

**WORK SESSION—MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

Minutes of the Huntsville Town Council Work Session, held at the Huntsville Town Hall at 12:00 p.m. May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

| Name              | Title          | Status  |
|-------------------|----------------|---------|
| James A. Truett   | Mayor          | Present |
| Doug Allen        | Council Member | Present |
| Mike Engstrom     | Council Member | Excused |
| Bill Wangsgard    | Council Member | Present |
| Bill White        | Council Member | Present |
| Ramona Clapperton | Recording      | Present |
| William Morris    | Legal Counsel  | Excused |

**Citizens:** Linda Laws (Town Treasurer)  
 Stephanie Ebert (W.C. Sheriff Dept.)  
 W.C. Commissioner James Ebert  
 Chief Deputy Klint Anderson

Mayor Truett opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He thanked Commissioner Ebert and Chief Deputy Anderson for being willing to attend this meeting regarding the increased Sheriff Contract fees. Mayor Truett said the Town has its perspective on what’s going on and the Council understands that Huntsville pays the lowest fees of all the contracted municipalities. Mayor Truett mentioned that he is a member of a committee to negotiate and figure out how the fees were implemented, whether by population or property taxes, or calls for service. The decision was made to have the fee based on 50% population and 50% calls for service.

The following municipalities all share in the fees; Farr West, Hooper, Marriot/Slaterville, Plain City, Uintah, Washington Terrace, West Haven, Huntsville, and the un-incorporated Ogden Valley. Huntsville Town had the greatest increase of all the municipalities at 30.34%; the next closest increase was Uintah @ 21%. Mayor Truett reported that our Town’s population is shrinking; there are more and more second homes, but the calls for service are increasing. Linda said there are 67 second homes in Town now, that’s 1/3 of the 209 homes. (See Attachment)

Mayor Truett expressed his opinion that most of the calls for service are based on Pineview, and who is coming up here. The majority of the people using Pineview are from SLC and Davis Counties. Mayor Truett doesn’t feel that this is fair; the Town doesn’t get anything from Pineview except for trash, parking problems, and an increase in calls for service, which the Town now has to pay for.

The Mayor stated that when a resident calls dispatch about a parking complaint it could take up to 30 minutes to 2 hours for a deputy to show up. We understand that, parking issues are not a critical response. The Town hired an Enforcement Officer to start writing parking tickets because of this. The Town actually lost \$800 last year because the Town had to split the parking fees with Uintah City plus pay wages.

Mayor Truett also brought up the matter of their being two Huntsville's, the Town of Huntsville and the un-incorporated Huntsville, do the new deputies understand this when they report a call for service. The Council believes a lot of the calls for service are related to Pineview and the people who go through Huntsville to access or leave the dam. CM Allen said he has gathered tax notices from Huntsville Town, Eden, and the Uintah Highlands. He was expecting to see a separate line item for the Sheriff's fees on everyone's taxes but he was surprised that they were all the same. Stephanie replied that the Sheriff's fees fall under the General Fund. The General Fund pays for all Weber Counties general government expenses. The Sheriff's Department is not a separate taxing entity. CM Allen said as a tax payer and a home owner he is already paying for the Sheriff's services. Comm. Ebert agreed.

Comm. Ebert explained that right now the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Divisions budget is around \$10M. A portion of this is to provide contractual law enforcement for entities. The Sheriff has the responsibility under the Constitution to provide general public order. The County worked with the Sheriff and Mr. Anderson to establish what level of service that would be if there were no contract cities at all. They came up with a level of service that was around \$3.8M. Suppose the entire county was municipalities, the Sheriff would still have the responsibility to provide those services. The remaining 4.9M was assigned to be paid for by the municipalities.

CM Allen argued the case that Huntsville Town is different from other municipalities, no one goes on picnics or boating in Washington Terrace. CM Allen said he made a lot of phone calls this past week relative to this matter. CM Allen said he and the Mayor were involved in the meeting when the idea of creating a parking lot by Quist Beach was brought up. There are fishing accesses around the lake. The Fish and Game Representative told CM Allen that State Statute prohibits angler accesses from being shut down. The Forest Service used RAMP funds to create the parking lot. CM Allen brought up the Recreation Enhancement Act that was established in 2005 by the Forest Service as a State Park User Fee. This Act allows you to set up a District and the funds collected go towards paying for law enforcement.

CM Allen commented that he spoke with a Forest Ranger at Flaming Gorge. There are 10 different agencies that own Flaming Gorge Dam. CM Allen asked who is responsible for the law enforcement on Pineview, who owns the dam, and who owns the water. CM Allen said the Town is getting hammered by all the recreation that surrounds us. After making multiple phone calls the answers he got was that State Parks and Rec owns the water, this is dictated by State Statute. However, this doesn't appear to be how it's working up here. At one point W.C. Sheriff's started patrolling the dam. The Forest Service pays the Sheriff's office \$48,000 a year to patrol the campgrounds in the Ogden Valley, but not the dam.

Linda Laws stated that last year the Town paid the Sheriff's Department \$52,000, this year the fee has gone up to \$67,000, on top of our property taxes. CM White asked how the Town's call volume compares to the dam. The Forest Service should be paying way more than the Town. Comm. Ebert said the State Parks provide assistance by providing the boats and maintenance for the boats. They do not provide any compensation for the man power on the dam. The Forest Service provides one law enforcement ranger, and they pay the Sheriff's Dept. to patrol the campgrounds, which pays for holiday's and weekends, but no week day

patrols. The W.C. General Fund covers the rest of the activities that are considered general to all residents of W.C. CM Allen said AL&L steps in for the Forest Service.

