

**MINUTES
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2008
9:30 AM
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER
ALTA, UTAH**

The Mayor called the meeting to order. Mayor Tom Pollard and Council members Steve Gilman, Dave Richards and Cliff Curry were present. Paul Moxley was excused.

1. Discussion with possible approval of the 2007-2008 Fiscal Audit for the Town of Alta – Alawna Echols, Hansen Barnett & Maxwell

The Mayor informed the public that the Town of Alta financial records are audited every year as required by state law. The report is a long and detailed review of the financial activity of the Town of Alta. Alawna thanked the staff of the Town for their cooperation during the audit process. Alawna reviewed and highlighted certain sections of the audit which included the following: the audit report on the financial statements, management discussions and analysis, the financial statements which are followed by notes that explain the different accounting policies, required supplementary information which includes the budget to actual revenues and expenditures, supplementary reports that are required to be issued which includes that state compliance report, and report on internal controls.

The Mayor mentioned that the reason that the Town's cash decreased was due to the Town of Alta contribution to the State Retirement System, the pay back of two years for all full time employees, and the additional legal fees paid out over the course of the last fiscal year.

The Mayor also addressed the internal control issues. The Town has an accounting staff of two and as result, some duties overlap.

The Mayor thanked Alawna and H B & M for their efforts and called for a motion.

There was a motion by Dave Richards to approve the 2007-2008 fiscal audit for the Town of Alta as submitted. There was a second by Steve Gilman and the motion was carried.

2. Mayor's Report

The Mayor announced that as of November 21st the Alta Ski Lift opened the mountain for the season.

The Mayor reported that the majority of the month was tied up with meetings and discussions on transportation issues. On November 17th the Mayor attended a meeting with the Salt Lake County Transportation Committee where the discussion centered on

the distribution of the funding that Little Cottonwood Canyon received from the County Council. A postcard will be distributed which encourages people to ride public transportation and also outlines the bus routes. There was also discussion on how the county plans on handling traffic control at the bottom of the canyon when the road is temporarily closed. The Mayor reminded that anyone can receive information on these closures via text message and the AM530 radio.

UTA will start running their full schedule up the canyon on December 14th. The Mayor encouraged everyone to use this service as much as possible.

On December 1st Rep. Matheson held a session where he explained the federal appropriations process and how to apply for funds from the federal government. All the partners in the canyon are having discussions on putting an appropriations request together for public safety improvements on the canyon road. The deadline for these requests is February 1, 2009.

The Mayor attended the monthly UFA meeting. The annual budget was the focus of discussion at the last meeting.

The Mayor announced that the Wasatch Powderbird Guide Special Use Permit is up for review and comments are being accepted through the Forest Service. The guide service has requested a 10 year permit instead of a five year permit. The Mayor asked the Council for approval for the Town to write a letter of support based on the fact that Powderbird Guides helps this community by providing avalanche control when needed and assistance with rescue attempts. The Council gave approval to write this letter to the Forest Service.

On December 2nd and 3rd KUED ran a very nice piece called the "Alta Experience".

On December 4th, the Mayor and staff attended the annual legislative luncheon. At that meeting the Mayor was asked to discuss proposed changes to GRAMA laws. The Mayor explained that when cities and towns deal with the frequent requestors, there are a lot of costs that cannot be recouped. We are looking at ways to address this situation.

The Mayor reported that the Town received five bids for the antimony treatment project. All five bids came in under the engineer's estimate. After careful review and weighting of all proposals by Keith Hansen, Steve McIntosh, and Thayne Clark the Town's engineer, it was recommended that the Town award the bid to Pureflow Filtration Division. They met all design specifications including the fact that their design will fit into the existing water building without any renovations to the existing building. The cost of the treatment plant/media should fit within the money allocated by the state legislature for this project. If all goes as planned, the treatment plant should be installed and operational by the end of the summer of 2009.

