

PUBLIC HEARING
NOVEMBER 10, 1997

PRESENT

Don Dafoe	Mayor
Gayle Bunker	Council Member
Robert Droubay	Council Member
Dale Roper	Council Member
Glen Swalberg	Council Member

ABSENT

Robert Dekker	Council Member
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OTHERS PRESENT

Dorothy Jeffery	City Recorder
Deb Greathouse	City Librarian
Greg Schafer	City Employee
Derin Phelps	Millard County Chronicle/Progress
Ruth Hansen	City Resident
Kurt Crosby	KNAK Radio
Library Board Members	

Mayor Dafoe called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. Dorothy Jeffery, City Recorder acted as Secretary. Mayor Dafoe stated that notice of the meeting time, place, and agenda was posted at the principal office of the governing body, located at 76 North 200 West, and was provided to the Millard County Chronicle/Progress, KNAK Radio, and to each member of the City Council, at least two days prior to the meeting.

Mayor Dafoe explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public comment regarding the proposed expansion of the Delta City Library. Mayor Dafoe advised those present that an architectural sketch of the proposed library expansion was available for review at the meeting and explained details of the proposed expansion project. The proposed expansion would approximately triple the size of the current library. Mayor Dafoe also noted that the project would cost approximately \$450,000, which includes remodeling of the old library facility and construction of the addition. The cost estimate does not include furnishings or book stacks.

Mayor Dafoe noted that this Public Hearing is being held in order to satisfy application requirements for a request for funding of the library expansion from the Community Impact Board. There are three options available from the Community Impact Board; they can give us a grant, a combination grant/low interest loan, or a low interest loan (3-4%).

Mayor Dafoe also explained that the final payment on the General Obligation Bond used to finance construction of the present Delta City Building, which houses the current library, will be made in April or May, 1998. One option that is available to Delta City, if a low interest loan is obtained for construction of the library expansion, would be to have a general bond election to roll the funds being used to pay for the current Delta City Building into construction of the library expansion. This would either not increase, or create a very slight increase in property taxes. The current levy is approximately 2 mil.

Another source of funding which is being considered is a Community Development Block Grant. This item will be considered in the City Council meeting which will follow this Public Hearing. Each year the federal government allocates monies which are distributed to each state, and ARE passed on to the rural areas of Utah. Delta City is a member of the Six County Association of Governments, which has approximately \$103,000 available for Millard County. At this time, there are no other projects planned for Millard County which are applying for use of the funding. If the funding allocated to Millard County is not used, it will be given to one of the other counties. One possible drawback in obtaining this funding is that Davis-Bacon wages must be paid, which could possibly be higher than what the local wage scale is. However, in checking the information received in the application packet, these wages are quite close to the local wage scale.

Ruth Hansen noted that the library is operated by Delta City, but it is used by all of west Millard County and feels that emphasis should be given to that fact when applying for funding. Mayor Dafoe advised those present that Millard County has agreed to provide some funding for the proposed expansion, although the dollar amount is not known at this time.

Kurt Crosby asked what had brought on the library expansion project. Mayor Dafoe responded that, prior to the construction of the existing City Building, Delta City rented space on Main Street that had a small room which was used for the library and for City Council meetings. When the new City Building was being planned for construction, Ruth Hansen, former Mayor and City Council Member, pursued the idea of constructing a good library in the new building. When the new building was constructed, the current library was built as a part of the building. Over the past fifteen years, we have outgrown the present library, which is the reason for the proposed expansion project.

Mr. Crosby questioned why there was a feeling that we have outgrown the present library, because he has not noticed any crowding problems. Mayor Dafoe responded that we feel that there is insufficient space in the current library due to upgrading of the number of books in the library. There is currently no additional room on the shelves in the library. In addition, Mayor Dafoe noted that, if a library patron comes into the library at 4:00 p.m., when school is out, there will be many people, mostly students, using the reference materials in the library. The existing library is often quite crowded.

