

Special Commissioners Work Meeting
November 14, 2007
St. Anthony City Building

In attendance were Commissioner Don Trupp, Commissioner Paul Romrell, and Commissioner Skip Hurt.

Also in attendance were Attorney Karl Lewies, Treasurer Patricia McCoy, Planning & Building Administrator Jeff Patlovich and Deputy Clerk Suzanne Bagley was present to take minutes.

Representing the City of St. Anthony were Mayor Bill Beck, City Clerk Taci Stoddard, Council Members: Garth Rose, Dee Rausch, Matt Blanchard, David Loomis, Shawn Fransen, and City Attorney Bill Forsberg along with newly elected Council Members Bryan Fullmer, Elva Powell, Woody Anderson, and Bryan Stoddard.

Bryan Fuller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bill Beck welcomed everyone to the meeting, and turned the time over to Commissioner Romrell.

Commissioner Romrell opened the meeting and thanked everyone for contributing to the cloud seeding program. Commissioner Romrell stated that they currently have \$100,000.00 committed to this effort. The City of Idaho Falls and St. Anthony agreed to participate and thanked them for the support.

Commissioner Romrell made introductions and thanked all those in attendance for coming.

Commissioner Romrell hopes to set aside issues and hopes to have some open lines of communication and some positive and productive discussion.

Commissioner Romrell talked about the county paying water and sewer fees for all county buildings and stated the county will pay.

Commissioner Romrell wanted to talk about the benefits that the City is receiving from the County.

1. Courts- Commissioner Romrell stated that about 90% of the revenue of City tickets written go directly to the city. The county does not receive anything for processing these tickets. Commissioner Romrell gave several examples. The county cannot charge for services.
2. Dispatch Services- These services are paid by the taxpayer's revenue. It was stated that the city uses dispatch, but there are no fees.

Commissioner Romrell talked about the Ambulance service being taxed by the county.

Councilman Matt Blanchard asked how much of his tax money goes to the county.

Mayor Beck explained the process.

Councilman Matt Blanchard said he lives in the city. He has a business and feels he has to pay three times the fee at the landfill.

Councilman Dave Loomis stated as a citizen he feels that the taxes that he pays to the city would benefit both.

Mayor Beck addressed the court issues.

Commissioner Hurt stated that the commissioners were not here tonight to make money.

Commissioner Romrell talked about Economic Development. This used to be a shared expense. St. Anthony currently puts in \$2,000.00 for Economic Development. Ashton puts in \$3,000.00 for Economic Development and the county puts in \$28,000.00. Commissioner Romrell asked the question. Can the county justify this? Most of the Economic Development is in the cities, and can the county justify this to the taxpayers.

Councilman Dave Loomis commented that if one business is helped and revenue come in from that source, isn't that worth it.

In an earlier meeting between Mayor Beck and Commissioner Romrell the County was willing to extend an Olive Branch. It was discussed that if the City would be willing to buy a tanker or two of oil, and buy it at the rate that the county receives it, the county would be willing to help with some of the roads in the city.

City Clerk Taci Stoddard talked about the City applying for a grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 and had asked the county to contribute \$5,000.00 for the fixing of 12th west. This would not interfere with the county in applying for any grants with LTACH.

Mayor Beck explained to the new City Council members about LTACH and how none of the money can be used for engineering purposes.

Jim Hobbs asked if this was a use or lose grant.

Clerk Taci Stoddard stated that it was a use it or lose it grant.

Commissioner Romrell talked about the landfill. If the landfill were to test positive for contamination, then they will close the landfill, and that day is coming. Commissioner Romrell stated that the county is required to set aside \$600,000.00 in reserves for the closure of the landfill.

Commissioners stated that last week the \$5.00 or less charge was done away with at the landfill.

Councilman Matt Blanchard stated that he wished Darby Merrill were here. She was instrumental in the water metering of the buildings and could better explain the reason for this.

Commissioner Romrell asked if the courts or landfill fees should be assessed to the City.

Mayor Beck talked about the auditing system and if the city was indeed charging and collecting fees from everyone.

Commissioner Romrell stated that the county budget \$16,000.00 is for water fees this year.

Several council members stated that they just wanted to have a paper trail.

Councilman Dave Loomis did not care about what other counties did, but an actual breakdown that makes sense. Mr. Loomis stated that alot of people in this community are retired and live on limited incomes.

Mr. Loomis would like to make an argument for the \$28,000.00 that is being spent on economic development. In some respect if businesses can come into the county or not it will benefit us all. It is just like the cloud seeding program. It will benefit everyone.

Councilman Dee Rausch talked about a new Mayor or new council members that come in. They are not aware of what previously went on, there will be some kind of paper trail left.

Commissioner Hurt talked about the area of impact and the proposal that was brought by the city.

Councilman Blanchard is tickled that the County wants to help with the roads.

Mayor Beck talked about the history of the City and the County building when they all used to be together and as time went on there was a need for more room. Originally the jail was the City of St. Anthony's and the County took over. No water was ever charged. Mayor Beck stated that there is no record of any agreements. He also stated that he would hate to come on the council without a paper trail.

Bryan Fullmer stated that basically old wounds are being picked at and what they should be looking at is what is ahead of them.

Commissioner Romrell stated that we should move forward.

Woody Anderson talked about the contracts and agreements in the past and how most were done with a handshake or an agreement. Where new members are coming in it would be wise to have written agreements that would be helpful to all government agencies. He also stated that he has enjoyed working with the County. There is a need for written agreements to avoid problems so that these issues will stand on firm grounds.

