

Bluff Town Council Meeting  
May 5, 2020  
Bluff Community Center at 6:00 p.m.  
190 N 3<sup>rd</sup> East P.O. Box 324  
Bluff UT 84512  
435-672-9990

Regular meetings are held the first three Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted in writing 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  
This meeting was held electronically on Google Hangouts.

**Draft Minutes**

The meeting started at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Jim Sayers, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray

A Moment of Silence with Appreciation to First Responders, Mask Sewers, Food and Supply Distributors and to all that are keeping us safe

Approval of Bluff Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2020

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

Approval of Public Hearing on Community Impact Board Application Held April 30, 2020

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

**Unfinished Business**

**1. Status of USU Community Garden Project with Reagan Wyatsalucy (Leppanen)**

Wyatsalucy will meet online May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. for those interested in next steps and the status of grants she is working on for the project. Leppanen and Hook will participate.

**2. Update on 2020 Census and Bluff's Participation (Leppanen)**

San Juan County has a 18% response rate to the Census. Leppanen urged all to get the word out, it is very important for funding for our town and County. The Post Office and K&C both have tear-off sheets explaining how to register. Murray recently registered online and said it was quick and easy. A door to door campaign starts in August. We can get posters and flyers out ahead of that.

**3. Update and Report on Community Impact Board Application and Public Hearing Held on April 30, 2020 (Sayers)**

Sayers felt the hearing was effective and had good comments and questions. Moving forward, he has contacted Tri-Hurst and Jones and DeMille engineers for roof estimates. He noted we may have opposition from the CIB because we opposed drilling through our aquifer. Because gas prices are very low the CIB may be granting a larger proportion of loan vs grant. Leppanen stated when we get the options from the CIB we can make projections. The Council members were grateful for the work Sayers has done.

**4. Review, Discussion and Vote on Town of Bluff Emergency Ordinance (All)**

This was discussed at the earlier work session, Hook noted that the audio of meetings can be found on the Utah Public Notice Website. Sayers motioned to have a special meeting Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to give time to study the Governor's guidelines and our options, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sayers, and Sosa voted in favor. Leppanen said be prepared to give your position and vote. The Business Owners of Bluff are seriously looking at ways to open safely and how

to coordinate lodging and food services. Restaurant focus is on take-out, social distancing, limited outdoor seating, and wearing masks.

**5. Review, Discussion and Vote on Status of Opening the Bluff Community Center and Mesa Fire Kitchen for Use and Rental, Use of Community Center for San Juan County Early Voting (All)**

At the earlier work session, it was decided to keep them closed in May. Sayers motioned to revisit the status for June at our May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers and Sosa voted in favor.

**6. Report on Status of Meetings: COVID-19 Task Force; Business Owners of Bluff; Monday COVID-19 Meetings with BAMA, BVFD and EMS, BSA, BOB, Citizens Response Team (Leppanen)**

Leppanen reported the County Task Force is now only meeting on Wednesdays. The local Task Force met Monday and compared notes on the number of cases, EMT calls, and masks available. Amanda Podmore of the Bluff Area Mutual Aid group reported they had stopped deliveries and were paying Twin Rocks to box supplies. BAMA is facilitating. Jackie Warren reported the Food Pantry is getting several calls a day for food boxes and is using safe practices. There will be a delivery this week which will be similar to last month. Leppanen stated we are not comfortable with cars lining up to receive food but that could change for June.

**7. Report on Status of Bike Utah and Meeting with UDOT on May 14, 2020 (Murray/Haviken)**

Murray and Michael Haviken reported they are working on safety issues for this upcoming meeting that include bike paths, crosswalks, speed limits at the school and in town. Hook suggested a concrete barrier to protect walkers and bikers going to school, as there have recent semi crashes on both sides of the bridge. Murray is in conversation with Bike Utah, an organization working to create 1,000 miles of bike trails.

**8. Update on Sunrise Engineering Water Study and 90% Meeting to be Held on May 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (Leppanen)**

In the work session, the need to proof a single water right by June 30<sup>th</sup> or apply for an extension was discussed. We can pay \$150 for the extension or let it expire. Leppanen asked for the Council to pay the \$150 fee and asked for the authority to contact Sunrise for a quote to do the work. Murray so motioned, Hook seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Hook, Sayers, and Sosa voted in favor.

**New Business**

**9. Financial Report (Sosa)**

Sosa explained that our 50-year water study is winding down. We have paid \$55,525 to Sunrise Engineering and owe about \$35,975. She asked to be authorized to pay the remainder as the checks and invoices come in so there is no delay. Sayers motioned to authorize Sosa, Murray seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Murray, Sayers, and Sosa voted in favor.

**10. Discussion and Vote on Resolution to Return Funds to the Bluff Service Area (Leppanen)**

Leppanen explained that \$60,000 had been transferred from the BSA to the Town because of a possible breach at Wells Fargo. At that time, the BSA's expectation was their dissolution would be on the June ballot and this was done to protect that asset. Because the County did not move forward with their responsibilities, the dissolution will be on the November ballot and it is prudent for bookkeeping to transfer it back to the BSA. They could need to use part of it. Murray motioned to approve a resolution to transfer it back, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook, Sayers, Murray and Sosa voted in favor. Leppanen and Sosa will sign it.

**11. Introduction of Proposed Budget for the July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 Fiscal Year (Leppanen/Sosa/Richmond)**

Leppanen presented our proposed 2020-2021 fiscal budget, as specified in our financial ordinance. The steps to its adoption in August are laid out in the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Work Session minutes. Bonneville Research is helping review it. It sets aside funds for a clerk and accountant. Leppanen praised Sosa and Richmond for their hard work, Murray praised all three.

## **12. Discussion of Proposed Capital Projects (Murray)**

Murray explained Planning and Zoning, Listening to Bluff, and the USU Regional Planning Study all have an open spaces component. He sees the importance of long term planning through a Capitol Projects Plan and would like the focus to be:

1. Town Hall Complex
2. Open Space Acquisition Fund
3. Community Center Complex,

and add it to the budget. Richmond said it couldn't be added to the budget because there must be a plan, a resolution and it must be adopted. Leppanen pointed out because of our austere budget it will not be feasible to put it in the budget this year with current unknowns. She thanked Murray for spearheading the plan and moving forward.

## **13. Discussion and Vote on Emery Telecommunications Franchise Agreement (All)**

Leppanen remarked that Jared Anderson was easy to work and converse with. A local citizen asked if the areas they are trenching had been checked for archeology and when Leppanen brought it up, he put the project manager right on it. The project manager continues to update Leppanen. She presented the Franchise Agreement. Murray motioned to accept it, Sayers seconded and Leppanen, Hook Sosa, Murray and Sayers voted in favor.

## **14. Updates on Roads, Water, Planning and Zoning (All)**

Bill Crowder checked the two cattle guards on the Bluff Bench Road and dug the sand out of one of them. One may need maintenance. Hook suggested checking the Butler Wash and airport cattle guards. Murray and Haviken will check them and work on a road maintenance program for this year. P&Z will meet tomorrow at 6:30.

## **15. Other**

Sosa thanked Linda Richmond for her help working on employee quarterlies last week.

Adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

This meeting took place electronically via Google Hangouts in order to follow the social distancing guidelines given by state and local authorities. The public was able to connect and participate by call in or joining the video.