The Mayor announced that there is a new Forest Service district ranger, Kathy Kalow. We will be inviting her to attend a future Town Council meeting.

The next Town Council meeting will be held on January 8, 2009.

3. Treasurer's Report

Marcus Dippo read the monthly report which attached to the minutes.

Hearing no comments or questions, there was a motion by Steve Gilman to approve the monthly treasurer's report as submitted. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried.

4. Departmental Reports

Town Administrator's Report: John reported on the three lawsuits.

John reported that the Town issued 15 building permits over the course of this summer and collected \$14,000 in fees, one percent of which goes to the State of Utah.

John researched Ginny Marie's question on the ownership of the road to her home near Hellgate Condos. He found that the road is a private road.

John updated the Council on the recent recording on the AM530 radio at the bottom of the canyon which highlighted the "goings on" at Antelope Island. The DOT is working on correcting the recording to reflect a message that pertains to the canyon.

The Town has renewed its contract with the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office for funding for Alta Central operations.

John reported that many airlines are imposing surcharges on ski and boot bags. The Mayor stated that many of his guests ship their skis and boots or rent ones after they arrive.

John reported on the Wilderness meeting that was held on December 1, 2008.

The Alta Planning Commission met on December 9, 2008. The Commission began discussion on the sub-division ordinance and reviewed ideas for a future planning study.

January 28, 2009 is the local official's day at the state legislature. All members of the Council are invited to attend.

Marshal's Report:

Mike Morey reported that local residents near the golden triangle will be issued a pass for their cars and there will be passes available for essential personnel in the canyon.

Mike attended the annual Wasatch Backcountry Rescue meeting and the Town and Alta Central were asked to take a larger role in state wide avalanche reporting. There will be a follow up meeting on this matter.

Mike reminded everyone that winter parking regulations have gone into effect in the Town of Alta. All over night parking must be on the north side of Highway 210 between the signs.

Mike reminded everyone that the speed limit in the Town of Alta is 25 mph.

Mike also reminded people that in addition to the Forest Service regulations that are in place of OSV users in the Grizzly and Albion Basin, the Town's regulations for snowmobiles and snow cats allows for necessary travel only between businesses and to and from residences. Onno explained that midday use of OSV is only between the hours of 12:00 noon to 2:30 pm and the basin OSV owners will have a different marking system that displays a number on a flag that is attached to that OSV. Also, registered owners may travel on the designated routes between the hours of 5:00 pm in the afternoon and 8:30 am and travel must be completed by this time.

AVB Report:

Susan Ragsdale reported on the most recent Ski Utah Board meeting hosted by Solitude. There were many compliments on the Alta Experience documentary recently aired on TV. Susan briefed the Council on Ski Utah's web update. Susan will be meeting with their web expert to review how AVB can maximize what its spending on this type of advertising. Ski Utah also gave a PR update for those in attendance which included the success of the Fat Flake Festival, the local contests that they are running and a contest in Powder Magazine.

Susan reported on the Ski Utah media roundtable luncheon with local meteorologists. Ski Utah would like to focus on Utah's connection with international weather channels and meteorologists.

Susan reported on her meeting with some Alta representatives as well as Snowbird group sales personnel to discuss informing the SLVCB about lodging options in Alta for overflow guests from Snowbird during the off season (summer). Susan will be putting together a packet of information on this program.

The call volume has increased quite a bit and the online reservation form offered on the AVB website seems to be helping the lodging facilities in town.

Next Tuesday the 16th of December AVB will be having their monthly meeting where Susan will be reviewing the balance of funds available for marketing this year, the Alta video and the committee's recommendations if any on changes/ expansion of that video, up to date stats on AVB's call volume and web site, and better tracking methods.

Susan is exploring the option of distributing another postcard depicting the same picture as it appears on the brochure.

Mike Morey reviewed the operation of the AM530 radio.

