

Minutes of the Altamont Town Council Meeting
February 10, 2022

Present:

Clyde Watkins

Glen Jessen

Ole Olsen

Sommer Arnold (arrived at 7:33 p.m.)

Amanda (Mandy) Gardner, Town Clerk

Craig Kettle, Town Employee

Josh Phillips, Altamont Fire Chief

Public Present:

Vicky Jessen

Della Williams

Shilo Monney was excused.

Clyde Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved (7:03 p.m.)

Ole asked where he could find the Recreation District's budget which they stated would be available for taxpayers to review. Vicky Jessen stated that she would provide the Town with the copy of the budget. Once it is all finalized it will be available online.

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to approve the minutes of January 13, 2022 as written. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Della Williams stated that she would be running for Duchesne County Sheriff and she reviewed her platform with the council. She stated that the department needs another animal control officer. She further stated that the Victim's Advocacy Program was dissolved about a year ago. They used to have three full-time advocates and they now only have one part-time advocate so she would like to get that going again. The Department lost their VOCA grant because of that. Andrea Arnold was running that program before and was well educated in that area. Della also stated that the Sheriff's office budget needs to be reviewed and corrected. One issue she sees is that there are a lot of vehicles being driven not necessarily for business purposes. That issue needs to be addressed. The department has had a large turnover due to issues with moral and nepotism. Della would like to have two residents from the community sit in on interviews to assist with the hiring process. She would like to see the Sheriff's Department be more community based. She would also like to see officers spend more time in the schools getting to know students. Della understands that the crosswalk in Altamont is also an issue and asked what she could do to help with that problem. The council suggested placing some additional cones there.

Fire Department (7:05 p.m.)

Chief Josh Phillips reported that the 153 is in the city getting repaired. They are currently waiting on parts for a valve. The pump is done. Chief Phillips is working on getting the ISO officer online so once all repairs are complete the department can show that paperwork and improve the ISO rating.

Chief Phillips reported that when they were called to assist with the accident by the Sandwash Dam they had difficulties with their extrication equipment. He has a company coming to service that equipment. One of the ports didn't work so they had to revert to battery powered. A representative from Fire Apparatus Equipment came and showed the department some options for equipment. Chief Phillips would like to put a plan in place to fundraise enough to purchase a set of spreaders for the truck. The ones the department has now can be used as a backup. The cutters the department has now work well, but the spreaders are a problem.

Chief Phillips stated that he could purchase turnout gear right now for \$2,400. They are normally \$2,800. He asked if he needed to wait until June or if he could purchase two sets of those now. The council gave permission for Chief Phillips to purchase two sets of turnouts for \$2,400 each now.

Chief Phillips reported that the department is constantly training. They have their wildland training done, the CPR training done and pack tests done. They will be attending Regional Fire School in March. Chief Phillips spoke with Mike Lefler with regarding to the rope training course that the Altamont Fire Department recently completed. Mr. Lefler asked if the Altamont Fire Department could take the lead in handling rope rescues inasmuch as the department is already trained. Chief Phillips asked the council if they would support the Altamont Fire Department doing that. Glen stated his only concern is if the department gets called out on a rope rescue, would there be enough members to still cover the Town for other issues? Chief Phillips stated that 157 is the rescue truck, so that truck would be taken to help with rope rescues along with a six-man crew, but there would always be a crew available to help with the local area.

Mayor Watkins complimented the fire department as a whole. He encouraged Chief Phillips and the council to make sure that the crew feels appreciated and cared for.

Josh Phillips left the meeting.

Upper Community Recreation District/Altamont Park (7:32 p.m.)

Vicky Jessen asked if the Town felt a partnership with the Recreation District would even be possible.

Mayor Watkins stated that the Recreation District was created and collected taxes specifically to help maintain parks and the rodeo ground. The Town cannot collect taxes to do the same thing. The Town had represented that the Recreation District would be taking ownership of the park and would be collecting taxes for the park. The Town had also held discussions about other projects the Town employee could work on to keep him employed.

Vicky shared a proposal from the Recreation District on what the partnership could look like. She stated that the District may need one summer to get bids together and finalize mowing, maintenance and contract expenses. The proposal includes the Recreation District taking over costs of utilities and secondary water. The Recreation District would also fund any maintenance and repairs. The Town would continue to mow and irrigate the park and take park reservations. The Town would keep ownership of the park and the Town Council would have final approval of any project at the park. The Town would continue to provide liability insurance and would provide labor for summer upkeep and repairs.

