff will be held November 4th at the school. Preparations are underway.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Western Rivers Old Post Office Lease – Discussion and Possible Action. Mayor Kunkel reported that at last meeting Mr. Lucas came and voiced his concerns about the lease cancelation letter he had received. After discussion Mr. Brooksby said he felt we should help Mr. Lucas in any way we can to get his new commercial business going. He believes we currently have usable space in the Conference Hall which would make acceptable office space. Mr. Pulham also supported this effort. Mr. Brooksby moved to drop the eviction notice and proceed with a new lease agreement between Dutch John and Western Rivers for a one-year term with the possibility of extension. Mr. Pulham seconded. Motion passed

unanimously. A draft lease was prepared by Mr. Zilles and the contents were reviewed and revised and changes will be made to the document and have it ready for signature at the next meeting.

3.2 Town Maintenance Position – Discussion and Possible Action. Mayor Kunkel reported there have been no applications yet for this position. Mr. Lucas said he believed Mr. McQuirk had an interest but no application has been received to date.

3.3 Cemetery and School District MOUs – Discussion and Possible Action. Mayor Kunkel sent copy of proposed MOU for cemetery to Craig Collett and Mr. Brooksby. Mr. Brooksby had reviewed and said the only thing he questioned was the part about the Town having the right to hire other people at their discretion. Mr. Zilles explained paragraph 7. After discussion it was decided to eliminate this paragraph.

Mr. Pulham moved we accept the agreement for the Town of Dutch John Use of Equipment and Personnel with changes and submit to Daggett County for approval. Ms. Dickerson seconded. Motion passed with: Ms. Kunkel, yes; Al Pulham, yes; Ms. Dickerson, yes; Mr. Brooksby recusing himself from the vote.

Mayor Kunkel advised the School District accepted the revisions that we submitted to their draft MOU and it is complete and signed. Mr. Brooksby questioned if we are working on a reverse school district MOU as well so the Town could use the school in the event of an emergency. Mayor Kunkel asked for funding for a generator in this connection. Mr. Zilles questioned money for the school generator. Mayor Kunkel advised they are working on a grant for this funding but if not sufficient they will ask the Town to contribute.

3.4 Storm Drain Contract – Update Mr. Brooksby said this contract is completed. They did more work than was anticipated. He has verified the work and the ditch is now open and flowing. At some point the ditch should be cleaned but will not need any grading. We should accept and pay the invoice.

Mayor Kunkel reported she has attended the Flood Plain 2 training involving the property from Goslin Mountain down Dutch John Draw. Flooding in our Town is not a serious concern. The Dutch John Resort property is the only land which would be a concern and they have taken appropriate measures to protect their property.

4. NEW BUSINESS.

4.1 Nathan Zilles, Information Regarding Possible Town Property Tax – Discussion Only. Mayor Kunkel had asked Mr. Zilles to provide the Council with general information about the value/requirements for establishing a Town property tax. Mr. Zilles explained the law and the procedures involved. The Town does not have a tax and it is one thing that is always against us when we make grant applications. The State of Utah establishes the rate that can be imposed but we do not know the amount it would generate. Additionally, we do not know if we would receive the PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) money for government/state lands within the Town which are exempt from paying taxes. This discussion is for information only and there is currently no plan for establishing a tax.

4.2 Fire Cloak Electric Vehicle Fire Blanket presentation, JD Guymon – Discussion and Possible Action. Chief Guymon showed Council a movie which demonstrated the use and

value of purchasing a fire cloak electric vehicle fire blanket. These blankets are able to cover a vehicle and extinguish a fire. Obviously, if a fire could be put out before it spread to lands or other property, it would be very valuable. The cost is approximately \$2,000.00 and they are one-time use only. The Fire Department has its own budget which can be used for purchase.

4.3 Winter Season Ordinance – Discussion and Possible Action. Council determined that we need to provide residents and home owners the winter season rules listed in our Ordinance. These need to be strictly enforced this year so that snow removal can be conducted thoroughly and safely. Notification should occur before November 1st. Ms. McDonald said we need to be sure all residents get a copy of the notice – home owners, bureau personnel, renters etc.

Mr. Brooksby advised he learned the Vernal City Code Enforcement Officer is only part-time and may be interest in providing this service for us. Mr. Brooksby explained the service process and noted if we enforce the notice all across the board – no exceptions – then it will just be viewed as enforcement.

Discussion followed regarding ways of informing the public. Ms. McDonald said there are apps that do these notices. People would need to agree and provide a phone number. She will pursue.

5. MEETINGS / TRAINING / INFORMATION REPORT OUT

Review Meeting Calendar –

Volunteer Fire Department – J. Guymon

Chamber/Tourism/Entry Signs

Planning & Zoning – A. McDonald – Ms. McDonald reported Allen Parker is setting up training for commission members. She also reported Dutch John Resort has made application for a motel to be constructed on their property. Mr. Brooksby questioned what their plan is for the property that is being displaced to build the motel. He believes there is a possibility they intend to move it across Hwy. 191 to that property. The question is if their second PUD is approved so this can happen or not. Ms. McDonald said their second PUD is not approved and a discussion about where the displaced property will go needs to occur.

A short discussion of container homes followed with reference to the one in our Town.

Roads/Trails – T. Brooksby. Mr. Pulham showed the process needed to correct issues with some of our street signs. He believes some simple maintenance can make a significant improvement. Hopefully this can be pursued with our new maintenance person. Mr. Pulham is willing to help with supervision.

Buildings/Grounds. The conference hall furnace has issues. Ms. Dickerson will ask her son-in-law

To examine and give us an estimate of needs.

Cemetery – T. Winn Mayor Kunkel reported headstone for Grace Breers was installed. Proposed benches were also discussed with Mr. Pulham expressing possible concern about securing new benches so they can't be stolen. Last, there is a new sign for the cemetery being ordered.

Ms. Dickerson reported on Election that we will have "early" voting at the conference on November 16th from 3-7 p.m. It will not be possible to vote in Dutch John on election day. People will need to go to Manila. Ballots will go out October 31st and there will be a notice of all this information sent out.

Hopefully people will vote early, by mail, early voting, and the ballot box.

Mr. Pulham questioned voting for a write-in candidate. Ms. Dickerson said the ballot will list Butch's name as a candidate and then there will be a line with "write-in" underneath it, but no name will be posted. If a person wants to vote for Trevor, they will have to physically write in his name.

There being no further business, Mr. Pulham moved to adjourn. Ms. Dickerson seconded.
Adjourned 9:15 p.m.


Harriet Dickerson, Clerk