

**MINUTES  
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016  
10:00 AM  
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER  
ALTA, UTAH**

1. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Mayor Tom Pollard and Council members Cliff Curry, Harris Sondak and Elise Morgan were present. Paul Moxley was excused.

2. Presentation of TAP Award by the Utah Local Government's Trust – Doug Folsom - 00:00:20

Mr. Folsom explained that the Trust is a municipal insurance pool who insures around 500 local government entities in the State of Utah. Mr. Folsom explained that in their loss prevention department they have an award program called the Trust Accountability Program or TAP. TAP awards members have implemented a series of risk management and loss control best practices in order to keep employees safe as well as decreasing the municipalities overall liability. In 2015 the Town of Alta completed all the requirements for the TAP award. Mr. Folsom reviewed those requirements.

Mr. Folsom mentioned the cash award that the Town received which was about \$1,600 and additional discounting that the Town will receive on workers compensation insurance renewals. Mr. Folsom presented the Town of Alta with a presentation trophy and thanked John, Piper and Mike for their hard work on this program.

3. Mayor's Report: 00:03:50

The Mayor reported on the following items:

- The monthly UFA meeting and the governance committee.
- The legislation on the wildland fire.
- Fire School 101 will be held on Friday, May 6th and the Town Council and Town staff was encouraged to participate.
- The monthly Conference of Mayor's meeting.
- A report on the effort to pass a bill in the legislature to extend the sales tax hold harmless provision for three entities: Town of Alta, Brian Head Town and Garfield County. The legislation passed through both the House and the Senate and will be extended for five years.
- The Town budget committee has held one meeting and will hold another later this month.
- The monthly road meeting.
- There was a Mountain Accord executive committee meeting. Of primary importance is the land designation bill, a draft of which will be available on Monday, March 14th. The Mayor explained that this adds two big areas of wilderness (Millcreek Canyon area and expansion of the Lone Peak wilderness area) and proposes the creation of a proposed special management area in White Pine; a map on this proposal can be found on the Mountain Accord web site. The bill also encourages the execution of the land trade and freezes the ski area boundaries as they are

today. One of the issues was the “name” of this proposed area; it is now a National Conservation and Recreation Area; details are available on the Mountain Accord website. The goal is to get this legislation to Washington by the first part of April.

- The Mayor announced that Liz Schulte has left Parsons Behle. Rich Mrazik will now be the Town’s lead attorney.

#### 4. Treasurer’s Report – 00:17:00

Marc Dippo read the monthly treasurer’s report which is attached to the minutes.

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

#### 5. Departmental Reports: 00:18:56

Town Administrator’s Report: John Guldner reported on the following matters:

- John reported that the crane in the Powder Ridge area of the Town has been removed. A picture was provided to the Council.
- The fire rating for the Town of Alta; the Town has an ISO rating of a “3X”. Any area in the Town that is accessible year round by road has this rating.
- Update on the recent incidents involving drones in the Town of Alta, one of which was associated with the Town’s planning contractor. The Town apologizes if the drone caused any problems with the ski area operations; the ski area has a no drone policy in the special use permit area. There are also FAA regulations on drones as it relates to the Town’s proximity to the helipad at Powderbirds. There was discussion on the Town’s options as it relates to the regulation of drone within out boundaries.
- Horrocks Engineering has the OK to proceed and finish the fiber optics in the canyon. The hub building will be built near the current phone building which is outside the Town boundaries. Additional poles will be placed at Snowbird and the Alta Ski resort.
- There was a report and update on the Mountainous Planning District meeting which John attended.
- There was an update on the legislation addressing the continuation of the Mountainous Planning District.

Assistant Town Administrator’s Report: Chris Cawley reported on the following matters;

- The Town launched its new website and the content is currently being reviewed and updated as time permits.
- Comments on the legislative session and the hard work that was put in by the League of Cities and Towns and Town staff.

