

**MINUTES** OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION **OCTOBER 27, 2015** IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBERS OF THE COUNTY BUILDING AT 147 EAST MAIN, VERNAL, UTAH. MEETING COMMENCED AT 6:00 PM.

**PARTICIPANTS:** COMMISSIONERS BILL STRINGER AND MARK RAYMOND. MICHAEL MCKEE, EXCUSED.

**ATTENDANCE:** MICHAEL WILKINS, WENDI LONG, BRENDA MCDONALD, BOYCE COOMBS, MARCUS KELLER, BARBARA SIMPER, AND DUANE SHEPHERD.

MINUTES RECORDED BY TAI BRUCKNER

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSITION A: G.O. BOND

PUBLIC MEETING ON THE UTAH COUNTY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2015 IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$36,000,000 FOR RECEIVING ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST THE PROPOSED BOND BALLOT PROPOSITION AND RELATED MATTERS.

COMMISSIONER RAYMOND TURNED THE TIME OVER TO MICHAEL WILKINS TO INTRODUCE THE PROPOSITION. MICHAEL WILKINS READ THE ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION A FROM THE VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET. THERE IS A POTENTIAL SAVINGS OF 12.5 MILLION DOLLARS IF THE COUNTY CAN REFINANCE THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX AT THE PROPOSED LOWER INTEREST RATE. THIS IS JUST LIKE REFINANCING A HOME. THE PAYMENT WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS IT IS NOW SO THE COUNTY CAN PAY OFF THE DEBT SIX YEARS EARLIER.

THE COUNTY DID NOT RECEIVE ANY ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE BOND TO INCLUDE IN THE INFORMATION PAMPHLET.

COMMISSIONER RAYMOND NOTED THERE WAS DISCUSSION WITH A FINANCIAL ADVISOR. THIS ISSUE WAS PUT OUT FOR AN RFP, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, AND ZIONS BANK WAS AWARDED THE BID. A REPRESENTATIVE, MARCUS KELLER, WAS IN ATTENDANCE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THEIR HARD WORK AND EXPERTISE. IT IS SOMETHING THE COUNTY HAS CONSIDERED BUT THE INTEREST RATES ARE AT THE LOWEST NOW AND THIS IS THE BEST TIMING.

BOYCE COOMBS NOTED THE WAY IT HAS BEEN EXPLAINED TONIGHT IS GREAT BUT THE BALLOT DOES NOT EXPLAIN IT WELL AND IS CONFUSING TO TAXPAYERS. TAX PAYERS MAY SEE THIS AS AN EXTRA BURDEN. THE BALLOT LANGUAGE DOES STATE THE PROPERTY TAXES WOULD BE RAISED TO PAY THE DEBT AND THE TAX RATE WILL BE LOWERED TO BALANCE OUT THE RAISED PROPERTY TAXES SO THERE WILL NOT BE A NET TAX INCREASE. THERE WILL NOT BE ANY PROCEEDS THAT CAN BE USED IN ANY OTHER WAY. THE BOND ATTORNEY'S WERE VERY SPECIFIC ABOUT HOW THE BALLOT COULD BE WORDED.

THERE WERE NO OTHER COMMENTS

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSITION 1: TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX

MICHAEL WILKINS BEGAN THE DISCUSSION ON PROPOSITION 1. THIS IS A LOCAL OPTION NON FOOD SALES TAX. THE STATE LEGISLATURE APPROVED IT TO GO TO THE VOTERS FOR APPROVAL IN EACH COUNTY. THE THREE CITIES WITHIN UTAH COUNTY PETITIONED THE COUNTY TO PLACE IT ON THE BALLOT. THE FUNDING SOURCE WILL GENERATE ABOUT \$2.987 MILLION. THIS IS BROKEN DOWN TO THE CITIES, THE COUNTY, AND THE BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY.

COMMISSIONER RAYMOND NOTED WHEN THE COMMISSIONERS WERE ASKED TO PLACE THIS ON THE BALLOT THE COMMISSION DID NOT STATE SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION, IT WAS PLACED ON THE BALLOT BECAUSE THE COMMISSION SUPPORTS THE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE PUBLICS RIGHTS TO VOICE THEIR OPINION.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER READ THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 1 FROM THE VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET.

COMMISSIONER RAYMOND READ THE ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 1 FROM THE VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET.

THE DISCUSSION WAS OPENED UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.

