



*Town of Alpine*  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**DATE:** *February 1, 2011*  
**TIME:** *7:00 p.m.*

**PLACE:** *Town Hall*  
**TYPE:** *Regular Meeting*

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**Call to Order:** Mayor Kennis Lutz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and held the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call:** A quorum was established by the Town Clerk/Treasure Pamela Poston through roll call. Present: Marietta Lanphear, Beau Taylor, Mayor Kennis Lutz, Don Jorgensen and Dave Jenkins.

**On Going Business**

**Mayor Kennis Lutz** - proceeds with the swearing in of Pamela Poston to the Town Clerk/Treasure position.

**Mayor Kennis Lutz** – State of the Town.

I would like to welcome everyone to this Annual State of the Town Address. I would like to do this at the beginning of every year so that everyone knows what we are doing and where we are headed. Thank you for attending.

We have had years of many story lines and many projects. This is not all inclusive but a summary of some of the major ones:

- New Civic Center
- New Sewer Plant
- New Collection Lines – Phase I and II
- New Maintenance Shop
- New Street Lights
- New CDC
- New Library
- New Skate Park

Some of these are complete and some are not. Some have work to be done and we are going to address those. I personally feel our town has growing pains, we have undertaken a lot of new projects in the last few years. A lot of new projects that we should have possibly stopped and reviewed a little better but when the economy was booming we had money to do these things. So looking back does not benefit any of us we need to look forward. We need to finish the projects we started and get them completed before we take on any new major projects. The town is kind of stretched thin.

So with that being said I would like to tell you a little bit about me. Because I have not previously served on the Town Council, the role of Mayor is new for me. I am honored to serve in this capacity and appreciate greatly the help and the assistance from my fellow Council Members and Citizens. The Mayor has not more authority than any other Council Member. In our form of government, we really do need a strong team, with strong relationships to continue to make positive contributions to our community.

The role of Mayor in local government is critical to day-to-day life of all of Alpine, influencing everything from Roads, Fire Safety, Local Business growth, Cost of Living in our Town, etc.... We all need to work together to achieve our goals and visions for our town of Alpine. Above all keeping you, the public, informed and listening to input from the Town's People. We will keep you informed with advertising, internet, etc... If you the people think we are doing something wrong, let us know. SPEAK UP! You will be heard.

We have budget issues we are dealing with. Declining revenues from Sales Tax, State Funding and County Funding. I just went to a meeting with our County Commissioners and they said that we could look forward to our funding being cut more. This is not good news because we are stretched thin. We are looking into ways of cutting costs. I am going through the budget line by line, and with the help of the Town Council, we will find ways to save money and keep our town growing. We are looking into alternative funding that might be available from the state or the county. .

I had a meeting with James Dubisz today who is our Town's CPA. He made a very gracious offer to the Town. Some of which our training, day to day bookkeeping, defining our different departments so that we can get an accurate picture of each department is costing the town. I don't feel we can address each department until we have a clear picture of what each department costs us. His offer to me was he would help training our staff with how to enter these things into our different departments, how to break up bills for our different departments, oversight and review of the Annual Budget process, compile Quarterly Financial Statements, etc..... Along with all of the Reports and Audits, he is already preparing for the Town. I asked him why he would do this additional work for the same price and he replied "I want to help Alpine". Thank you Mr. Dubisz!

A look ahead to 2011.

I have an idea and a vision and I am sure the council people have a vision. I did not share this speech I wrote up with my council prior to this meeting.

We would like to improve our Public Appearance, Parks, and Town Enhancement. With the help from the American Legion, Welcome Banners on our new Light Poles, alternating information Banners for coming events:

- Mountain Day's
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- Alpine Car Show
- All moved to Town

When people drive thru our town.....Mayberry..... Beautiful.....What a Great Place....etc...

With all of the things to finish and develop, for the future we still need to maintain sustainable revenue streams and continuing services that our residents expect.