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

- The Forest Service does have rules concerning the commercial use of drones and FAA has rules as well. The Town does not have anything in place to enforce those regulations. In general local officers cannot enforce federal regulations. Rich recommended that the Town mirror the federal regulations on federal land. As it relates to the use of drones on private lands, Town of Alta could draft regulations that are less restrictive; it would create a patchwork though of regulations inside the Town.
- Many thanks were given to UDOT and the avalanche forecasters for the work on the road in the canyon over the course of the winter.
- At the road meeting UDOT explained the project that will be taking place at entry #1 at Snowbird; they will be replacing the long row of "sticks" with concrete islands. They will also be placing various signs in and around this area of the canyon.
- The Town has had its lowest year of reported ski thefts and car accidents.

UFA Report: Jay Torgersen reported on the following matters:

- The ISO rating in the canyon; areas in the Town that are accessible by highway 210 have a rating of "3".
- He asked that local residents and businesses help keep the hydrants that are adjacent to their buildings dug out after every snow storm.
- Encouraged the Council and staff to attend fire school 101.
- UFA does conduct CPR classes and encouraged the public to contact them for times and places.

6. Town Council Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2016. 00:42:12

**There was a motion by Cliff Curry to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2016 with corrections that were already incorporated into the final draft. There was a second by Elise Morgan and the motion was carried.**

7. UDOT Avalanche Future Planning – Bill Nalli and Matt McKee

Bill Nalli and Matt McKee gave a presentation (slide show) on current and proposed future avalanche mitigations improvements in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Bill also reviewed the current avalanche program in the canyon.

Bill explained that this summer a Minimum Requirements Analysis or MRA will be conducted. This analysis will outline the minimum requirements for the task of avalanche control work in the White Pine area of the canyon; the analysis might be completed by the end of June 2016.

Bill went over some of the resources that are available to the forecasters and how they benefit their abilities to manage avalanche in the canyon. One of the examples was the infrasonic avalanche detection system. This technology is in place in the White Pine zone of the canyon.

The other study that will take place is called the Town of Alta study. Although Bill stated that the forecasters have an idea of what they think should happen above the Town of Alta, they also recognize that there is a lot of interest in the Town about what happens to the terrain above the Town. The study will be a comprehensive analysis of what is the best way to control avalanches above the Town; from roughly Toledo all the way to Grizzly Gulch. UDOT is partnering with the Town of Alta and the Alta Ski Lift Company this study. An outside consultant has been hired to complete this study will start this month. The study should be completed by the end of June 2016.

Bill felt that all the proposed infrastructures changes and improvements will assist the avalanche forecasters in being more efficient and more effective with avalanche control work and therefore keep the road closures to a minimum.

Bill went over the possible phases, changes and improvements.

Onno Wieringa commented about the momentum we have and support we have from UDOT to address the issues that Bill Nalli raised today. Bill commented that when people understand the problem, they are willing to help.

#### 8. Town of Alta Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) – John Guldner: 01:26:41

John explained that the Town is required to approve the SSMP by March 31, 2016. Copies of the draft SSMP have been available to the public and it has been posted on the Town's website.

This plan contains policies and procedures for managing, maintaining and overseeing the Town's sewer system. The Town worked with Steve McIntosh, the Town's sewer operator, in creating and writing this plan which follows the state template.

The Town now has an annual reporting duty to the State of Utah and is required to have a formal annual capital improvement program.

This plan addresses the main line only and does not include the laterals to the buildings that are hooked up to the Town's system. This plan also addresses the sewer manholes. John explained that the Town does "TV" the main line on an annual basis and checks the manholes as well.

There are only two problem spots in the sewer line both of which are located in the GMD parking lot area: both are sags in the line. The Town inspects those areas of the sewer line annually.

Harris asked what parts of the sewer the Town manages. John explained that we manage the sewer main from Grizzly Gulch down to sewer meter between the Town and Service Area #3 which is in the Superior Parking Lot. Once the line leaves the Service Area #3 boundaries it precedes all the way down the canyon. This line (outfall line) is jointly maintained by the Town and Service Area #3.

John gave a brief history of the sewer line and the ownership of that line. There is one line in the canyon and the Town owns and manages the line located in our boundaries and jointly manages and maintains

the outfall line to the bottom of the canyon. Service Area #3 manages the sewer line within their service district boundaries.

John explained that the Service Area #3 also has to put in place and approve a SSMP for their district. Harris felt that the Town should probably have a copy of their plan once it is developed.

Harris asked if the Town needed to allocate funds for capital improvements. John explained that in the past most of the funds spent on the sewer line have been directed to the ongoing maintenance. John went on to state that in the future the Town will formally review the major capital needs of the sewer and report to the Council on funds needed for those major capital improvements. At this point in time the Town does not need to budget for any capital projects.

John went on to state that Steve and he reviewed our capital reserves and have determined that we have sufficient funds to address capital improvements now and for the next 10 years.

**There was a motion by Harris Sondak to adopt the Sewer System Management Plan. There was a second by Elise Morgan. Hearing no further discussion on this matter, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion and it was carried.**

9. Resolution 2016-R-2 – A resolution adopting the Town of Alta Waste Water Planning Program for 2015 – John Guldner – 01:36:57

The Mayor explained that the Town has approved Waste Water Planning Programs the past few years and is required to do the same this year.

John explained that in the past the Town was given points because it did not have a SSMP; this year it does have such a plan in place.

John went on to explain that the Town gets points on this plan because it does not have funds in the bank for projects that we might need to address 20 years from now. The Town also gets points because we do not have a written sewer management maintenance program.

Every year our sewer operator, Steve McIntosh, reviews and oversees the inspection of the system and completes this report; an annual assessment of the sewer system.

John reported that Steve did find a “grease ball” near the sewer meter between Alta and Snowbird; it did not cause any problems and was removed. To address this situation, Steve will be conducting inspections of the grease traps in all business within the next few months.

Cliff felt that it was in the best interest of all businesses to have a good grease trap system in place to protect their laterals. Cliff also reviewed the sewer ordinance and did not see a requirement for grease traps for businesses in that ordinance.

John will report back to the Council next month on the point Cliff raised about the Town’s ordinance and grease traps. The Mayor believes that in any commercial kitchen application, the health department requires that grease traps are put in place.

Harris asked if the Town was liable for any sewer backup in its system. John explained that the Town is liable for any backups in the main line. If the backup is deemed caused by a problem with a lateral, John believes that is the personal property owners liability.

**Hearing no further questions on this plan, there was a motion by Elise Morgan to approve Resolution 2016-R-2 adopting the Town of Alta Waste Water Planning Program for 2015. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried.**

10. Resolution 2016-R-3 – A resolution establishing a maximum number of dog licenses which may be issued for the year 2016 and fees to be charged for licenses – 01:45:20

The Mayor announced that the Town can have a total of 57 licensed dogs and this year 51 people have renewed their licenses. Accordingly the Town Council could approve the issuance of six (6) new licenses for 2016.

The Mayor asked if the Council wanted to designate those licenses to a specific class and asked the Council if they wanted to change the price of the licenses. Class A are full time residents who physically live within the town at least six months (consecutively or cumulatively during each calendar year) and who are registered to vote in the Town. Class B licenses address people who have ownership interest in improved residential or commercial property and live part time in the town. Class C licenses are people that commute up the canyon and work in the Town of Alta. Classes D are temporary licenses.

**The Mayor made a motion approve Resolution 2016-R-3 by allowing six (6) new licenses to be issued. The six (6) licenses should be divided between Class A and Class B. The Mayor added to the motion that the fees should remain the same. Elise Morgan seconded this motion. The Mayor opened the floor to discussion.**

The Mayor commented that staff has been working on a letter that will be going out to all the current dog owners that have permanent and temporary dog licenses in the Town to remind them of a few of the rules and guidelines found in the Town's Animal Control Ordinance; leashed dogs and picking up fecal matter. It is a privilege to have a dog in the Town and the Mayor asked everyone to follow the rules. The Council agreed that sending this letter was appropriate and suggested that a letter be sent out each year.

**Hearing no further comments or questions, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion. The motion was carried with all present voting in the affirmative. Paul Moxley was excused from this meeting.**

11. Update on Commercial Core Planning Project – Chris Cawley – 01:51:40

Chris reported commented on the progress of this project and referenced the documents that were sent to the Council including the information from a recent advisory committee meeting in February. The progress report was generated by the consultants and is a good overview of what progress has been made thus far on this project. This report is on the project website which can be linked from the front page of the Town's new website.

This document is primarily a working document for the consultants and Chris is working with them to clarify and understand certain aspects of this document. There are some omissions in the document more specifically in the utilities component of the existing conditions report.

Chris reported on the meeting that took place a week ago. The consultants reviewed a broad range of public comments that have been received over the years as well as during the scope of this project and came up with a set of guiding principles. The consultants also “work shopped” potential uses that could be contained in this plan; these potential uses were largely culled from a range of public comments. Chris went over some of the suggestions.

As part of the current phase of the project, the consultants are designing alternative concepts for the plan. The consultants should have a draft of some preliminary concepts by the end of this week after which the Town will work with the consultants to refine those concepts through meetings with staff and then through a series of meetings scheduled in the next few months; Chris went over the projected dates for those meetings.

#### 12. New Business – 0159:12

Harris Sondak asked about the quality of the transmission of KUER in the canyon and asked if anyone else was having issues regarding the reception. Harris called the station who confirmed that one of their transmitters that would affect reception in this canyon had been moved.

Many of the Council members confirmed that their reception in the canyon is fine. The Mayor explained the history of this situation in the canyon and asked the staff to look into the transmission of KUER in the canyon.

#### 13. Citizen Input – 02:02:52

Mark Haik commented on the following matters:

- The Alta Planning Commission missing their last meeting because three of the commission members were attending the Mountain Accord meeting. Mark asked the Mayor to consider reviewing his current appointments to the commission and potentially asking for their resignations; appoint people that will show up to the meetings.
- Joan DeGiorgio should disclose at the Mountain Accord meetings that she is the chair of the Alta Planning Commission.
- Mark urged that the proposed avalanche study mentioned earlier in this meeting should study the question of whether or not regular sports activities in the identified areas would in fact mitigate some of the avalanche threats.
- The Town should pursue financing to work with the current private land owners to install the proposed avalanche equipment. This would decrease the burden to the Town.
- The Town should consider changing the zoning of the land where the possible avalanche equipment could be installed.

- Comments on the Community Core Planning Project as it relates to the utilities, water contracts, and change applications. The Town should apprise themselves of the status of change application 57-10013.
- Notable that the water that flows through the sewer line is counted by the river commissioners as part of the stream flow.

Onno Wieringa commented on the following:

- An update on the snow boarder's lawsuit.
- The legislature has appropriated close to 15 million dollars to the Utah Office of Tourism.
- An update on the antennas and the hub building related to enhanced cell service in the Alta community; Verizon and AT&T.
- The Mountain Collective pass spring sale is taking place.
- April 1st is the deadline to submit the legislation to Congress related to the federal land designation. Onno said there is some confusion in his company relative to the language in the bill. The original agreement that his company signed on for with the Town when they signed the Accord last summer has changed. Onno opined that if they do not get the confusion resolved, he will probably be calling all the Council members to talk about that matter.

14. Motion to adjourn – 02:15:54

**Hearing no further business before the Town Council, there was a motion by Harris Sondak to adjourn the meeting with a second by Elise Morgan. The motion was carried.**

Passed and approved this 14th day of April, 2016.

s/Katherine S.W. Black  
Town Clerk