

Minutes of the Dutch John Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

At the Dutch John Fire Hall

Members attending: Chairman Jack Lytle, Julie Rogers, Sandy Kunkel, Harriet Dickerson, Craig Collett, John Morton and Dave Jones.

Guests attending: Commissioner Gutz

1. **Welcome:** Jack Lytle
2. **Approve Minutes of September 4, 2008 meeting:** After corrections, motion to approve by Harriet Dickerson, seconded by Sandy Kunkel. (Under No. 8 strike last two sentences.) All were in favor - motion carried.

Jack asked committee to be flexible with agenda items and discuss in different order than listed on schedule.

3. Commissioner Gutz informed the committee that there would be an **economic development funding presentation** by Smith Hartvigsen at the Courthouse in Manila on October 7th at 1:00 p.m. There should be some good information if anyone is able to attend.

4. **The Freedom Festival** was discussed when Dave Jones arrived. He provided members with an income/expense itemization which shows a balance in the account of \$567.13. It was discussed that the event liability insurance which had to be purchased for \$383.71 should be co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. This would have to be discussed with Kerry Pallesen. It might be necessary/possible for our committee to meet with the Chamber.

5. **Commissioner Gutz reported on the new ATV law.** County roads will remain open until problems occur. There was discussion that information signing could be very helpful in this area so people would know what they could do and where they could do it. People need signs to know boundaries. We could also put some kind of information sheet in the post office and the county newsletter. It was also discussed that the State Parks can put on information/safety classes for the public.

6. Commissioner Gutz reported that there is a **need for people to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board** as several people have left. Additionally, the county employed Commercial Building Inspector from Vernal, whose name is Dan Nance, has retired or is retiring and will need to be replaced.

With regard to the airport the project has been suspended until approximately April 15th of next year. This was effectuated by the State engineers who felt there wouldn't be

enough days in succession with the right temperature needed to proceed at this time. There were several questions regarding additional monies required because of the delay of this project – one had to do with changes in the price of oil and one had to do with costs of reworking the sub-grade again in the spring. Although this is a State project, some county money is involved. The Committee felt if the responsibility for the project not being completed as originally planned is the State's then no additional monies should be required of the county. It was agreed that this needs follow up and documentation.

The Browns Park road project will continue on until weather shuts it down.

Commissioner Gutz passed out copies of the new General Plan to the committee.

A question was asked regarding the status of the Dave McDonald proposal to remove the old hospital building in trade for lands on the airport. Commissioner Gutz reported that the time frames set out in the proposal could not be met by the county and the legal question of transferring the property had not been resolved. There was discussion that the government should not be able to relinquish liability for the old hospital building and perhaps the county should request additional funds to complete this project. It was also mentioned that there are two buildings in this situation – the old hospital and the wash house. We should also look into the possibility of obtaining grants from UBAG for this project and see if it is possible to use the prison crew to perform some of the labor.

7. Harriet reported she has discussed **water/sewer project** with Chris Clark who was in Dutch John today because of the airport project. He indicated that he had almost completed the new design report and it would be submitted to the State for approval the next Monday or Tuesday. He said traditionally the State would take another three to four weeks to process this paperwork and there probably wasn't anything that could be done to make this happen any faster.

8. Last, we **reviewed the public meeting** and what results can/should come from it. There was some confusion as to conclusions reached. Discussion of items to be added to the county budget for next year so that Dutch John may move forward dominated. Craig did some quick numbers and determined that there is approximately \$900,000 left in the various Dutch John fund accounts. Asking for a line item of \$80,000 to hire a town/project manager with a one year contract was proposed. Jack pointed out that this person's main duties would be to market Dutch John by talking to developers and other business interests, manage the fiscal budget for Dutch John with all the improvement projects necessary and desirable and micromanage the daily activities in Dutch John so that everything and everyone is as productive and focused as possible and necessary. This person would report to the commissioners but would relieve them of all of the day-to-day effort that needs to happen in order for Dutch John to move forward, a component that has reached "critical" status. We also decided to ask for two other line items in the budget – one for park development for \$15,000 and another for trails for either \$5,000 or \$10,000.

9. Items for the next meeting: Report on line items in the budget, snow removal, ways to possibly save money, water/sewer update, and elections of officers.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Minutes Approved: December 8, 2008