I feel we need to take another look at our:

- Sewer Ordinance
- Water Ordinance
- Parks and Recreation Department
- Public Information
- Street and Roads Department

These are only a few of the highlights and only a glimpse of 2011. I want to thank everyone for their continued efforts, both large and small, that add to the success of our Community. So much is given on a daily bases and I would like to extend my appreciation for all that could not be mentioned tonight.

It is our resident's dedication to their hometown that keeps the Town of Alpine such a wonderful place to live so let's continue on. Thank you.

**Town Council Meeting Minutes, January 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 ~ Council reviewed the minutes. (See Attachments.)**

**Councilman Don Jorgensen motioned to approve the minutes of the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilman Beau Taylor seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 4yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion carried.**

**Board of Adjustments/Planning & Zoning Minutes for December 14<sup>th</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011 ~ Council reviewed the minutes. (See Attachments.)**

**Councilman Dave Jenkins motioned to approve the Planning & Zoning Minutes of December 14<sup>th</sup> and January 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. Councilman Taylor seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion carried.**

**Planning and Zoning Report - by Appointed P & Z Commission Member Justin Sandner.**

It has been a little slow at the P & Z just like it is slow everywhere. Last week we did approve and give a CO to Rocky's Place. It is going to be a great asset to the community. There were a couple issues that we worked through but when it all got said and done we did approve it. It has been inspected and everything taken care of. The other thing that we have been taking care of is the Lincoln County Planning and Zoning some different platting outside of town that has come through our office as a common courtesy.

Sine Mr. Jenkins has left P & Z there is a vacant seat. We did get an application that we feel that would really suit the needs of the town and the P & Z who is Ms. Wendy Walton. She did submit something and has been to P & Z meetings. She shows real interests in where the town is heading, shows interest our committee and is really concerned about the town. We feel she would be a great asset to P & Z.

Mayor Kennis Lutz informed Justin that we received another applicant that came into the office approximately 4:30pm and that he had not read it yet. Justin Sandner stated that the seat has been open for a little bit. Justin also stated that Wendy has been to the P & Z meetings and that P & Z really feels she would fit the bill for what is needed right now. P & Z can keep the other applicant on file and have it if another seat opens up. So the P & Z recommends Wendy Walton to fill the Planning and Zoning seat and she is here this evening. Don Jorgensen made a suggestion that this be tabled and will look through other applications if necessary. Don Jorgensen then suggested that the applicant come up to the podium, introduce themselves and answer some questions. Wendy Walton was asked to speak first. Don Jorgensen asked if Wendy Walton had any background in building. Wendy stated that she had zero background in building except for some personal home improvements. Wendy also stated that she has lived in Alpine for 6 years just off Greys River Road, she is currently employed at the Library, and she would like to see the town develop in a way that would draw tourists and new residence to the town of Alpine. Wendy believes that a lot of this can be done by the new building and the look of the town. Don Jorgensen recognized Wendy for attending Town meetings. Dave Jenkins also stated that Wendy has had concerns and opinions on some of the building designs and it is nice to have the public opinion.

**Councilman Dave Jenkins made a motion that Wendy Walton fills the vacant seat on Planning and Zoning. Councilman Don Jorgensen seconded the motion.**

**Public Discussion.** Carla Stone asked if there were any other applicants present. Trev Devore approached the podium and stated that he has been in the construction business for 25 years and lived in the Town of Alpine for 2 ½ years. Trev said that he has dealt and is familiar with International Building Codes. Trev also stated that he has a degree in Non-Destructive Testing and working toward getting certified as a building inspector. Dave Jenkins said that Trev does have the experience but would like to know what P & Z thinks and would respect their recommendations. Justin Sandner approached the podium and said that Trev DeVore seems highly qualified but on P & Z there are 3 different contractors plus a maintenance man and a lady that runs cat rental and having people with a different perspective that is not in the construction field really helps maintain the overall vision of what P & Z is trying to do. Don Jorgensen asked Trev DeVore if he could keep his application on file because he, personally,

would like to see Trev on P & Z because he does have a good background. Dave Jenkins suggested that Trev start to attend Town as well as P & Z meetings. Kennis Lutz appointed Wend Walton for the vacant seat on Planning and Zoning and asked for Council Approval.