5. Discussion with possible approval of the following items:

a. Approval of Minutes – November 13, 2008 –

There was a motion by Steve Gilman to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2008 Town Council meeting. There was a second by Cliff Curry. Hearing no comments, questions, or discussion, the Mayor called for a vote on the motion and the motion was carried.

b. Resolution 2008-R-8 – A resolution adopting the Natural Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. The Mayor explained that this resolution addresses the cooperative effort throughout the County of Salt Lake to be a part of a pre-disaster mitigation plan. There was concern expressed that this plan did not address the issue of avalanches in the canyon. Claire reported that the plan addresses seven or eight hazards that could occur in the County and an avalanche did not make the cut. But, she assured the Council, avalanche is listed under the severe weather category in this plan. It is also listed as a secondary effect as it relates to earthquakes. The Mayor explained that the purpose of this resolution is to be part of the entire County plan and good increase our ability to obtain federal funding should a disaster occur.

Hearing no further discussion on this matter, there was a motion by Dave Richards to approve resolution 2008-R-8 adopting the Natural Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. There was a second by Steve Gilman. The Mayor called for a vote on the motion and the motion carried.

c. Resolution 2008-R-9 – A resolution endorsing the Regional Growth Principals for Transportation and Land Use for Salt Lake County. The Mayor introduced Val Halford from Wasatch Regional Council who was asked to address this matter. Mr. Halford explained that these growth principals grew out of the fact that the Wasatch Front cannot continue to grow in the same fashion as it has in the past. This was the first attempt at looking at the land use side which generates the travel demand along the Wasatch Front and dove tailed that with transportation infrastructure. The roads themselves in the valley have not changed since Brigham Young laid them out years ago. Mr. Halford explained that what has changed is the land use bordered by these roads. It is his opinion that it is time to match the investment that will be made over the next 27 years (over 23 billion dollars) in transportation improvements on both the highways and transit side with land use.

Mr. Halford explained that because the Regional Council is not in the business of land use and planning, they are looking to the communities along the “Front” to help increase density where it makes sense, to provide transit oriented development, and to incorporate mixed use corridors where applicable. Mr. Halford realizes that these concepts might not be applicable in the Town of Alta but they are applicable in the Salt Lake Valley. Mr. Halford handed out a vision map.

They are looking to all the cities and towns along the Wasatch Front to take a look at and adopt in some fashion the growth principals proposed by the Regional Council. The adoption of those growth principals could be in the form of a resolution, a policy statement or even part of the community’s General Plan. It was pointed out that the vision map had the canyon road listed as a regional trail. Mr. Halford will look into this issue.

Mr. Halford stated that a federal mandate requires that the “Plan” be kept fresh so they are already looking at an update to this plan with a target date of 2011 for its adoption.

The Regional Council is trying to become more involved in the way communities develop over the years in part to help with transportation system. Mr. Halford feels by adopting these growth principals, we can increase transit use by 16%, reduce congestion by 18% and over the next forty years save about 23 square miles of developable land. They are projecting that between now and the year 2030 the Salt Lake County will grow from about 898,000 to 1.6 million people. Congestion will most certainly follow.

The Mayor felt that the Town of Alta and Little Cottonwood Canyon road does not qualify under these scenarios but what has become important in the last year is the impact of the infrastructure at the bottom of the canyon and getting to the canyons from the valley. The Town would like to become more involved in the planning issues in the valley and as those issues relate and impact the road in this canyon.

Mr. Halford felt that if communities and the county implement these goals and principals and the strategies behind them, it will greatly improve our mobility and our ability to afford future transportation systems. He recommended that these growth principals be incorporated as part of the permitting process or as part of the General Plan when the Town updates its plan. Short of one of those two approaches he recommended that some sort of endorsement from the Town of Alta would be appreciated. There is no timetable for the Town and Steve Gilman suggested that the Council bring this issue up at the January meeting so the Council might have a chance to review the information handed out at this meeting. The Mayor suggested that action on this resolution be tabled at this time.