AL&L has also agreed to collect a toll of \$3 per car for the Town, this money helps the Town maintain the roads. It's obvious that \$48,000 a year is not sufficient. Comm. Ebert said the County has tried to renegotiate a higher amount for patrolling the campgrounds with the Forest Service, but so far they have gotten nowhere. The contract with AL&L comes up in another two year; the Pineview Sub-Committee will be addressing this. They want to establish a level of service the Sheriff's Office feels is appropriate. Comm. Ebert said we as citizens will eventually need to decide if we will settle with having 30% of the services deemed as necessary. Currently, W.C. has been covering the difference because they believe by Statutory Constitution this this is their responsibility.

CM White explained that the Forest Service's policy is that they use Pineview as a profit center for the permittee to provide funds for them to help manage the campgrounds. Basically they are taking the funds that we need here to manage a huge problem and they are shifting it off to other entities. Comm. Ebert expressed his opinion that the very best way to create revenues for expenditure is through a user fee. To provide the appropriate service would cost \$158,000 not \$48,000. When the new contract for the Forest Service is negotiated the launch fee will need to increase substantially. The user fee will reflect who is on the lake and using the campgrounds. This won't happen until 2018.

Comm. Ebert said the Forest Service has allowed the Sheriff's Dept. to turn the parking areas around Pineview into paid parking. Those funds can be used to offset some initial law enforcement costs and create a fund that will help do improvements around Pineview. CM Allen said the Town of Manilla is similar to Huntsville; both Towns are surrounded by recreation and a dam. CM Allen said he called the Mayor of Daggett County today. Huntsville has the only Town owned road that services a Forest Service facility. That is why the Town was able to negotiate the toll fee with AL&L. The State maintains and plows all other roads. CM Allen said the Town could deed 100 S. over to the County so they could maintain it, which could save the Town some money. Comm. Ebert said this is a possibility. CM Allen said all Law Enforcement at Flaming Gorge is handled by Wyoming Fish & Game; they patrol the lake, campgrounds, and shoreline.

Stephanie covered what is being reported in Huntsville Town's call load vs Pineview's. CM Allen commented that this is part of the problem, the boaters are drinking on the water, when they get to the shoreline it's someone else's responsibility, and then when they get to the roads they become the Town's responsibility. The problem started out on the dam but the tickets are written on 100 S. Where was the alcohol consumed? CM Allen agreed that there are user fees that could be looked into plus the idea of taxing the entities that are using the dam to generate electricity for them.

Comm. Ebert shared the Town's call for service reported for the past year, there were 464 calls. Mayor Truett brought up the issue of having paid parking all around Pineview; this will create more parking problems for the Town. Comm. Ebert recommended adopting an ordinance that doesn't allow parking on Town roads at any time and the citizens would have parking passes. If people park without a parking pass they get a ticket. Parking can be a huge revenue stream for a municipality. Mayor Truett replied that the Town is already doing this

and we lost \$800 last year. Part of the problem is that the Town is splitting the fines with Uintah.

If a deputy writes a parking ticket he has the ability to run the license plate and attach the fee to the cars' owner. The Town's Enforcement Officer can only write down the license plate number and leave the ticket and hope they pay it. Comm. Ebert suggested investing in parking boots and boot every car that is ticketed, that way the Town is sure to collect the fines. Mayor Truett is concerned that the new parking policy around Pineview will create more problems for the Town. More people will come into Town to access the lake instead of paying a parking fee. This will create even more trash, noise, and sanitary problems that the Town to deal with.

Stephanie reported that the County Commissioners just adopted a new ordinance on parking in the un-incorporated areas. Parking tickets are basically a civil matter and the courts can't enforce it, however, the way their ordinance was written is that the fines are the obligation to of the owner of the vehicle. None of their parking tickets will be sent through the courts. That way the county keeps the full amount of the fine. The parking citation is \$50 if paid in two weeks, after that the fine goes to \$100 and if not paid after one month the citation is sent to a collection agency. Stephanie recommended not running the fines through the Uintah Court. The Mayor asked how the Town could get the owner of the vehicles addresses. Stephanie thought the county could offer their services to the Town to help on this matter. This would help the Town a lot. Comm. Ebert thought this could be handled with an Inter-Local Agreement and the Town and the County could work together. The Town could just adopt the counties parking ordinance. It might work to extend the responsibility of writing parking tickets for all of the parking areas around Pineview including in Town, and then share in the cost. The deputies should be handling criminal actions not civil. Partnering to address this issue would be a great idea. Stephanie stated that the county is setting up a way to pay parking tickets on their website; this will make it so much quicker and easier to collect fines.

Stephanie wanted to address the calls for service. She said each call for service is coded by zones or area. She pulled all the different zones related to recreation areas, they are coded differently. None of those recreational areas should have been assessed as Huntsville's calls; they were pulled out of the report. She understands the argument that its people traveling through Huntsville. Stephanie wanted to assure the Council that she did go through the calls of service to make sure they came from the Town. Mayor Truett asked Stephanie if she could provide the Council with a monthly report of the calls for service.

Comm. Ebert summarized that Stephanie will take a look at what it would take for the County to partner with the Town on the parking issues. He stated that he would like to help the Town look for funding sources that could help offset the increased Sheriff Dept. fees. Comm. Ebert feels that no alcohol on the beaches, having more control over the parking areas, increased launch fees, and monthly reports will all help the Town. The County is trying to create better beaches, non-motorized areas on the lake, more control at night, and nicer accesses. Hopefully this will create a nicer atmosphere for families to enjoy the dam.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.**

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Gail Ahlstrom, Clerk/Recorder