Ole stated that he would not be interested in the Town maintaining ownership of the park. He believes it was represented to the people that the Recreation District would take over the park and they should do that.

Vicky stated that her concern is keeping the park maintained because so much of the Recreation District budget is earmarked for the rodeo grounds. If a partnership isn't possible, we need a plan for how the Recreation District will take over. The land will need to be surveyed and there needs to be an agreement for the possibility of the Recreation District not working or not maintaining the park properly.

Mayor Watkins stated that if the Town is going to stay involved, the parameters need to be set now. This is not an issue that can be revisited each year.

Mayor Watkins stated that in order to protect the Town and the park, the Town can maintain ownership of the Park and we could do a long-term lease to the Recreation District. The lease would need to have very specific terms. He is leery to make an agreement because the Recreation District does not seem to know what their long-term plans are.

Sommer feels that the Recreation District should take over everything because that is how it was implied. However, if there are concerns about proper maintenance of the park she would not be opposed to a lease. Sommer feels that the Recreation District should re-work their budget to make sure parks can be cared for. The council feels that the parks should be the main priority for the Recreation District as they get utilized more often and by more people than the rodeo grounds.

Any deed must state that the park will revert back to the Town in the event that the Recreation District fails or the park is not properly maintained. Vicky added that the deed should also state that the property cannot be used as collateral for loans or grants. Mayor Watkins stated that one benefit of a lease is that the Recreation District would have to abide by all of the Town rules including curfew rules, camping rules, etc.

If the decision is made to lease the property, the Town can draw up the lease agreement.

Sommer asked if the Recreation District could pay the Town to do the maintenance, or can the lease include payment for the lease and maintenance. Mayor Watkins stated that there may be a way to do that. It is something that the Town could look into. All things would have to be taken into consideration including the cost of the lawnmower, labor, employee health insurance, supplies, etc.

Mayor Watkins further stated that the council needs to make sure that decisions are made in a way that future councils understand the importance of keeping the Town employees regardless of what happens with the park.

Glen asked if Vicky could take back to the Recreation District that the Town will help with maintenance as needed this year until final decisions are made.

Lot AL-56 (8:37 p.m.)

Mayor Watkins reported that people are looking at the home owned by Ashley Webb right now. They may want to do something with the planning and zoning.

Mandy informed Mr. Webb that he would need to contact the zoning board. Sommer stated that she was contacted and was informed that Tony Thacker was planning to purchase the land and would like to take everything west of the laundromat and zone it R7 which is single

family dwelling. She has not been able to speak with Tony about it yet. Mayor Watkins stated that he and Craig have both talked with Tony.

Mayor Watkins stated that any changes would have to follow the new setbacks and rules because they are no longer considered grandfathered. Ashley will have to appear before the planning and zoning board.

Sommer will wait until Ashley Webb contacts her to meet with the zoning board.

Utilities (9:11 p.m.)

Secondary Water: Mayor Watkins stated that there are concerns this year with secondary water. Bills will be coming shortly from the Tribe and water companies.

The Town has been contacted by one landowner who would like to make a deal with the Town. He asked if he could utilize wastewater if he helped pay a portion of the bills. Mandy informed the landowner that the Town no longer has BIA water at the cemetery so there will not be any wastewater there.

Mayor Watkins asked Craig if the Town was in need of more water shares at the cemetery. Craig stated that the cemetery could use more water shares, especially when the new portion is developed. The council showed their interest in leasing water from Upper Country Water when it becomes available.

Sewer Wastewater: This item was discussed at last month's meeting. Craig needs to obtain additional information and knowledge on the system and building that is being presented and encouraged.

Procurement Policy (9:21 p.m.)

The council could just adopt the State's procurement policy. This item will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Training (9:22 p.m.)

Due to the length of this meeting, this item will be held at next month's meeting.

The next council meeting will be held on March 10 at 7:00 p.m.

A Motion was made by Glen Jessen to end the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Motion seconded by Ole Olsen. Motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved this 10 day of March, 2022.

e-mailed to

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