Mr. Crosby expressed his feeling that technology should be taken into consideration, such as Governor Leavitt's attempt to put universities on the internet. He questioned whether technology should be improved rather than continuing to build up books. He suggested that, if the City Council is ready to go forth with construction, perhaps the funding could be obtained through

volunteer contributions rather than through taxes; this way, anybody who really wants the library expansion and has the funds available, could contribute voluntarily.

Mayor Dafoe responded that there would be very little, if any, tax increase for funding the library expansion.

City Librarian Deb Greathouse responded that she currently has no room on the library shelves for children's books. Last year, the Delta City Library received a \$10,000 grant to purchase adult non-fiction books, which have been put on the shelves and there is no additional space available. Along with technology, there is currently one computer in the library used for the internet, but there is no space available to expand that capability, either. There is no space available for another computer. The plans for the library expansion include room for computer stations.

There was a question regarding whether or not a larger library would include being open more hours during the day. Mayor Dafoe noted that there are currently plans for the Bookmobile library to be open for checking out Bookmobile books during the morning hours. There could be further discussion of hours of operation.

Derin Phelps asked whether the 5,000 square feet of the expansion would include the existing library area, or would the 5,000 square feet be in addition to the existing library. Mayor Dafoe clarified that the 5,000 square feet would be in addition to the existing library area.

Kurt Crosby asked if there is a possibility of making the library expansion a voluntary donation project rather than using tax monies to pay for the expansion. Mayor Dafoe and the Council Members answered that they would welcome any contributions, but the time frame during which we are attempting to complete the expansion would preclude using only contributions. It would likely take more than one year to obtain funding on the voluntary basis. Council Member Dale Roper mentioned that Delta City had attempted to obtain voluntary funding for the electronic sign, which was recently installed. It proved to be very difficult and took over a year to obtain \$15,000. Council Member Dale Roper suggested that community groups may have more success in raising voluntary donations than Delta City would have.

Kurt Crosby stated that, in Pleasant Grove, they put a sign on Main Street requesting donations for the City Park, showing the amount of money raised to date, and when the monies required were received, the park improvements were completed.

Council Member Dale Roper asked who initiated the donations; i.e., the city government or community groups.

Mr. Crosby did not know who had initiated the project.

Mayor Dafoe noted that donations could be requested for purchase of additional book stacks and furnishings.

Council Member Glen Swalberg stated that, many years ago, when funds were being raised for a medical facility, they spent years and years attempting to get local voluntary donations and ended up obtaining funding from other sources because the money could not be raised from local donations, even though it was a very good cause. At the end of the fund raising program, many people expressed the opinion that they would rather have been taxed than to have to come up with the money voluntarily. A small community the size of Delta has a very difficult time raising funds. However, Pleasant Grove has one of the highest percentages of millionaires of any city that size in Utah, so it is an entirely different situation there than in small, rural communities like Delta.

Council Member Robert Droubay felt that the voluntary contribution concept was good and should be explored, but noted that, attempting to raise \$450,000, plus furnishings, in a matter of ten years could be difficult to accomplish. In addition, he noted that the library has been crowded for ten years and if construction of an expanded facility is put off another ten years, at that point, the need may be entirely different. Council Member Robert Droubay expressed his feeling that the library expansion should be pursued as soon as possible and felt that Delta City should pursue CDBG grants, or any other funding which does not require taxation, and we could also explore the possibility of raising some community funds.

A question was raised as to whether the library would be useable during construction, or whether it would be relocated during construction. Mayor Dafoe answered that we would utilize the existing library while doing the new construction. After construction of the addition is completed, the book stacks would be moved into the new area, while remodeling is taking place in the existing library, so the library would remain open during construction. There may be some inconveniences during the construction, but the library would be accessible.

Mayor Dafoe asked if there were any other comments. Council Member Glen Swalberg said that the library has reached the point now where it is not fulfilling the needs of the people who utilize it. Mayor Dafoe added that if Millard County provides some funding for the library expansion, the library card charge for County residents would be eliminated.