**Councilman Dave Jenkins made a motion that Wendy Walton fills the vacant seat on Planning and Zoning. Councilman Don Jorgensen seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion carried**

**Mayor Kennis Lutz** - proceeds with the swearing in of Wendy Walton to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

**Town Bills** – Present Council members reviewed the outstanding bills. (See Attachments.)

**Councilman Don Jorgensen motioned to approve the payment of the Town Bills. Councilman Beau Taylor seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:** Marietta Lanphear would like to look over the bill more carefully before approving the bills. Kennis stated that he encourages all council members to come to the Town Office and look over the bills at any time. Kennis also stated that he was questioning Stefan Fodor's bill to the town regarding "Research conflict of interest for the Town. Telephone call with WAM re conflict, draft opinion to council", which came to a total of \$594.00. Kennis Lutz asked who approved this charge. Neither Beau Taylor nor Don Jorgensen recalls approving this charge.

**Public Comment:** Tiphany Gayhart stated that listening to the Council's concerns are not knowing what they are voting on, that the Town Council table these bills until they get the information they are looking for. Tiphany also feels that there has been a lot of bill paid at Town Council meetings that were just paid and not reviewed. Kennis Lutz acknowledged that the bills need to be reviewed but the Town does have to take care of day to day business and pay bills in a timely matter. Kennis made a recommendation to the Town Council that they come to the Town office in the next few days, review the bills, but also pass the motion to pay the bills at this time. Beau Taylor stated that we do need to take care of these bills in a timely matter because we do not want to pay any late fees. Beau also stated that a majority of the bills that would be approved would be standard monthly bills.

**Councilman Don Jorgensen made a motion to approve payment of the Town Bills contingent on each of the Council Members signing off on them by Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 2011. Councilman Beau Taylor seconded the motion.**

**Public Comment:** Megan O'Rourke had a question regarding the December 6 charge from Stefan Fodor regarding the Kennis Lutz investigation and the conflict of interest and who was in office to approve this. Kennis Lutz commented that it was not the current administration and that the old administration was in office until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 so they were authorized to make these types of decisions. Megan asked why the Mayor and or the Attorney for the town got approval from the incoming Mayor. Megan's second question was how this bill is valid when there was no proof of a conflict of interest and how can this be valid? Jeff Attwood asked if the bills could be approved separately and not just as a whole. Don Jorgensen commented that at the Council Meeting the bills are usually separated and place in front of each Council Member that way if there is a question, it can be pulled out and discussed. Don Jorgensen suggested again that all Council Members come in and look over the bills within the next few days so we can take care of this in a timely matter. There was a public question asking why the bills were not in front of the Council Members? Kennis Lutz replied that it was an error because he was unfamiliar with the procedures. Kennis stated that it is a new experience for himself as well as the Town Clerk being that it is her first meeting. The public comment asked why it is different this time and not done like it was in the past. Kennis again stated that were in the process of learning how things work at the town and corrections will be made. Carla Stone stated that \$600 is a lot of money and a lot of money to the Town and just because one person's curiosity

incurred this bill, it is disturbing. Kennis stated the Mr. Fodor was the Town Attorney and was under instruction to do this.

**Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2. Motion carried.**

**Liquor License Application/Hearing – February 1, 2011 – Magnum Rose Ent. LLC dba Rocky’s Place. Councilman Beau Taylor made a motion to approve Rocky’s Place Restaurant Liquor License. Councilman Don Jorgensen seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion carried.**

**Update on the Water Project – Bob Ablondi with Rendezvous Engineering.**

Mr. Ablondi addressed the council regarding the water project. He stated that he was at the December Council meeting at there were awards were issued to Kilroy LLC for \$388,070.00 and Thomas Drilling for \$109,279.00. These are two component of the water project that is upgrading the supply well. This is being funded by grant money from the Wyoming Water Development Commissions at 67 %, 22% are being funded by loans and the remainder by Town funds with the Grand Total being \$497,349.00. Since the last meeting we did contract, insurance and bond reviews by two different attorneys starting with the previous attorney and now with the current attorney. The documents were in order and the recommendation was to sign the contracts which have been done and materials are starting to be delivered. The start will be with the control building upgrade. The contacts go through June 15, 2011 and July 15, 2011 and the idea is to get the wells up and running prior to peak summer. There was a preconstruction meeting with Kilroy, Thomas and many members of the town so that we may get on our way with everything. We did start some initial work without payment on some various trials on the tanks and running tests. The other issue that is coming up is generator capacity. When the project was approved by previous council, they recommended a smaller generator. A decision will need to be made on whether to keep the generator or upgrade to a larger generator but does not need to be made now. There will be a pay application from the contractor that should come before the Council by next meeting. These applications will be for materials and initial work. Mayor Kennis Lutz would like to reexamine the generator and have additional information for next meeting.

**Star Valley School – Dave Jenkins.**

For information purposes, Dave Jenkins stated that he was contacted by a School Board Member and there will be a meeting in the Town Civic Center on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00pm till 9:00pm. The School District is talking about changing the Middle School and/or High School calendar to a four day week and keeping the Grade School at a five day week. Dave recommends that anyone involved come to the meeting and give your input and thoughts. The other issue that Dave Jenkins brought up that there should be no charge of the Civic Center to the Lincoln County School District. They were initial told of a charge \$130.00 with set up fee of \$57.00.

**Councilman Beau Taylor made a motion to not charge the Lincoln County School District for the Alpine Civic Center. Councilman Don Jorgensen seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion carried.**

**Alpine Fire Department Update – Terri Potter, Fire Chief.**

Terri presented the Council with information on the Stevens Grant (handout) and will be sending a letter to property owners. She asked that the Town of Alpine sub grant

Updates for activities: We had approximately 126 calls which are 40 calls less than the year before. There are currently 25 members and 12 of those members are both fire and EMT. There are 9 that are just strictly EMT, 6 are intermediate, 2 new EMTs, 10 members participating in fire pump class, and 100% of our members carries a

state certification. There will be a physical fitness training this year, 9 members will be attending in Riverton and 6 will be attending Cody and the cost will be picked up by the State of Wyoming. The other issue that Terri brought up is Terrace Lane. This road is very bad and if there is a fire, the big engines will not be able to make it up. This is something that needs to be addressed and would ask Council to meet with Terri and take a walk up there. Back to original discussion, Dave Jenkins thinks that the Stevens Grant is something that we should be interested in because it brings work to our community.

**Councilman Dave Jenkins made a motion to support the Alpine Fire Department in Stevens Grants and the Town be the Sub Grantee. Councilman Don Jorgensen seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motioned carried.**

**Parks and Recreation – Cindy Butera.**

Cindy and her husband Tom have been part of the Parks and Recreation committee for 3 years now. Cindy stated that since we have a new Council and Mayor, she is asking for guidance on how to proceed. There are a few events such as a family movie night at the Civic Center which is the second Friday of every month and there is a kid's play date that happens the second Friday of every month for two hours. There is interest on having a basketball night for an open league and a lot of other interests in having events at our Civic Center as well as our parks. We have 4 parks now, and the committee would like to build on these areas so the committee is asking where the Council would like to see this go. Councilman Don Jorgensen stated that the Civic Center was build for having an open basketball league but he would need someone to be in charge. For example: the floor is dirty so who is going to clean it. Mayor Kennis Lutz stated that the reason it has not been done yet is because the safe guards have not been installed yet. Kennis also stated that this is not a very big expense but minor expense and we need to take care of this so we can move forward and have people using this facility. Councilman Dave Jenkins expressed that we do need someone in charge because of safety issues. Cindy Butera stated that in the past there has always been a Council presents for guidance and would like that to continue and looking for volunteers for other or specific events. Cindy asks the Council what approval is needed to put on an event and what process would the Council require. Mayor Kennis Lutz said that it would depend on the event and might, at this time, be on a case by case deal. Councilman Don Jorgensen stated that either way, the Council would like to be informed of everything. Cindy's e-mail is [pralpine@gmail.com](mailto:pralpine@gmail.com).

**Councilwoman Marietta Lanhppear made a motion to have the safeguards taken care of at the Civic Center but not exceeding \$200.00. Councilman Dave Jenkins seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motioned carried.**

**Mayor Kennis Lutz recessed the public meeting for 10 minutes at 8:30pm. Mayor Lutz reconvened the public meeting at 8:45pm.**

**Celebration of Star Valley Independent 110 years old – Sarah Hale (Handout)**

The last week of January 2011, the Star Valley Independent sold 428 newspapers in the Town of Alpine. That number includes rack sales, which fluctuate week-to-week as well as regular subscribers. If the greater Alpine area is factored into that equation, including northern Etna, across the river to the Idaho border and up the canyon to Hoback Jct that number increases significantly. But tonight we are just talking about Alpine.

In 2010, the Star Valley Independent ran 162 stories about Alpine. Do the math and that equates to a little over three stories a week for the 52 week period. In addition to those 162 regular news stories, the Star Valley Independent also covered the 2010 sled dog race in Alpine, the Top of the Rockies Snow Rodeo and Poker runs, development of the skate park, visits to Alpine by political candidates and government officials on multiple occasions. Alpine Mountain Days, the Fourth of July Parade and festivities, the Friends of the Alpine Branch Library annual book drive and book sale and other library events, the Alpine Car Show, the Himalayan Festival,

the Memorial Day tribute presented by the Alpine American Legion, the Veteran's Day Breakfast, family movie night, the holiday gift basket program, the Alpine scouting for food drive and the Alpine Food Bank, the Alpine Police Department, the Alpine Fire Department and EMT fundraiser and the Alpine home show.

The Star Valley Independent has also covered a number of stories relating to the Greys River area, the Bridger-Teton National Forest, Star Valley Search and Rescue, the school board, the hospital board, the Lincoln County Commission, the Fire Wise program and host of other agencies and programs that have a direct and immediate impact on the Town of Alpine and its residents.

Our current subscription base is 3,500. That number increases by over a 1,000 between June and October. Starvalleyindependent.com receives an average of 30,000 page views a month. In addition, the Star Valley Independent can be accessed via Twitter and other social media outlets. The newest innovation at the Star Valley Independent is the addition of an image that can be scanned with a QR barcode scanner in you app store to access starvalleyindependent.com via your smart phone. (This is the part of the presentation where you oooo and ahhhh). You can also access starvalleyindependent.com via svimobile.com.

The Star Valley Independent has made community coverage a way of life for 110 years. We look forward to spending the next 110 years serving the people of Alpine and Star Valley.

**Emergency Resolution #330 – Ratify Bank Signature Authorization.** Due to unforeseen circumstances Mayor Kennis Lutz stated that this came up because there was not anyone available to sign check for payroll on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Beau Taylor made a motion to pass Emergency Resolution #330. Councilman Don Jorgensen seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion carried.**

**Resolution #331 – Bank Signature Authorization.** This resolution is to designate new signatories to conduct the Town's Banking and Financial Business.

The following people are authorized to conduct banking business for the Town including the signing of checks and other financial instruments on behalf of the Town.

1. Walter K. Lutz, Mayor
2. Pamela D. Poston, Town Clerk/Treasure
3. David Jenkins, Member of Town Council
4. James Dubisz, CPA, Town Accountant
5. Don Jorgensen, Member of the Town Council.

Mayor Kennis Lutz asked if any of the other Town Council member that would like to be on this resolution. Councilwoman Marietta Lanphear stated that at least one Elected Official is mandatory to be one of the two signatures.

**Councilwoman Marietta Lanphear made a motion to pass Resolution #331 with the addition that at least one elected official is mandatory to be one of the two signatures required. Councilman Beau Taylor seconded the motion.**

**Vote: 4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain. Motion carried.**

#### **Advertising Discussion – Tiphany Gayhart**

Tiphany stated that she would like to bring to the Councils attention that she has gone around to several businesses and different people over the last few years and there has been a very big concern about public information getting out and our public knowing what is going on. And after talking with a lot of people that live in our town, it seems that almost everyone reads the Jackson Hole Daily one way or another. It is free and people pick it up in the morning where it is available and read it at work, during their lunch time or whenever. So, she has gone to several people here in town, myself included, and see if there is something we can put together so that we had a regular

page every other week in the Jackson Hole Daily. The advertiser would pay for the page which comes to about a 1/3 of the costs. We would still advertise in the Star Valley Independent because that is our publication that everyone is used to but we could also publish it in the Jackson Hole Daily. We could place our calendar of events in this publication to let people know what is going on. She has gone to several businesses that are really excited about doing this and might be able to get them to pay for 75% of the costs. Public information is the key to our community going to grow. We have many public events that we do and just like Tim and Cindy with Parks and Rec who work very hard at putting on events. Come to find out they had a concert over at the Civic Center in January and only 3 or 4 people went. Tiphany said that she is very informed and is always on the Town web site looking to see what is going on and that she never saw anything on the web site about it. The Town web site is the key and public information about our town is the key. Tiphany introduced Adam Meyer with the Jackson Hole Daily.

Adam stated that he was glad to be at the Alpine Town Council meeting and representing the Jackson Hole Daily. He said that Tiphany contacted him in regard having a page in the Jackson Hole Daily and getting the public knowledge as well as advertising for the Town of Alpine. The Jackson Hole Daily is distributed all over the Teton Valley and Star Valley with a pretty wide readership area. Having a page in the Daily would help get the word out about events in the Town of Alpine, a calendar item as well as the Town Council information. Adam Meyer then presented a couple mockups of how the page could look in the Jackson Hole Daily. The plan would be to run it every other Thursday with information at the top of the page with advertiser support at the bottom. The advertising would cover some of the costs of this page and then the Town of Alpine would cover the remaining cost and would also have control over the top portion of the page. The cost would be a discounted non-profit rate for the town as well as a reduced rate for any advertisers. This would be anywhere from \$35.00 a week to \$108.00 per week with a 6 or 12 month commitment. Adam stated that he hoped the Town of Alpine would be willing to make this investment because the Town would control what would be written on this page and it would help get the work out to all communities. In a color scenario it would cost \$680.00 a month and black and white would be \$480.00 a month. This would cover the top 2/3 of the page. On an annual base the price would be \$8,800.00 for color and \$6,300.00 for black and white. Councilman Don Jorgensen asked that if we did the black and white normally but used the color for special events would that be possible and would we still get the special rate. Adam responded that yes, the Town could do black and white and then use color for special occasions. Tiphany stated that with the information she has gathered by talking to the people of the town and businesses, everyone would like to see the Town promoted in some way or another. She also stated that we need to get people to our town and we need to be a destination that people want to come to. With this distribution of the Daily and its wide range of readers, this will get the Town of Alpine out there and people will want to know more about it. Adam stated that the page would run every other Thursday with the ads of the business running Friday and Saturday as well. This would help get the advertisers out there more to the readers of the Jackson Hole Daily. Councilman Dave Jenkins stated that this is a very good thing but it is hard to make a decision without knowing our financial situation completely and if we can afford to do this or not. He also stated that this is a great idea but does not feel comfortable about voting on this until we know what the money situation is for our Town for the moment. Mayor Kennis Lutz stated that he doesn't believe that this is just information for us to explore our options but he is 100% behind on keeping the people informed but money is the Town's issue right now. Councilman Don Jorgensen stated that from a business owner's point of view I pick up a paper and not only does this tell people what is going on in Jackson and the services that are provided, but it would tell people what is going on in Alpine as well. He also stated he loves the idea but agrees that financially, nothing can be approved at this time. Jeff Atwood stated that he thinks that this is a great idea and that the Town should try to find the money because this would be a great investment. Mayor Kennis Lutz reminded everyone that this is a great idea and that the Council is all for it, but we need to go over the budget before any decisions can be made. Adam Meyer stated that this is a discounted price because he knows that this is Alpine and not Jackson where more business can be involved to lower the costs. Tiphany Gayhart stated that she is going to go out to other business and see if she just can't get more private flat donations to help offset the costs for the Town. She also stated that she has a few people in mind that might be willing to do donation to help our Town get up and going in the right direction. Mayor Kennis Lutz stated that there is a budget meeting coming up on the 15<sup>th</sup> and it can be brought up then to see where the advertising budget is. Councilman Dave Jenkins stated

