

Joint Bluff Town Council and San Juan County Commission Work Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2019
Bluff Community Center at 9:00 a.m.
190 N 3rd East P.O. Box 324
Bluff UT 84512
435-672-9990

Regular meetings are held every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted 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

Minutes

The meeting started at 9:10 a.m.

Roll Call

SJC Commission Bruce Adams, Willie Grayeyes, Kenneth Maryboy

Bluff Town Council Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Brant Murray, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Luanne Hook excused absence

9:00 a.m. Joint Bluff Town Council-San Juan County Commission Work Meeting

Maryboy gave welcoming comments

Sayers gave welcoming comments and an invocation

Leppanen thanked the Commission for coming to Bluff

Adams added two agenda items

Sherriff Torgenson submitted a proposal for a salary plan for the Sherriff's department which the Commissioners received favorability.

Adams announced that the federal government was giving the County nine million dollars with a one million dollar match from the County for UEN broadband to the southern schools.

1. Discuss potential changes to interlocal agreement between Bluff & San Juan County -

David Everitt, SJC Interim Administrator

Leppanen will work with Everitt to clarify ownership of alleys, potential snow plowing of a few small stretches of road as needed, and an agreement with the County for building inspection and permitting. Leppanen also explained our project to acquire the "old" Bluff Elementary School and asked for support from the Commission for its use as Town

offices and services to our extended community, such as, DMV, social services, wood cutting permits, etc. The Commissioners had encouraging words for the project. Adams asked about how different zoning codes could impact inspections and Amanda Podmore explained that there are no new building codes, we are using the International Building Code.

2. Discussion about a future trash drop box site in Bluff - Randy Rarick, SJC Landfill Manager

Everitt reminded the Commission of the confusion about the Transfer Station closure. Rarick stated that if Bluff acquired land and built a transfer station his department would provide drop boxes and charge tipping fees, like it does for the rest of the County. Leppanen explained the information we got from the BLM was the only land they had available was a gravel pit inside the town proper. Rarick gave history that the transfer station went from 150 tons a year to 60 tons before it was closed. The hours and number of days open were also cut. Murray stated the need for a transfer station for the Town and our neighbors across the river. The Council would like to start a dialogue about projected costs and Rarick said he was happy to share the numbers with the Council..

3. Briefing on the countywide special election taking place this November - John David Nielson, SJC Clerk

A group in the County has delivered enough signatures to the Clerk's Office and enough have been verified to add their concern to the ballot. The voters in the County will vote for or against forming a study group to research changing our form of County government. Kendall Laws, County attorney explained there are many steps in this process including being on the ballot twice if it goes forward and including members countywide. Greyeyes stressed the importance of demographics and fairness.

4. Discussion of other issues in the Bluff area - David Everitt, SJC Interim Administrator

Murray thanked the Commissioners for coming to Bluff and talked about the diversity of our town. Adams outlined ways the County has been helpful to Bluff in the past:

- Helped get CIB funding for our arsenic plant,
- Helped get CIB funding for our Storm Water Study,

- Helped us get CIB funding for the Storm Water Project,
- Helped with funding for a sewer system, which the town voted down.

Leppanen expressed gratitude and appreciation for the help the County has given us, especially John David Nielson, Sam Cantrell, Kendall Laws, Kelly Pehrson, David Carpenter, David Everitt and others. Adams stated that the Commission wants to help Bluff.

5. Public lands updates - Nick Sandberg, SJC Planning

Sandberg gave updates about the Bears Ears management plan.

The joint meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The Bluff Town Council Meeting started at 10:40 a.m.

Approval of Work Session Minutes from August 6, 2019

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

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2019

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

Public Comment - none

Old Business

1. Approval of Resolution for Modified Asset Transfer Agreement with the Bluff Service Area, Update on Status of Deeds (All)

Sayers motioned to approve the resolution, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sayers, and Sosa voted in favor. Leppanen and Sosa signed it. Leppanen reported that the State has officially recognized our ownership of the water rights and infrastructure; the land deeds need one more signature and will be completed next week. In September we will work with the BSA on a transition plan.

2. Update on Fiber Optic Progress to Bluff (Leppanen)

Adams already covered part of this. There is still a problem getting across White Mesa. This topic will be covered at the September 23rd County Economic Summit.

3. Discussion of Planning and Zoning Public Hearing for Zoning and Ordinances held August 19, 2019, Set Work Session(s) (All)

The Council agreed that it was well attended. Murray left large maps up so the public could look at them. Leppanen said the audio and minutes would be posted on the website and Utah Public Notice Website. Sayers said it was civil, polite and people had good comments. He thanked the attendees.

New Business

4. Approval of Letter to Hole In the Rock Foundation re: Signs (Leppanen)

Murray motioned to approve the as presented, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sayers, and Sosa voted in favor. Leppanen will sign and send it.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

The San Juan County Commission reconvened at 11:03 with Citizen's Comments

- Steve Pearson reported the condition of Reservation roads was dangerous for school busses and asked the Commission to talk to the Navajo Nation. The roads had been maintained under San Juan County. Maryboy has been trying to meet with them and again and again they have refused. They will keep trying.
- Michael Haviken reported on the backlog of necessary maintenance that our roads need and asked for help from the County.
- Jim Sayers presented the Commissioners with a copy of the Council's resolution opposing oil and gas leasing near Hovenweep and the need for water source protection for the aquifer and river.
- Amanda Podmore added to Sayers' statements and asked the Commission to ask Governor Herbert to delay the decision of the leasing.
- Others included support for a drop box, thanks for the Summer Transportation Program taking southern county kids to Blanding for recreation, thanks for the southern meetings, concern about the Monticello Town Hall Meeting that wants to divide the County, and concern over the solar farm location.

The Commission resumed their business meeting and covered new hires, BLM oil and gas leasing, and the starting package for the new County Administrator

Adjourned at 12:20 p.m. when the Commissioners went into executive session.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer