



**TOWN OF ALPINE
COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 19TH, 2005**

Mayor David Lloyd, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and held the pledge of allegiance. A quorum was established by the clerk through a roll call. Council members present: D.R. Hutchinson, Steve Fusco, Don Jorgensen, and Kathy Swiston. Also present Mayor David Lloyd. Others present: Brenda Bennett, Treasurer; James Phillips, Chief; Garren Stauffer, S.V. Independent; Ron Rollins, local resident; Kim Tippetts, Lower Valley Energy; and Travis Barney, Yellowstone Journal Corporation.

A. ACTION ITEMS AND NEW BUSINESS:

- **COUNCIL MINUTES:** Mayor Lloyd called for a motion to approve the July 5th, 2005 minute. **D.R. Hutchinson motioned to approve. Kathy Swiston seconded. VOTE: 5– Yes; 0 – No; 0- Abstain; 0- Absent**
- **PLANNING & ZONING MINUTES:** - *None Available – pending chairman approval.*
- **Lower Valley Energy-** Kim Tippetts presented the Council with options for power service to the animal shelter on the lower, undeveloped bench. In order to extend power from the existing wastewater treatment plant to the animal shelter requires a permitting process and Fish and Game approval which is cost prohibitive as they require a state certified, general appraiser to determine the market value of the power easement, a licensed surveyor to plat the power easement, and must comply with NEPA standards for potential archeological and ecological studies. Additionally, the power easement must be coordinated with District Conservation of Natural Resources Conservation Services and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. The cost of completing these requirements may be greater than the cost for the actual power line according to Tippetts. Lower Valley Energy's policy does not cover hiring these consultants to complete such requirements for the Fish & Game Application, therefore, Mr. Tippetts presented two alternatives for supplying power to the animal shelter and future shop. Tippetts presented information regarding the two options by using a map and gave the following information:

SINGLE PHASE DISTRIBUTION: The yellow line indicates the proposed single-phase power line to the lower bench public land area; the single phase power option is more than sufficient to supply power to the animal shelter, future shop, and recreation sites. Estimated cost is \$6,000.00 and does not include trenching, PVC pipe, backfilling, etc. The power would be supplied near Buffalo Drive junction vault and would follow Buffalo Drive to the lower bench.

THREE PHASE DISTRIBUTION: The nearest three-phase power is near the Alpine Medical Clinic and US Hwy 89. The green line on the map indicates the proposed 3-phase power line which would be required for any industrial or heavy commercial basis (refrigeration, heating, cooling, etc.). Estimated cost is \$30,000.00. This cost does not include trenching, PVC pipe, backfilling, etc. Unless there is a strong need for 3-phase power the cost may be prohibitive to install the line.

If the Town purchases its own PVC pipe and hires a contractor to trench the power line, costs for installation of the line is considerably lower and LVE encourages customers to do this portion on their own. The current single phase power services all of the RVM Subdivision power needs so a single phase power source will be plenty for the Town's needs on the lower bench. Between power and water lines is a required 4-ft. distance. Treasurer Bennett advised the animal shelter budget can afford the single phase power connection costs, but not the three phase costs. Lower Valley Energy offers a \$1,300.00 credit allowance off the total cost of the installation with any metered service. With

the Town having easement rights to its own land, using the existing RVM Subdivision power easement was not pursued as a possible solution as it required land agreements and easements. Mr. Tippetts indicated that when the Town pursues establishing a service connection to the ball fields an additional junction vault which is approximately \$2,200.00. Mayor Lloyd called for a motion. **Kathy Swiston motioned to approve installing the single phase power. D.R. Hutchinson seconded. VOTE: 5- Yes; 0- No; 0- Abstain; 0- Absent.**

Mayor Lloyd advised three phase power will be needed for any new wastewater treatment expansion. Mr. Tippetts advised if the town installs 4-inch PVC pipe now, three phase power will be less costly in the future as it can be placed in the same PVC pipe as the single phase line.

- **Yellowstone Journal Corporation** – Travis Barney: Mr. Barney provided council with information and DVD presentation regarding the Yellowstone Journal Corporation. The website won the number one website on the internet beating out entire countries such as Italy, New Zealand, etc. Over 20 million (+) hits were received by the yellowstonepark.com website. His corporation is touring and meeting with Towns and businesses in hopes of creating a “co-op” of participating communities for a 3-page publication of a map showing the highway route from Evanston to Alpine along the two highways- # 39 and #89, ending in Alpine. The map would list the various things to do in Alpine and other partnering communities. The company distributes “99 Things to do in Yellowstone”, a magazine publication, which is also distributed in addition to the website. All “co-op” members would receive a simple link as well on yellowstonepark.com. Essentially, each community would be asked to spend \$4,950.00 partnering with area businesses and restaurants. The Council expressed a desire to participate in the project and for Mr. Barney to keep in contact with the Treasurer.
- **American Legion** – Presentation of Certificate of Recognition to Council by Sarge Rumbaugh for the Towns support and participation in the recent American Legion convention held in Alpine.
- **American Legion - Ball Fields-** American Legion officials met with the Town to voice their commitment to helping the Town create ball fields. The council, after debate and discussion, advised a fence permit would need to be filed for setback requirements. The clerk advised the surveyor monuments were exposed and found for the proposed fence. The council thanked the American Legion for their help.
- **Terrace Lane-** Shawn Bard questioned the Council for a progress report. Carter Wilkinson advised area lot owners are being contacted regarding the plat. The Munsons and Dustins voiced intent to participate in finalizing a plat to settle the issue once and fall. Setback issues, and actual placement of the road is still being pursued with each lot owner. Carter Wilkinson advised the plat being proposed calls for the existing road to stay where it is and each lot owner is being contacted whether they will gain property or lose portions of the property. Marlowe Scherbel is creating a proposed plat which is not available yet for Mr. Bard’s review. Mr. Bard encouraged all to tour his site so he can explain his hardship he endures during the winter months. Ms. Swiston advised the intent is to settle the issues on this hill for once and for all and issues can’t resurface in the future.
- **Discussion Beginning Water Restrictions-** Town is using over 500,000 gallons (necessary for fire prevention reasons): The Mayor advised that over 500,000 – 600,000 gallons are being used daily. Mayor Lloyd feels we need to watch water usage from now until August 1st, 2005. Due to the defective highway enhancement, many of the Town’s sprinkler heads are mal-functioning and he feels this issue should be resolved until water restrictions are placed. The low alarm was sounding this morning to the large 500,000 gallons tank. Filling the small water tank requires 3-4 hours to fill. The clerk advised that in past administrations, the second tank (250,000) was to always remain full in the event of a house fire. If both tanks are emptied and a house fire occurs and it takes several hours to fill the water tanks, the home may burn. So past administrations instituted water restrictions in the summer to insure this small tank is kept full. Treasurer Bennett has added to the Town’s water billing asking for voluntary water conservation. The clerk advised a mass-mailer could be completed regarding water conservation tips. Treasurer Bennett asked if the water restrictions are in place that a fine system be involved. The council agreed that if water usage stays the same then water restrictions would not be in place. If water conservation isn’t occurring then restrictions would be

effective August 1st, 2005. All council members agreed to instituting a fine system and allow new hydro-seeding customers an exemption. **D.R. Hutchinson motioned to approve a mass mailing requesting water conservation be mailed to town residents. Don Jorgensen seconded. VOTE: 5- Yes; 0- No; 0- Abstain; 0- Absent**

- Mayor Lloyd advised he has heard in the community that an internal source has made derogatory remarks about himself selling the Town "down the river" with Mike Halpin. He advised he has been accused of "secret meetings" and he feels these meetings with the developer are a necessary part of his job and the talk around town is unfair and unjust as he has served this community for over ten years.

B. DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

- **STREETS & ROADS:**
- **SEWER DEPARTMENT:**
- **WATER DEPARTMENT:**
- **PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** D.R. Hutchinson advised the American Legion members have begun clearing the ball fields. Discussion over the height of the fence will be 4-ft. Mr. Hutchinson advised there is \$5,000.00 in the coffers for the fence and they may be doing additional fund raising. Existing gravel will be used for a small parking lot. The second phase of the ball fields will include lighting to allow playing at night. Within 2-3 years options for irrigation should be decided. Lot # 8 will be developed as a soccer and football field as well. The clerk advised the Town receives free insecticides from the Lincoln County Weed and Pest Division. Mr. Hutchinson expressed concern for the American Legion members working in the heat of the day and asked Town personnel to check on them.
- **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:**
- **POLICE DEPARTMENT/COURT:** Chief Phillips advised the police department has been staying busy. Norm Scott from the FBI has concluded its investigation of former officer Steve Van Valkenburg and his conduct involving a man who bit him during an arrest. The Department of Justice has closed its case and a letter will be forthcoming to that effect that he was cleared of any wrong doing. Mr. Phillips will distribute the letter to the newspaper and council upon receipt.
- **PERSONNEL/ ADMINISTRATIVE:**

C. ON-GOING BUSINESS/ INFORMATION:

TABLED: Alpine Meadows Project- M.O.U. Agreement w/ Northstar Utility 60-Day Extension Request--- Carter Wilkinson advised a letter has been sent to Chris Hawkes which details the Town wishes to execute the document provided the Town has the right to negotiate any of the terms of the agreement and a reservation of rights. Also, the letter advises the fact the Town's engineer, residents, council, etc. must have all the data in order to enter into the agreement. Leon Kjellgren has issued a letter of his concerns regarding the proposed agreement. He has several questions and concerns with any new or altered agreement the Town enters into with Northstar Utility. The wastewater treatment facility is changing almost on a daily basis. Terms of use, percentage of Town's flow capacity, etc. still need to be determined. Mr. Fusco questioned the Mayor whether he had met with the new developer across from the Alpine Meadows project. Mayor Lloyd advised himself, Carter Wilkinson, and Paula Stevens met with the other developer. The Mayor advised the developer to proceed with the Town's system first and then approach the county. Mike Halpin met these developers in California to obtain a right-of-way for his project to the Flying Saddle. The plan has totally changed several times. The developers are looking for an "anchor" tenant for the project. The Walgreens corporation was approached but they require at least a 50,000 population center before opening a store.

D. INFORMATION DISTRIBUTED TO COUNCIL:

E. FINANCIALS/ UNPAID BILLS:

Mayor Lloyd called for a motion to pay the bills. D.R Hutchinson motioned to approve payment of the unpaid bills. Kathy Swiston seconded. VOTE: 5- Yes; 0- No; 0- Abstain; 0- Absent

Mayor Lloyd advised the Town Council will adjourn into executive session regarding liquor licenses and employee insurance.

D.R. Hutchinson motioned to adjourn into executive session. Kathy Swiston seconded. VOTE: 5-Yes; 0-No; 0- Absent; 0- Abstain

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 P.M.

David H. Lloyd, Mayor

Date

ATTEST:

Tracy Matthews, Clerk

Date