that we need to take advantage of some of the free advertisement such as e-mailing information to anyone who would like to be on the Town list. Dave stated that another item that could be free would be a Town Facebook page where we could keep posting information about the Town and possibly placing some information in with the water bill that goes out monthly. He also stated that there are all of these ideas to take advantage of free advertising and that we can work toward more newspaper advertising for the Town. Mayor Kennis Lutz said that the newspaper is a great idea to move toward for those who do not get a water bill or are on Facebook.

### **Town Direction – Josh Floyd. (Read Statement)**

I would like to take this moment to thank the previous members of our administration and our new members of Town Council for their time and service to our community.

I come to you as a resident of Alpine with concerns as to the new direction the town is taking. Many of you are aware that as of late our Town Engineer, Town Attorney and Town Treasure/Clerk had been let go. While I understand it is the prerogative of the new Mayor to make changes, I have some concerns regarding these changes in personnel. I am curious to know why these changes were made, what were their criteria to fill the position and why were the personnel decision made with one Town Council member absent? I hope the Town Council can alleviate some of my concerns regarding our new appointees by shedding some light on the subject. First it is my understanding that there was no interview process. The new appointees were voted on behind closed doors with one of the council members not in attendance. The new appointees were approved by a 2 to 1 vote and it is my understanding that if all Council Members had been there to vote, the vote would have been tied 2 to 2. This would have caused the Mayor to vote on his own appointments. I would have liked to think that such an important matter as this would have been tabled until all members were in attendance and to open this matter up to some public discussion.

Second, I have some questions regarding our Town Attorney. I understand that our previous attorney was a financial burden for the town. However this is because previous administration deemed it necessary to use him as often as they did. He was only doing what was asked of him and I truly feel that he had the town's best interest at heart. I am not saying I agree with all of his opinions but the work he did for the town was sound. I do not know much about his replacement except that he has been retained in the past by the Alpine Business Alliance in efforts to change water and sewer regulations and to have a sewer improvement district formed. In my opinion, this borders on a conflict of interest by having an attorney that was lobbying on behalf of an organization, some of whose members are suing the town. How do we as a town feel about someone who at one time was lobbying the town on behalf of private business with regards to the sewer ordinance and sewer payment plan, now representing the town? It is also my understanding that at this time our new town attorney has yet to contact our previous attorney about files and or information pertaining to current affairs. This raised some questions that I would like that Town Council to address.

Third, our Town Engineer. In general I do not have any problems with our town engineering firm except for one item. In the past our engineering firm has done work for Sall Enterprises on a DEQ violation. It is my understanding that the information used to get the results needed by Sall in order to obtain their DEQ permit was undocumented. Meaning that the information was supplied by Sall Enterprises and not actually calculated by the engineers. While this would only be a problem should it ever be brought up in courts where we could possibly have our own town engineer defending the town against work done by our own town engineer, this could present a conflict of interest. I am curious to know what was wrong with our previous engineering firm and were other engineering firms consulted.