Councilman Shawn Fransen stated that taxpayer money is going around in a loop, but agreements need to be made. There is a need to work together. Mr. Fransen admitted that he was part of the problem between the city and the county and has tried to work things out.

Commissioner Hurt asked if we legally can work through agreements to trade sewer for water. We do need to get this in writing, and we do need to get the advice from attorneys.

Jim Hobbs commented about the landfill and the cost to transfer was 4 ½ million. When it changes the whole community they will be shocked.

Councilman Shawn Fransen stated that the agreement can be changed.

Commissioner Trupp talked about the closing of the landfill in Teton County and the expense that they had to go through.

Karl Lewies as a resident is concerned with the roads and property values.

Boyd Yancy a former Mayor suggested to the Mayor that the city hire an engineer. 70%-80% of the roads need to be re-asphalted not resurfaced.

Economic Development Specialist Cathy Koon talked about the Transportation Department and there are no monies available.

Mayor Beck talked about an LID to fix the roads, but then you need \$200,000.00 a year to maintain them.

Attorney Karl Lewies stated that if the roads continue to decrease so will property taxes. Higher values will bring more revenue.

Mayor Beck wants help from the county.

Mayor Beck talked about the costs and a lot of things need to be considered when talking about roads and maintaining roads.

Attorney Karl Lewies stated until the streets are fixed Economic Development will suffer.

Commissioner Trupp stated that the offer is there.

Commissioner Romrell stated that Marla Vik went to some wonderful meetings in Boise and if we are living in a gravel pit then we need to use it to our advantage.

Treasurer Patricia McCoy commented that those who live on limited incomes the commissioners have taken off landfill fees. Each year \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 dollars are

forgiven in landfill fees and the commissioners are doing their very best to help the elderly.

Commissioner Romrell asked the city if there were any issues that they would like to discuss.

Councilman Garth Rose stated that he would like to meet quarterly and take these issues one by one.

Mayor Beck stated that he would like some figures put together from the county on landfill fees, court, and dispatch services. Mayor Beck stated that the county wanted to pay their way.

Brian Stoddard talked about meeting sooner than three months due to the fact that some of these items will need to be budgeted for.

Commissioner Trupp talked about landfill fees and the need for them.

Mayor Beck stated that Treasurer McCoy can help get these figures and will have a better idea where the city is with landfill fees.

Mayor Beck also commented on how the green lawn at the courthouse is nice, but the county could conserve a little.

Commissioner Romrell talked about the impact area, and wanted to explain why St. Anthony Motors was denied a permit to build a new building. Commissioner Romrell stated that this has not come to the commissioners and if it had they are in favor of economic development.

Mayor Beck stated this was a negotiation and not a demand regarding the impact area with the City.

Commissioner Hurt talked about what he would like to see done about the area of impact.

Attorney Karl Lewies stated that the commissioners would consider a proposal by the city if this is what the city wants, but if they are not sure, then the commissioners have a lot to do and they have a lot on their plates.

Councilman David Loomis agreed that this would be acceptable.

Mayor Beck stated service is not provided within the area of impact.

Attorney Bill Forsberg talked about the agreement and what it initially consisted of.

Mayor Beck stated that he would like the impact area be an even two miles.

Commissioner Hurt talked in depth about the impact area and the proposal from the city, and how it was going to be a dandy one.

Commissioner Romrell stated they heard from the public at the public hearing.

Mayor Beck stated that he felt that this was not properly advertised.

Commissioner Romrell asked if this could ever be annexed in his opinion.

Mayor Beck stated that yes. He felt that he could argue that Sugar City and Rexburg who are also growing have done this.

Commissioner Hurt asked if the impact area were to be a larger size, what it should be.

Attorney Bill Forsberg stated that Karl and he need to meet to have a wish list and he understood that the county was not interested in a larger wish list.

Mayor Beck stated that he did not want to force this on the County.

Commissioner Hurt stated that at the original meeting this was not talked about.

Attorney Bill Forsberg addressed the proposed development. The County would like to know what the area of impact would be, landowners, the city has no intention of having this be a concrete proposal.

Attorney Karl Lewies stated that it was clear that everyone is now on board maybe they could focus on this issue better.

Attorney Bill Forsberg would be happy to present a map.

Jim Hobbs asked if it would be possible for everyone to sit at the table and renegotiate.

Mayor Beck does not like the current LESA system as it is now and would be in favor of a larger area of impact. Nothing changes until there is a development.

Commissioner Hurt stated that as far as he was concerned there was no proposal.

Mayor Beck asked what they could do, possibly a map.

Commissioner's agreed that a map would be acceptable.

Attorney Bill Forsberg stated Judge Moss would be thrilled for the County and the City to be able to work things out.

Councilman David Loomis asked about the Fairgrounds property and was wondering if the commissioners had ever considered moving to a bigger area, a good full facility

possibly north of the Fall River. He would also like commissioners to reconsider taking a look at the liquor sales on Sunday issue and if the commissioners would consider allowing the commercial business to be open on Sunday. If there is would there be some way that the commissioners would allow this.

Mayor Beck talked about the rewrite of the liquor ordinance and feels the City should make the decision.

Commissioner Romrell stated that the people should contact their legislators if they would like these changes. He stated they will not change their position if they want to get signatures and put it on the ballot that would be one thing, but the people have already spoken.

Mayor Beck stated that the change needs to happen.

There being no further business to come before the board meeting was adjourned.

Paul Romrell, Chairman
Fremont County Commission

Attest: _____
Suzanne Bagley, Deputy Clerk