

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
November 12, 2014
BOARD ROOM
6:30 P.M.**

Board Members Present:

Mayor David Gregg
Mayor Pro Tem Jan Dowker
Trustee Chris Buckridge
Trustee Jennifer Baker
Trustee Suzie White
Trustee Paul Alaback
Trustee Mike Henning

Staff Members Present:

Town Administrator Mike Hart
Town Engineer Stephanie Brothers
Town Planner Sherry Albertson Clark
Town Developer Walt Clark
Chief Jim Anderson
Town Water Jim Taylor
Town Clerk Mary Cowdin
Town Road/Cemetery Superintendant Jerry Wilson
Administrative/Court Clerk Melissa Colucco

Mayor Gregg Led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Participation

Kris Cain accompanied by Reign Mathis (5 years old) 303 E Iowa. Berthoud CO.

Kris Cain wanted to mention to the board the importance of the Community Garden and the positive impact the Community Garden had to five year old Reign Mathis.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of October 28, 2014

Trustee Henning moved to approve the October 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Dowker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee Buckridge motioned to adjourn the meeting for an executive session to discuss personal matters and negotiations. Trustee Henning seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.

Mayor Gregg calls the November 12, 2014 Board Meeting back in session at 6:55pm.

Riverglen Lift Station Fee

Town Clerk Cowdin presents the board with a house keeping item for Riverglen to tap into Berthoud water.

Mayor Pro Tem Dowker motioned to approve Resolution #15-14 authorizing and establishing the implementation of a lift station fee for Riverglen customers. Trustee Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2015 Draft Budget

Town Administrator Hart opens the discussion explaining that there are four main discussions to the budget review. They include Pioneer Park and the Community Garden, BATS, Economic Development and Administration. Hart suggests starting with Pioneer Park and BATS since there are people attending the meeting tonight who would like to talk about those subjects.

Pioneer Park/Community Garden

Town Administrator Hart begins with a brief update on Pioneer Park. There was a previous request for improvements brought to the board. At that time it was decided to bring the subject back when the town met for budget review. Community Park has requested the following improvements: \$4500.00 for a building, \$1000.00 for irrigation, \$1000.00 for a fence and \$500 for a trellis which is a total of \$7000.00.

Trustee Henning asked if this \$7000.00 is included in the draft budget of \$12000.00 or if this is an additional amount.

Town Administrator Hart explained this is an additional amount and would raise the total for 2015 budget to \$19,000.

Mayor Gregg opened the discussion to the public.

John Bauer of 1065 6th St Berthoud starts by making a recommendation that Trustee Henning and Trustee Alaback remove themselves from this topic due to a possible conflict of interest. Mr. Bauer mentioned that Trustee Henning's wife works for a member of the Community Garden and Trustee Alaback was a member of Berthoud Local.

Mr. Bauer agrees that a community garden is good for the community however it needs to be monitored and maintained correctly. There have been times where no one was monitoring water usage or cleaning up trash. There needs to be a written agreement with the expectations of the garden. Mr. Bauer also added that when using tax payer dollars the funds should benefit the entire community not just one group. The funds could be used in other areas such as maintenance or updating family restrooms in more utilized town parks.

Tony Tucker who volunteers his time caring for the park explains some issues with the soil given for the garden and is asking the town to remove the bentonite and replace it with organic top soil. Mr. Tucker adds that the Community Garden represents the town's motto *"Colorado's garden spot where good things grow."*

Monica Ziggler of 1849 County Road 1 expressed to the board the benefit of the Community Gardens harvesting during the summer and donating to the local food bank. Monica Ziggler also added that the garden can be better maintained if they had the upgrades they needed. There is a need for a tool shed to keep equipment and use for a meeting point.

Caleb Jorden of 1404 Maple Dr. Berthoud is a sophomore at Berthoud High School. Caleb explains how Pioneer Park has taught him agriculture, being involved with the community and meeting new people. The garden brings a sense of togetherness for the community. Caleb wanted to remind the board that the Community Garden has harvested 730lbs of produce that was donated to the House of Neighborly Service.

Wynne Maggi of 201 E Michigan Ave. Berthoud expressed how grateful she is for the success of the garden and what the garden has been to the community. Maggie also advises the Board of the upcoming plans the Community Garden has with the community. Mary's Farm is volunteering during the summer to help manage the garden. There are also a total of seventeen volunteers to assist with garden as well as two Girl Scout groups. There is a Scout who is willing to earn his badge by donating time building a compost bin and there are six high school classes that will use the garden for school projects. More than 100 people have already volunteered to help with the garden. Maggi agreed with Mr. Bauer's comment on having a written agreement with the town and there does need to be set expectations.

Ron Graham of 101 SE 2nd St. Berthoud feels park has gone downhill and is an eyesore. In addition to an accumulation of trash there is damage to the sidewalk possibly do to neglecting running water. Mr. Graham feels the costs are falling on tax payers. A possible recommendation for the garden to be used for kids is maybe looking at a partnership with the schools.

With no other public participation Mayor Gregg wanted to bring back to the board the subject raised by John Bauer of removing Trustee Henning and Trustee Alaback from the discussion of Pioneer Park and the Community Garden.

Trustee Henning explains that his wife works for one person who is involved with the Community Garden and it is irrelevant to his decision making on the subject.

Trustee Alaback informed that he is no longer on the board for Berthoud Local.

Mayor Gregg accepts both parties have no gain in this discussion.

Trustee White wanted it noted that as a town we need to be careful of any impropriety and feels Trustee Henning should reconsider.

