

**MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017
10:00 AM
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER
ALTA, UTAH**

1. Call the meeting to order

Mayor Tom Pollard called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. All members of the Town Council were present.

2. Update on operation of antimony treatment plant and the sewer and water systems – Keith Hanson – 00:01:05

Keith Hanson updated the Town Council on the following matters related to the operation of the sewer and water systems:

- The antimony treatment plant has exceeded its expectations. The media in filter A has been replaced. Accordingly vessel/filter A became the lag filter and vessel/filter B became the lead filter.
- Keith recommended that the Town purchase new media and budget for it in 18/19 fiscal year. The price would be between \$25,000 and \$30,000.
- There is a new pump skid in the Grizzly pump station. Installed were two 1.5 horse power pumps which reduce the power bills considerably. Also installed was a Generac 16 kW auxiliary propane generator to provide water to the upper Grizzly homes during a power outage. One propane tank has the ability to run for approximately 50 hours.
- The propane powered generators will be replaced next summer by tying into the natural gas line near the tanks; time did not allow that tie-in before winter this year.
- The Town of Alta's Drinking Water Source Protection Plan has been updated and approved by the state.
- The updated Sampling Plan has also been approved by the state.
- Keith recommended that the Town revisit its capital improvement plan for the water system in 2018.
- In the summer of 2017 the entire sewer system in the canyon was TV'd and flushed.
- Two new sewer vents were installed near the Hellgate area.
- The Town continues to address and conduct maintenance on a sag in the sewer line in the GMD parking lot area of the town.
- In the summer of 2018 a section of the sewer line lower in the canyon will be replace. The Town will be obligated to pay 25% of that cost. The estimated cost of the project is \$30,000.

John spoke to the Grizzly water pump project and the reasons for the increase in actual size of the housing unit for that pump station.

3. Presentation, discussion and action on the 2016-2017 Financial Statements and Audit of the Town of Alta – Paul Skeen and Alawna Echols – Eide Bailly – 00:09:37

Paul Skeen addressed the audit process – the auditor’s responsibility and the Town of Alta’s responsibility. Eide Bailly gave a “clean” opinion as it relates to government auditing standards. Paul touched on the following matters related to the financial statements:

- The management discussion and analysis letter.
- The statement of net position found on page 16 of the financial statements.
- The balance sheet for governmental funds outlined on page 19. This report reviewed the General Fund and the newly created Capital Projects fund. The Capitals Project fund was created by a transfer from the General Fund.

Alawna Echols reported on compliance reporting by highlighting the follows matters:

- The report on state compliance was found on page 57. This report is required by the state auditor. There were seven requirements to test and the auditors opined that the Town of Alta complied with those requirements.
- The other auditor’s report was found on page 59. This report is issued using government auditing standards on internal controls and compliance. The auditors are required to report material weaknesses; two are reported on page 61– the same two weaknesses as in years past.
 1. The first is that the auditors are from the same firm who assisted the Town of Alta in preparing the financial statements. There was discussion on this matter and Paul Skeen commented that his firm has spent many hours with the State Auditor on how to address this issue because it is common with many small entities in the State of Utah.
 2. The second finding relates to the segregation of duties. The Town of Alta set up a procedure in March of 2017 and is now segregating duties that address this weakness finding.

Harris asked where the real estate asset is listed in the financial statement. That is noted on page 36 – the land is valued at \$899,000 which does not represent fair value as it changes over time.

Hearing no further questions on the matter of the financial statement/audit, there was a motion by Harris Sondak to approve the 2016/2017 financial statement and audit for the Town of Alta. There was a second by Elise Morgan and the motion was carried.

4. Mayors Report – 00:24:54

The Mayor offered the Town’s condolences to Richard and Susan Thomas on the loss of their daughter Joslyn. The Thomas family was a longtime resident of the Town of Alta.

Tom Pollard updated the Council and the public on the following matters:

- The Central Wasatch Commission (CWC).
- A meeting with Congressman Curtis – updating the Congressman on CWC and the status of the Land Preservation Bill that was introduced in Congress in late 2016. This bill could be reintroduced in Congress in February of 2018 by either Congresswomen Mia Love or Congressman Curtis.
- The next CWC meeting will be held on the 18th of December. The Mayor is working hard to get the CWC to approve the appointment of a representative from the Town of Alta to the board of the commission.
- The lawsuit against Mountain Accord and the town’s status in this matter.
- The Alta Ski Lifts opened.
- The next road meeting will be in early January.