Dave Richards asked how the concept of the avalanche sheds could move up the list of transportation needs. Mr. Halford commented that avalanche sheds are a bit out of his bailiwick but he thought an environmental assessment would be required before anything could begin to break loose and some type of study would have to be undertaken. Because this is out of his purview, Mr. Halford said he would look into this question and get back to the Mayor and Council.

- d. Resolution 2008-R-10 – A resolution adopting the Corridor Management Plan for the Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways. The Mayor introduced Robin Hutcheson, a planner from Fehr Peers. A final draft of the “Plan” was distributed to the Town Council for their review. Ms. Hutcheson reviewed the background of this planning project. A year and a half ago several entities, which included the Town of Alta, received funds from the National Scenic Byways Program to do a corridor management plan and an interpretative plan. Part of this study was to determine whether or not the canyon road should be designated as a National Scenic Byway. Ms. Hutcheson explained that there are two issues before the Town Council today: the first is to review and decide whether the Town of Alta will adopt of Corridor Management Plan and the second is to update the Town Council on the progress in designating highways 210 as a National Scenic Byway. Ms. Hutcheson reiterated that the Corridor Management Plan is not a regulatory document and does not supersede any other plan that the Town of Alta has in place. The Plan is a vision for how the Town of Alta wants to improve the traveler and visitor’s experience along the existing state highway in the canyon. The Plan also sets how ways to preserve the visual quality and experience that people enjoy coming to Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. It was also explained that there is nothing in the Plan that will be enacted and put into law.

Ms. Hutcheson explained that the Plan takes the work of the stakeholders over the last year and a half, summaries their work, and sets forth a list of projects that will fulfill the strategies that the stakeholders have come up with to improve the visitor’s experience. Robin read a partial list of projects that were proposed by the stakeholders: establish a scenic byways committee to decide which projects to move forward with and fund, an economic study for summer time transit, preparing a transit plan to improve service, preparing a transportation demand management plan to give people options on how they travel, circulation at gateways plan, and a visitors center at the mouth of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Robin mentioned that these were but a few of the recommendations and reminded the Council that the National Scenic Byways Program provides funding for these types of programs.

The Mayor reiterated that Little Cottonwood Canyon is already a state Scenic Byway and believes that this Plan gives all the stakeholders more options for funding opportunities as we move forward. The highway 210 Plan was used as a generation of this Plan.

There was a motion made by Mayor Tom Pollard to approve Resolution 2008-R-10 which adopts the Corridor Management Plan for the Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways. There was a second by Steve Gilman. The Mayor opened the floor to further discussion on this matter.

Cliff Curry commented that the Plan is an impressive piece of work and feels that the goals and strategies are ones that everyone would like to promote. He asked if this Plan would be an adjunct to the actual application. That was confirmed by Robin. Cliff also asked if the Plan needed to be approved before the application was submitted to the federal government. Robin confirmed that for the nomination packet to be submitted to the federal government, the Plan does need to be approved. Cliff also asked to what extent, by adopting this Plan, is the Town of Alta committing itself to some of the specific details in the Plan. Robin explained that the Town of Alta is only committed as the next grant that the Town writes to get money for a specific project that is outlined in the Plan. She explained that the choice is the Town's who will be represented on the Scenic Byways Committee. Salt Lake County and Cottonwood Heights City are the two other public entities that will have to adopt this Plan for it to move forward as part of the application and Robin explained that Cottonwood Heights has adopted the Plan and the County has indicated they will adopt it as well.

The Mayor called for a vote on the motion. The vote was unanimous with all those present voting in favor and the motion was carried. Paul Moxley was absent.

6. Citizen Input

Jen Clancy from Friends of Alta commended Onno and the Alta Ski Lifts for formalizing the Alta Environmental Center which has set out to protect and improve Alta's environment. Jen also announced that the Alta Gala will be held on March 21 2009 and is a collaborative fund raiser for the Alta Community Enrichment, the Alta Historical Society and the Friends of Alta. The fund raiser will be saluting the Alta Ski Lifts on their 70th anniversary.

