

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
September 14, 2023

Present:

Clyde Watkins
Scott Allen
Sommer Arnold
Russell Sorensen
Craig Kettle, Town Employee
Amanda (Mandy) Gardner, Town Clerk
Josh Phillips Fire Chief

Public:

Glen Jessen was excused

Clyde Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes Approved (7:04 p.m.)

Sommer Arnold made a Motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2022 as written. Motion seconded by Russell Sorensen. Motion carried unanimously.

Oath of Office (7:13 p.m.)

The Oath of Office was given to Scott Allen by Mandy Gardner

Grossing Guard (7:14 p.m.)

Mandy reported that an email from UDOT states that the crossing guard fall to the local jurisdiction, which would be the town. For more liability aspect, talk to a lawyer. In the crossing guard hand book, it states that law enforcement oversees the crossing guard.

Mayor Watkins took the question to Sheriff Tucker, to see if he knew who was over the crossing guard, he did not. Mayor Watkins told Sheriff Tucker that the Towns goal is to have a three-way partnership, adding the school district as part of the equation.

Russell pointed out that while the pay looks good on paper, that the pay may not be worth being out in the weather. Could the pay be increased? Could the school district contribute to the pay?

Scott spoke with a former principle from Colorado, and asked how their school handled crossing guards. It was part of the aids job, similar to recess duty, the aids at that school took turns.

The council discussed ways to come up with a crossing guard, getting parents involved, having the aids from the school take turns, and to having the school district become more involved. Sommer will go talk to the two principles to see if getting help from the aids is an option.

The council decided it would be best to know who is legally responsible, if law enforcement is the town still plans on being part of the solution.

Fire Department (7:30 p.m.)

Chief Phillip reviewed the fire roster with the council, there are two empty reserve spots. It has been a slow fire year, to fight boredom the department is looking at changing the current training. One change is to do joint training with other agencies, such as EMS, and Law Enforcement.

Equipment; the department would like to get two firefighters set up with new bunkers. The council agreed that this would fit into the budget.

Chief Phillips gave an update on needed repairs on the trucks, 157 needs a leak spring. Chief Phillips reported to the council of the option to buy a new fire truck similar to 153, with no software, and no DEF, less miles, stronger power train, and foam capabilities on the front bumper. Foam is useful when working fires in the oil field. The truck is also a fully enclosed rescue truck. The current cost is \$130,000.00, the prices has come down \$8,000. To offset some of the cost the fire department would sell truck 153.

The fire department is planning on a second annual charity fundraiser, where all proceeds will go to a local family in need. It will be a Halloween carnival with baked goods for sell. The date has not been finalized, it will be either the Saturday before Halloween, or Halloween night.

The Fire Christmas party will be November 16, 2023 the council is invited, start at 6:00 pm. The gift this year will be a nicer jacket.

Mayor Watkins asked overall how does the equipment look for the department, looking at long term upkeep. With the purchase of a new truck, there will be considerably less money in reserve for repairs. Chief Phillips reported, that truck 155 has low miles and is in good shape. Truck 157 is the next truck that will need to be replaced, it has 175,000 miles.

In the future the fire department will need new radios, with the switch to digital, 800 megahertz. The department will need five radios, and a couple of handhelds. Handhelds cost between \$3,000 to \$4000, and the ones for the trucks are \$10,000. Chief Phillips is looking into getting a grant for the radios, for the time being, the current system works.

Chief Phillips left the meeting (7:55 p.m.)

Local Administrative Advisor Program /UBAG follow up (7:56p.m.)

Mayor Watkins reported that UBAG asked if the town still wants a map. At the last meeting an official map was listed as one of the towns top needs. Mayor Watkins informed UBAG that a map was still a need. UBAG will start working on a map. UBAG will come and do training when we have a full council, UBAG will also come and train the planning and zoning committee. Mayor Watkins also reported to UBAG that the town and UCCR need a memorandum of understanding (MOU) sooner than later, as long as it is done correctly. If it is done to fast, there are bound to be mistakes. An agreement done now would look differently then if an agreement had been written two years ago, the Town has learned a few things the last two years. Part of the agreement would need to include stipulation were the town has a say on major additions to park. Worst case scenario if the town were to take the park back, the town would need to be able to financially resume care. For example, the town would not be able to maintain a swimming pool.

Park (8:00 p.m.)

The council reviewed a draft application to reserve the park. The Council discussed changing the fee for the park. Current fee is \$75.00, the council discussed changing the fee based on the number of people in attendance, or number of hours the park is reserved. The council decided that the best option would be to have a fee for one pavilion, and a different fee to reserve the whole park. When collecting the fee, the council decided to collect the fee and the deposit up front, and then after the event, return the deposit if the park is left in good condition.

Russell suggested adding contact information for Tri-County Health, Duchesne County Sherriff's office, and a contact for porta potties.

Scott asked for clarification on the ownership of the park and the role of Upper Community Recreation District (UCRD). The Town owns the park, the recreation district is over the day-to-day operating of the park. The recreation district came to the town and asked the town to take care of the day-to-day operations. If UCRD pays for one hundred percent of the cost, the town can help with the day-to-day operations. The town and UCRD need to come to an agreement over the park. Utilities (8:37p.m.)

The pond still has water, Craig will empty it in the next week or two. The pump for the Altonah cemetery pond did not require a new motor, with new bearings the motor is ready to be reinstalled.

The next council meeting, November 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Sommer Arnold made a Motion to end the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Russell Sorensen. Motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved this 9 day of November, 2023.
Minuets of the meeting prepared by Amanda Gardner Town Clerk