Each board member expressed their assessment on adding improvement funds for Community Garden.

Trustee Henning is in favor of the improvements and feels we should not be having such a heated argument over something that represents our town. Henning adds there is trash in all of our parks not just Pioneer Park and none of our parks gain revenue without tax payer money.

Trustee White stated that having a community garden is good for the town however if we are going to utilize support with tax payer money it needs to be a true community garden not just designed for a small group.

Mayor Gregg stated that he is not in favor to adding capital improvements until the ones previously discussed are completed and having an agreement in place is a good idea.

Mayor Pro Tem Dowker expresses that no one on the board is saying we do not want a community garden. Berthoud is a town of limited resources and we have to prioritize where the need is more critical. Dowker suggests we hold off on allocating more funds until we finish the improvements that have not been met.

Trustee Baker thanked everyone who has volunteered. Baker also agrees that it is important to complete the existing allocations before adding more.

Trustee Buckridge also expressed that no one has said Berthoud shouldn't have a community garden and feels that communication and a partnership with the town should be mandatory.

Trustee Alaback mentioned how impressed he is with how the park has been managed. Alaback also adds that we do need to work out a contract and expectations. Some of the investments like adding a shed and irrigation would actually lower cost and assist in some of the complaints of maintenance.

Administrator Hart gives a staff recommendation that at minimum we should look at an irrigation system to change to potable water for the garden. There are kids working and eating vegetables from the garden and it is not recommended that we use non potable water.

BATS/RAFT

Town Administrator Hart explains some difficulties the BATS program was facing in regard to needing a new bus as well as needing afternoon and rural service. Hart introduces a representative from the RAFT program with a proposal to assist BATS.

RAFT Director Ruth Fletcher Carter gives a brief history of the RAFT program and how it was founded. In recent Census findings the senior population is rapidly growing on the Front Range and is estimated to increase 123%. There is a need for the services that BATS and RAFT provide. Since Berthoud is no longer able to accommodate afternoon or rural service RAFT can assist with servicing those needs through a possible voucher system. The services will get elderly or disabled adults to and from doctor appointments and/or work where BATS cannot accommodate.

Scott Banzhaf explains that he is working on a formal agreement with both agencies to backfill when BATS is not running. The suggestion is to use a voucher system for fares.

Administrator Hart asked that we add \$4000.00 to the budget so we can continue and enhance this needed service. The \$4000.00 is what is needed to maintain the service agreement with RAFT for a year.

Trustee Alaback states that the \$4000.00 is a good investment.

Trustee Buckridge adds that the amount of money needed for this service is well worth it

Mayor Gregg calls a recess at 8:31 pm

Mayor Greg calls the meeting back in session at 8:41pm

Town Clerk Cowdin presents a slideshow presentation and packet in regard to the 2015 Budget Review. Items discussed were revenue, expenditures and capital. Cowdin presented detailed numbers for general fund, administration, public safety, street department, parks and recreation, planning and development, transportation and water.

Town Clerk Cowdin asked the board if there was a recommendation to add funds to the budget for Pioneer Park.

Town Administrator Hard asks the board for direction on adding \$1000.00 for potable irrigation and \$500.00 for a bulletin board and if the board will allow the compost to be built by the Scout. This would add a total of \$1500.00 to the budget for Pioneer Park.

The board had no objections on adding \$1500.00 to the budget.

Trustee Henning recommended that Administrator Hart obtain the specifics on the compost for later discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Dowker recommended that the town contact or inform the residents that had concern about the compost.

Administrator Hart asked to work with Trustee Alaback on the requests.

Reports

Administrator Hart presented the board with a service agreement from The Chamber of Commerce that was requested in the previous Board Meeting. The agreement explains services provided to The Town for exchange of a \$5000.00 yearly donation. The agreement includes a \$5000.00 donation for the remainder of 2014 and a \$5000.00 donation for 2015.

The Board had no objections to the service agreement presented.

Administrator Hart also reminded the board of the upcoming Community Chat.

Trustee Henning wanted to thank the town for the road work that was done on Welch. Henning also mentioned that there have been a large amount of vehicles driving through the new four way stop signs that were put up in that same area. Henning recommended we put up a sign advising of the four way stop sign ahead to better prepare a driver or to add notification in the town newsletter. Henning also wanted to bring attention to the crosswalk at Mountain and 3rd Street. The traffic is not stopping for the pedestrians and it seems to be hazardous. A possible resolution might be to add flashing crossing lights may help.

Trustee Henning also reported that he attended the I25 Corridor Coalition meeting and there was a lot of representation. The highlight was the State Patrol Officer who attended that meeting and was very involved and informative.


Mayor Pro Tem Dowker reported that the I25 Corridor Coalition meetings are going well and they have been discussing transportation funding staying in transportation pots. There will be a summit at the Westin called Transportation Matters. I will be speaking and presenting an resolution at the upcoming HPTE meeting in regard to RAMP funding for crossroads. There will be a statewide transportation advisory committee meeting Friday 9:30am to 12:00pm at CDOT in Denver.

Trustee Buckridge reports that the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee will be presenting a house for historic landmark approval to the board on December 9th. There is also another house submitting an application.

Trustee Alaback reported that the Thompson School District has a new agriculture teacher Savannah Martinez . She will be heading the Agriculture Education Program and November 21st will be a meet and greet. Alaback also added that Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has trails to parks grant program. There is a January deadline for proposals.

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Mayor Gregg Adjourned the meeting at 11:00pm.



Melissa Colucco
Administrative Court Clerk



Mayor David Gregg