- The Snowpine project.
- The meeting to recap the 2017 summer program.
- The 2020 Census and the town's involvement in the process.
- The next meeting of UFA will be Tuesday, December 19th. The town should anticipate an increase in our annual fee, as the fee structure has been revamped.
- The swearing in of the Mayor and Council members will be held at the Alta Lodge on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 11:30 am.
- ULGT will be refunding to its members a portion of their premiums – the Town will receive a credit toward our liability premiums of around \$2,600 and \$300 toward the Worker's compensation premiums.
- Next meeting of the Town Council will be Thursday, January 11th at 10:00 am.

5. Treasurer's Report – 00:36:18

Marc Dippo read the monthly report.

Hearing no questions or comments, there was a motion by Paul Moxley to approve the report as submitted. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried.

6. Departmental Reports – 00:38:27

The Mayor updated the Council and the public on Chris Cawley's biking accident – he broke his femur and collarbone and will be laid up for a while. Chris is working out of his home on a limited basis.

Town Administrator's Report - John Guldner gave an update on the following matters:

- The credit from ULGT next year's annual premiums and the annual safety report and rebate.
- The annual COG legislative luncheon
- The meeting with Senator Niederhauser and Representative Paulsen on upcoming legislative issues.
- The fiber optic service for private residents in the Town of Alta – a survey will be sent residents on this matter. The Town anticipates that about 50% of private residents could benefit from the system that would be in place.

UFA – Rand Andrus updated the Council on the following matters:

- UFA thanked the Mayor for his involvement in UFA as a member of its board.
- A holiday safety message was provided by UFA which was put on the town's website
- The fires in California and the UFA crews that have been sent to assist with this event.

Town Marshal's Report – Mike Morey reported on the following matters:

- Reminded everyone to be cautious of the black ice in the canyon.
- The town has two part time dispatchers helping out while Doris is on leave so please reach out to introduce yourself to them and be patient.

Mike Morey extended a thank you to Mayor Pollard for his years of service to the Town of Alta. Mike was appointed as Marshal by Mayor Pollard and the department has had an incredible relationship with Tom – the entire department is grateful for his service.

7. Town Council Minutes – November 9, 2017 – 00:48:00

Harris Sondak made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2017 Council meeting with changes. There was a second by Elise Morgan and the motion was carried.

8. Town Council Minutes – November 21, 2017 – Election Canvass – 00:49:42

There was a motion by Harris Sondak to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2017 Council meeting addressing the election canvass with one change. There was a second by Elise Morgan and the motion was carried.

9. Resolution 2017-R-13 – A resolution approving Amendment TWO to the Town of Alta Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan and Summary Plan Description-Material Modifications – 00:50:22

The Mayor explained that in an effort to combat the rising health care costs to the town, the town moved its insurance coverage from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to PEHP. As a result the Town was able to move to a low deductible/ low co-pay plan. There is still a significant out of pocket amount that individuals and families must meet each year. To address this cost to our employees the Town is recommending that it amends its contract with National Benefit Services (NBS) that handles the town's Health Reimbursement Plan (HRA). This amendment creates a 13 month contract to move the town to a calendar year contract with NBS. The new amended plan proposes to allow the single employee to receive a reimbursement for out of pocket expenses of up to \$1,000 and for a two party or family to receive up to \$2,000. The single employee must pay the first \$2,000 of out of pocket expenses before they request reimbursement. The two party/family must pay the first \$4,000 of out of pocket expenses before requesting reimbursement.

Hearing no questions or further comments, there was a motion by Elise Morgan to approve Resolution 2017-R-13 which approves amendment "Two" to the Town of Alta Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan and Summary Plan Description-Material Modification. There was a second by Paul Moxley and the motion was carried.

10. Announcement of Alta Town Council vacancy process and timeline – 00:52:52

The Mayor announced that because of the election of Harris Sondak as Mayor, a vacancy will exist on the Town Council. There are two years left on Harris's term on the Town Council. The vacancy cannot be filled until the vacancy takes place which is January 2, 2018 after Harris is sworn in as Mayor.

Prior to the vacancy taking place, state law does permit the Town to put out a public notice announcing the vacancy seeking applicants for that council seat. Residents interested in being considered for appointment to the council should submit a letter to both Kate or Piper between Friday, December 15th and ends on January 5, 2018.