BOYCE COOMBS ADDRESSED THE MEETING. HE WAS CONCERNED THE CHAIRS WEREN'T FULL. HE HAS BEEN AN ACCOUNTANT FOR 36 YEARS. HIS OFFICE SENDS OUT \$10 TO \$20 MILLION IN INCOME TAXES FOR HIS CLIENTS. THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, ALL THE NEW BUILDINGS ARE GOVERNMENT OWNED. A QUARTER OF A PERCENT SALES TAX DOESN'T SOUND LIKE MUCH BUT IT ADDS UP. HE CALLED THE ROAD DEPARTMENT TODAY TO ASK A QUESTION ABOUT A PARTICULAR ROAD BUT ONLY GOT AN ANSWERING MACHINE. COMMISSIONER RAYMOND WAS CONCERNED WITH THAT AND WILL LOOK INTO IT. THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BOND REQUIRED FOR AN ENTITY TO CUT A ROAD IN CASE THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH IT. FOUR YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A WATER LEAK AT 1000 NORTH AND 3000 WEST. THE LEAK WAS FIXED AND THE HOLE IN THE ROAD WAS FILLED IN WITH THE SAME MATERIALS. IT WAS NOT COMPACTED. THERE IS NOW A TWO AND A HALF FOOT DROP. THE ROAD DEPARTMENT RECENTLY ADDED A LOAD OF ROAD BASE TO THE HOLE TO FILL IT IN. THIS IS NOT SUFFICIENT PATCHING. IT APPEARS THE ROAD CUT RESTORATIONS ARE NOT BEING ENFORCED. THERE IS NOT FOLLOW THROUGH. IT IS AGGRAVATING TO BE ASKED AS A CITIZEN TO SUPPORT AND PROVIDE MORE FUNDS TO A DEPARTMENT THAT DOES NOT DO IT'S JOB. OIL COMPANIES WILL NOT BE PROVIDING THE TAXES THEY HAVE BEFORE AND THE BURDEN WILL FALL TO THE TAX PAYER. THERE IS NO NEW GROWTH IN THE COUNTY RIGHT NOW BUT THE POPULATION WILL INCREASE. THE BUDGET WE CURRENTLY HAVE IS BEING WASTED. TRAILS AND BIKE PATHS DON'T HELP WITH THE AIR QUALITY OR QUALITY OF LIFE, NOR DO THEY HELP THE ECONOMY. HE WOULD RATHER SEE THE MONEY WE ALREADY HAVE USED MORE WISELY. HE HAS WATCHED THE COUNTY FIX A HOLE NEARLY EVERY YEAR FOR 20 YEARS AND IT IS NEVER DONE CORRECTLY. HE SAW THEM CHIP AND SEAL A ROAD THAT WAS ALMOST A FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ROAD TO BEGIN WITH, STILL IS. THE TAX WON'T IMPROVE THE ECONOMICS. UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT CAN BECOME BETTER EFFICIENT, THEY NEED TO STOP ASKING FOR MORE MONEY FROM THE PUBLIC. MANY PAY 48% OF THEIR INCOME IN TAXES. HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN NOTHING WAS PRESENTED TO SHOW HOW THE BUDGET IS BEING SPENT. THERE IS A TRAILS PROGRAM AND NOTHING IS BEING DONE. THERE ARE SOME BIKE AND WALKING TRAILS THAT CAN'T BE USED BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO ROUGH. FIX THOSE BEFORE MAKING NEW ONES THAT NEED TO BE MAINTAINED BUT WON'T BE. THE ADDITIONAL TAX WILL NOT IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND IT WON'T GET ANYONE HOME FASTER. HE IS CONCERNED THOSE THAT WROTE THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR WOULD SIGN AN ARGUMENT SO BLATANTLY INCORRECT.

THERE WERE NO OTHER COMMENTS.

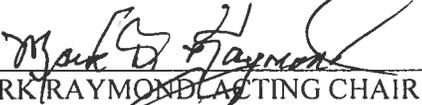
COMMISSIONER RAYMOND ASSURED BOYCE HE WOULD VISIT WITH HIM AFTER THE MEETING TO ADDRESS SOME OF HIS CONCERNS. THE COUNTY DID NOT TAKE A POSITION ON PROPOSITION 1. HE HAS BEEN OVER THE ROAD DEPARTMENT FOR SEVEN YEARS AND HAS SEEN IMPROVEMENT IN EFFICIENCY AND WILL GLADLY STICK UP FOR THEM BUT WILL CONTACT THEM ABOUT BOYCE'S CONCERNS. THEY HAVE STRICK PROCEDURES FOR FILLING IN HOLES BECAUSE ADDING ASPHALT TO A POT HOLE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. CITIZENS ARE WELCOME TO CALL THE ROAD DEPARTMENT AND THE COMMISSION WHEN THEY SEE AN ISSUE. BOYCE ARGUED THE CITIZENS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO CONTACT THE COUNTY WHEN THERE HAS BEEN AN ONGOING ISSUE FOR FOUR YEARS ON A CUT THAT HAS A PERMIT. THERE SHOULD BE MORE FOLLOW THROUGH. COMMISSIONER RAYMOND ALSO NOTED THERE IS A SLOW FILL POLICY FOR WATER DISTRICTS TO FOLLOW THAT IS MORE EXPENSIVE BUT MORE EFFICIENT.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER ALSO NOTED THE COUNTY DID NOT TAKE A POSITION ON THE PROPOSITION BUT IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THE \$2.9 MILLION PROSPECTIVELY DOES NOT COME BACK TO THE COUNTY. THE COUNTY WOULD RECEIVE 20%. THERE IS MORE DETAIL IN THE VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET. HE DOES NOT KNOW THE RECORD FOR THE CITIES MAINTENANCE OF

THEIR ROADS BUT THE CITIES BELIEVE IT WILL BENEFIT THEM. HE ALSO NOTED SOME OF THE LARGER COUNTIES WOULD EXPORT SOME FUNDING TO RURAL COUNTIES DEPENDING ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTIES THAT VOTE ON THIS PROPOSITION.

THERE WERE NO OTHER COMMENTS.

ADJOURN: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:37 P.M.

  
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MARK RAYMOND, ACTING CHAIR

  
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MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK-AUDITOR