Last the Town Treasure/Clerk. This is the position that troubles me the most. It is my firm belief that the town has error in the firing of Terra Miller. I am of the opinion that Terra was the glue that helped hold this town together. She is a wealth of information, information that we hoped would be passed on to replacement during the three months in which she was to train her. When it was asked by the Mayor and Town Council why Terra was being fired we were assured that she was not being fired and that she would have her job for at least three more months. Despite this assurance, Terra was fired a week later. I have always found Terra to be professional and extremely well informed about town proceedings and protocol. Her only negative attribute was that maybe she could let her emotions show sometime but I think that is because she truly cared and at time was frustrated. Not

knowing much about her replacement, I Googled her and checked out her Facebook page, where it is clear that she is a patron of the Tavern on the Greys, which is owned by Sall Enterprises. While I firmly believe that where people go and what people do on their own time is of their own business. I am slightly concerned about the possible decimation of town information. We need to make sure that we have safeguards in place to keep certain town records secure.

These concerns lead me to a few questions. I am curious to know why every replacement seems to have some sort of connection with Sall Enterprises. The group that is suing the town right now. I would like to know if the town has written job descriptions for our employees and whether there is an employee handbook for town employees. I would also ask that the Council take a moment and talk to us, the residents of Alpine, about our new employees and the new direction the town is heading. It would benefit the town and the public that there be more transparency from our town government. More information would allow the residence of Alpine to form better opinions regarding the governing of our town. I am concerned that our town government is susceptible to influence by special interests. While some of the comments I have made will upset some people, and cause them to think me an agitator, I can assure you this is not my intent. I want nothing more than the different factions of this town to come together and work toward the common goal of making Alpine the best that it can be. Open and fair communication between the town government and its residence can only facilitate this process. We must always remember that the needs of the many outweigh the desires of the few.

Thank you for your time.

Mayor Kennis Lutz stated that he felt that this letter was more address to him and he would answer the questions asked the best that he can but there are certain things that he is not liberty to divulge in dealing with employees. Mayor Kennis states that when the Mayor is elected that Mayor is entitled to choose the heads of his department and the Clerk. These are the people that the Mayor would work directly with so there should be a good working relationship. If you are questioning the Town Attorney Gerald Goulding, I have a letter that can be reviewed that he wrote on whether or not he has a conflict of interest and I would trust his judgment when he says that he has not conflict with the Town. Gerald Goulding is a professional and would not put himself in a place that he would be in a conflict. The same is true about the Town Engineer. I spoke with Ryan Erickson in the Town Office and we discussed why I wanted him for the Town Engineer. I don't think that this is the forum to tell you why I did it but I will take the full responsibility for it. Anyone can ask Ryan Erickson what the conversation was about and why he was chosen but I cannot pass along confidential information on a meeting I had with him. My objective is to have a good working relationship with all of the departments. To question the integrity of the Clerk I don't think is fair. I found Pam through Climb Wyoming which is a State organization that help place single mothers in positions. I went to them and asked if they had anybody and could you help us out. That was my job and my right as being elected Mayor. Wish I could tell you all the ins and outs of the process I went through to determine these things because believe me it was not easy. My goal and what I was elected to do was to make changes and move forward with this Town and not have the same old, same old. This is what I intend to do. And by me appointing these positions, I was trying to make a change and trying to move us forward. There are some issues that went on with all three of these people and that is why I can to this decision because I did not see our attorney bills going down and I did not see the engineering go they I thought it should go. So don't blame the council it was me and I made the appointments.

Councilman Don Jorgensen stated that he would like to address on question and that was why the Council made the appointments without all the Council Members present. State statues requires 3 Council Members, that's 2 Council Members and the Mayor is a quorum and business is supposed to be conduct when you have a quorum. It was not intentional to leave someone out. That is the way our government works because you got to have majority to take care of business. If you do not have a quorum, then meeting has to be counseled, if you have a quorum then business goes on as usual.

Mayor Kennis Lutz stated that when elected, the appointments are time sensitive. If you do not make your appointment right away, then you are excepting those people as want you want for your employees. So that is why I was instructed by the Mayor handbook and the attorney to make my appointments as soon as possible otherwise you are ratifying the people that are already there and then you can't make different appointments without due cause.