Anyone wishing to seek appointment must be a registered voter and have resided in the Town of Alta for 12 consecutive months preceding January 11, 2018. The person appointed will fill the remainder of Harris's term which continues through December 31, 2019.

The selection will occur at the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 10:00 am.

11. New Business – 00:54:55

There were two matters of new business that were addressed.

- The Mayor mentioned that as part of the meeting on the summer program held last week a discussion was held with regard to the Alta Ski Lift Company taking over operation of the summer program. Much of the summer program operation is within the Ski Lift's special use permit. The Town would like to discuss this option at the next council meeting and accept public comments on the same. The town would also ask the Ski Lift Company and the Forest Service to be available for questions and offer comments on this matter at this meeting.
- There are challenges with accepting credit cards for payments of count fines, business and liquor licenses and sewer and water bills. There are fees associated with accepting credit cards and staff would like to make a presentation in the January meeting proposing to pass the cost associated with collecting fees on to the consumer. State statute does allow municipalities to collect an electronic payment fee. Piper and Kate did review the current cost to the town - it is approximately \$4.00 per transaction. Staff would recommend that that fee be incorporated into the town's fee schedule and would leave it up to the council to determine the amount of that fee per transaction.

Harris Sondak thanked the Mayor and staff for facilitating a process of transitioning to a new administration. Harris commented that this might be the last time Mayor Pollard chairs a council meeting but he hopes it will not be the last time he has input into town policy.

Elise Morgan thanked Paul Moxley for his tenure on the Town Council.

Paul Moxley said it was hard to imagine that it has been 14 years that he has served on the Town Council and thanked the Mayor for his service to the Alta community. Paul went on to opine that there is no purer form of democracy than the town council system and he has enjoyed participating in that process.

Tom Pollard expressed that over the past 35 years he has called Alta his home. Tom said it has been his privilege to serve as the Mayor of the Town of Alta. In the summer of 1987 Council members Tim Evenden and Dave Houghton convinced Tom to run for Town Council. Tom had no idea at that time what that would lead to. Over the years Tom said he has worked with a great group of town employees and a really dedicated staff. Along the way he has served with a great group of Town Council members, many of whom are still in the community and some who have passed away. Tom also mentioned that he has had an opportunity to meet and work with so many people in some many areas-many of those people he cherishes as friends. He hoped that his efforts have helped to preserve and enhance Alta the way we love it. Tom thanked his wife and children for putting up with him. It has been amazing experience and he thanked everyone.

John Guldner thanked Tom for his years of service and presented Tom with a crystal paperweight.

Cliff Curry thanked both Tom Pollard and Paul Moxley for their years of service and was humbled to have served with Tom and Paul for the past ten years. Paul's depth of experience, knowledge, judgement and humor will be missed. Cliff went on to comment that Tom has been an example of what public leadership should be and Tom's incredible level of hard work, intelligence, judgement, depth of experience will be missed. Tom's level of listening, humility and openness to other people was such an example for us all.

12. Citizen Input – 01:05:40

Mike Morey thanked ACE and Sara for hosting a meeting in the town on mental health. A list of resources is now available to any member of the community to address any mental health issue.

Also, an Alcohol Anonymous (AA) meeting will now be held every Friday at 4:30 pm at the Alta Community Center.

Mike Maughn reported that the new Supreme Lift passed all inspections and is ready to "rock and roll." Mike thanked the Mayor for his service to the community and the company will continue to work with the Town of Alta to provide a great experience to those visiting Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Jen Clancy from the Friends of Alta along with the Alta Environmental Center are working on reprinting idle free signs to place throughout the Town of Alta.

Jen reported on a new volunteer opportunity in the town. There is a golden eagle nest in the Hellgate Cliffs that had been abandoned. Eagles will often return to these nests and with the proposal by UDOT to put additional avalanche exploding devices in this area, they will be monitoring the nest to provide UDOT with information on this nesting site for eagles, because such nests are protected sites.

Jen thanked both Tom and Paul for their years of service to the Town of Alta and FOA looks forward to working with Harris. Jen also thanked Tom for working to get a spot for the Town of Alta on the CWC board.

Mark Haik will hold comments until Mayor elect Sondak's first meeting in January.

13. Motion to Adjourn – 01:13:13

Hearing no further business before the Town Council, there was a motion by Paul Moxley to adjourn. There was a second by Tom Pollard and the motion was carried.

Passed and approved this 11th day of January, 2018.

/s/Katherine S.W. Black, Town Clerk