One person in attendance noted that she lives outside the Delta City limits and pays for a library card and has on several occasions, come to the library looking for a book which was not available. The books can be obtained on an inter-library loan, but the library patron requesting the book is required to pay the shipping and it cannot be checked out for any additional time. If the library were larger, more books would be available without inter-library loans.

Mr. Crosby expressed his concern that he or somebody else be required to pay for the library because other people vote to make everyone pay for the library.

Mayor Dafoe reported that we presently have a Library Trust Fund which has a balance of approximately \$30,000, the largest share of which was donated by Ruth Hansen. Ms. Hansen noted that there are a lot of things which she pays for, through taxes, which she is not at all interested in, but she does not object to paying for it because it adds to the community and the services available, which makes this a nice place for people to live. As an example, the athletic

program which Millard County, more or less, subsidizes means nothing to her, as an individual, but as a resident of the community, it is important. The same thing would apply to the library. The library is important to her, and it may not be to you or somebody else, but it is an important part of the community and we should be willing to support it.

Kurt Crosby asked how much it costs to run the library, per year, over and above the money brought in as fines. Mayor Dafoe answered that the library is funded as a part of the Delta City General Budget and is funded from revenues raised by Delta City as property taxes, sales taxes, etc. The annual budget for the library is \$89,491, \$55,000 of which is salaries for one full time person and three part time persons. It also includes health insurance on the full time person. Approximately \$16,000 is spent on books and office supplies. Not all of these expenses are paid from taxes. There are library fines and several grants which are received. There is a public service development grant which amounts to approximately \$4,500 per year; we received two grants in the past year: a technology upgrade grant which allowed upgrade of the library computer system and a \$10,000 grant for upgrading the non-fiction sections. In addition, there is interest on the library trust fund which can be used to purchase books.

Mr. Crosby asked if there are any volunteers. Mayor Dafoe answered that the Library Board is volunteer. Mr. Crosby asked if they work in the library; Mayor Dafoe answered that they serve in an advisory capacity and do not work in the library.

Mr. Crosby asked how much has been spent to date on plans, etc. Mayor Dafoe answered that \$16,000 has been spent for architect fees, up to and including bid specifications.

Derin Phelps asked if the \$16,000 is included in the \$450,000. Mayor Dafoe responded that the \$16,000 is separate from the \$450,000. Librarian Greathouse noted that there are some items included in the \$450,000 bid estimate which are going to be done by Delta City Public Works employees and will reduce the total cost.

Derin Phelps asked how long it would take to find out whether the CDBG grant is approved. Mayor Dafoe answered that the application is submitted to the Six County Association of Governments by December 1st. At that point, the Six County Association of Governments takes action to approve the application and, if approved, it is forwarded to the CDBG administrators at the State level for final approval. We would probably know by the end of December whether we will receive the CDBG grant. For funding from the Community Impact Board, the application is submitted to the Six County Association of Governments and, once approved by them, is forwarded to the Permanent Community Impact Board, who meet three times each year for the purpose of approving funding. The next funding meeting is about December 15, 1997 and our application will probably not be ready for them to act on at that time. Action on our application will probably be taken sometime in early Spring, 1998.

The work now being done on the library expansion is all preliminary. We are just now beginning to obtain funding for the project and the start of the construction phase will be determined by when the funding package is secured. Construction cannot begin prior to knowing where all the funding is coming from.

Mayor Dafoe stated that he believes the library expansion project is a worthwhile project and believes that it will be a great benefit to the West Millard County area as well as Delta City. Council Member Glen Swalberg voiced his support of the Mayor's statement. Council Member Dale Roper expressed his support of community groups becoming involved and attempting to raise funds toward the project.

Kurt Crosby suggested that the Mayor and Council Members could donate their monthly salary from Delta City towards the library expansion project and challenge other residents to match their donation.

Mayor Dafoe asked if there were any other comments. There being no additional comments, Mayor Dafoe declared the public hearing adjourned at 6:55 p.m.


DON DAFOE, Mayor


DOROTHY JEFFERY, City Recorder

MINUTES APPROVED: RCCM 12-08-97