Mark Haik brought to the Town Council's attention a 2002 memo from Leroy Hooten to then Mayor Rocky Anderson regarding the Town of Alta's water contract. In that memo Mr. Hooten outlines the 2001 meeting with former Mayor Levitt regarding the water the Shrontz Estate acquired under a 1975 agreement with John Cahill. Mr. Haik reviewed the content of this memo which mentioned, in part, that as a result of the assignment of water to the Shrontz Estate through this 1975 agreement, the Town's contract with Salt Lake City would be reduced. Haik asked that the Town investigate what happen at the aforementioned meetings and what amount of water the Town currently has pursuant to the contract with Salt Lake City. Mr. Haik also requested that the minutes of the Town Council meetings during this period of time be reviewed to determine if former Mayor Levitt reported on this matter to the Town Council or the public at large. Mr. Haik felt that the amount of water in the contract

with Salt Lake City goes to the heart of the antimony treatment plant in as much as if the Town has in fact less water, the Town has oversized the proposed treatment plant. Mr. Haik also felt that if in fact the Town does not have enough water in its contract to supply water to any future development that might be addressed in this study.

Mr. Haik feels that the Town staff should prepare a report on the section of the main road that intersects the Town's boundary, more specifically Town staff should report on the width of the right of way and the private party parcels that intersect the right of way and the base facilities zone.

Onno Wieringa commented that \$ 7,000,000 tourism budget recommended by the Governor is just that, a recommendation. Onno encouraged everyone to push the legislature to make sure that the tourism industry receives that seven million. Onno also asked if the Town of Alta is anticipating any budget reductions or adjustments in the near future.

Onno commented on the OSV permitted use in the Albion Basin and Grizzly areas. Onno opined that snowmobile travel, even if it is allowed, is only allowed from private property to the nearest trail head and not necessarily to an optional destination.

The Ski Lifts is paying close attention to the wilderness proposal and Onno mentioned that the Lifts have drafted its own map. Onno commented that the Ski Lift map focuses on maintaining a nice wide transportation corridor through the canyon so whatever comes up as a result of this debate; there is enough room to maintain the right of way. The Ski Lifts is asking for a modification to the existing wilderness to pull it back to be wide enough so visions of future transportation are not hamstrung by the existing wilderness nor by wilderness proposal.. The Ski Lifts is also asking that there be no overlap of the proposed new wilderness that would come over from Big Cottonwood Canyon and over lap into Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Onno reminded everyone that UTA ski bus service starts in earnest on December 15th. Information about the schedules may be obtained on UTA web site.

Hearing no further business before the Town Council, there was a motion by Dave Richards to adjourn the meeting. There was a second by Cliff Curry and the motion was carried.

The minutes of this meeting were passed and approved by the Alta Town Council this _____ day of _____, 2008

Katherine S.W. Black
Town Clerk

MAJOR BILLS PAID

Payroll	\$46,607.27
Payroll Taxes	\$17,347.92
Attorneys	\$21,304.71
Audit	\$10,609.37
Inspectors	\$6,235.24
Utah Retirement Contributions	\$6,080.27
Health, Dental and Life Insurance	\$9,665.94
Plan Checks	\$556.00
AVB Promotions	\$5,500.00
Other Town Bills	\$17,566.40
Total	\$141,473.12

MAJOR REVENUES RECEIVED

Sales Tax/ Resort - September	\$33,269.77
Sales Tax/ Uniform - September	\$6,138.04
Property Tax	\$160,615.70
Post Office Contract	\$1,166.67
Business and Liquor Licenses	\$1,154.00
Court Fines	\$286.00
Energy Taxes	\$1,576.95
Dog Licenses	\$55.00
Building Permits	\$299.06
Other Revenue	\$190.00
Total	\$204,751.19
General Fund Checking	\$98,287.66
General Fund Savings	\$192,367.79