

CITY OF DELTA, UTAH  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MAY 5, 2011

PRESENT

Gayle Bunker  
Bruce Curtis  
John Niles  
Tom Stephenson  
Betty Jo Western

Mayor  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member  
Council Member

ABSENT

Robert Banks  
Alan Riding

Council Member  
Public Works Director

ALSO PRESENT

Todd Anderson  
Gregory Jay Schafer  
Jane Beckwith  
Lorie Skeem  
Lorelei Draper  
Margie Thomas  
Linda Mabbutt  
Scott & Claudia Bassett  
Deb Greathouse  
DeAnne Peterson  
Steve Pratt  
Michael Sloan  
Jean Crafts  
Rondo Grimshaw

City Attorney  
City Recorder  
Topaz Museum Board  
Delta Area Chamber of Commerce  
City Resident  
City Resident  
City Resident  
Topaz Museum Board  
City Librarian  
City Resident  
City Resident  
Chronicle/Progress  
City Resident  
City Resident

Mayor Bunker called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. He stated that notice of the public hearing time, place and agenda had been posted in the City Building and on the Utah Public Meeting Notice web site and had been provided to the Millard County Chronicle/Progress and to each member of the City Council at least two days prior to the meeting.

Mayor Bunker stated that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comment regarding a grant application to be submitted to the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board for construction of a community center and Topaz Museum.

Mayor Bunker indicated that the West Millard Museums and Community Center organization has been dissolved and is no longer functioning. In January, 2011 information was received that there was grant money available from the National Park Service which was earmarked to be used for Japanese Internment Camp information. Topaz Museum Board has made application for funding from this source. The National Park Service felt that constructing a facility to house both Topaz Museum and a Community Center would be a good partnership. Topaz Museum Board expects to receive definitive information sometime in May whether their project has been approved for funding. If Topaz Museum receives funding from the National Park Service, Delta City needs to apply for grant funds for the community center portion of the facility and is planning to request funds from the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB).

The proposed facility has been downsized from 27,000 square feet to 15,000 square feet and construction will cost approximately \$3,000,000. The National Park Service Grant should be approximately \$2 million, so we will be asking CIB for an additional \$1 million. If the National Park Service Grant is not received, we will not be requesting funds from CIB. However, in order to obtain funds from CIB, we must submit our application by June 1<sup>st</sup>, with a public hearing held prior to making application, so we cannot wait until we hear from the National Park Service to begin the process of applying for CIB funding.

Mayor Bunker opened the public hearing to comment from the public.

Jane Beckwith, Topaz Museum Board, stated that a number of people have been working on the museum project for quite a long time and advised those in attendance that she had been invited to bring art done at Topaz Japanese Internment Camp to Springville Museum last summer. The director of the Springville Art Museum told her that was the best show he had ever had and it attracted people from as far away as California. Just recently the Pioneer Memorial Theater, on the University of Utah campus, invited the same art to be shown in their gallery. Ms. Beckwith was invited to come to the gallery every evening to answer questions from those viewing the art materials. There is a great interest in the Topaz Japanese Internment Camp and it is felt the museum would bring quite a few people to the area. While Ms. Beckwith was teaching, there were often groups of four hundred students who came to the area to visit the Topaz camp site and museum. Ms. Beckwith indicated that all of this planning is contingent upon receiving the National Park Service grant.

Lorie Skeem, Delta Area Chamber of Commerce, advised that she receives numerous calls asking where large meetings can be held in Delta. The reality is that we do not have a place for large meetings. The largest facility available is The Gold Room and it is not handicap accessible. Mrs. Skeem felt that it would increase attendance if Chamber of Commerce members knew where they were to meet each month for the Chamber Social. She felt that Delta needs a place to hold community events and meetings.

Linda Law Mabbutt stated that the property where the museum and community center is proposed to be constructed previously belonged to her parents. Mrs. Mabbutt expressed hope that we would

be able to build the facility so we will have a place for meetings and other community gatherings. Mrs. Mabbutt was certain that her parents would be very pleased with the proposed project.

Margie Thomas felt that, as a Librarian, it would be very helpful if the museum was on Main Street so that patrons could be easily directed to the facility. The library has many people come in looking for the museum and the library staff field a lot of questions as to where people can rock hunt or where they can do other kinds of things.

Scott Bassett, Topaz Museum Board, stated he would like to applaud Mayor Bunker and Jane Beckwith for their work in organizing this facility and putting the plans together. He expressed sadness that the facility housing all of the West Millard museums did not work out but was pleased to go forward with this combined facility. Mr. Bassett noted that there is not a place in Delta where a large group of people can meet so the community center would be a great addition to Delta Main Street.

City Attorney Todd Anderson asked, if the grant funds now being applied for were received, is there any possibility that there would be a return to the original plan of housing all three museums and the community center in one facility. Mayor Bunker answered that there is always a possibility but does not think it is feasible at this time. Mayor Bunker indicated that the money from the National Park Service grant can only be used for the Topaz Museum and their portion of the cost of shared facilities in the community center. Likewise, the funds being requested from CIB cannot be used for a museum. Funds can be used for shared facilities, such as restrooms, office space, etc. If both grants can be obtained, the funds will provide a nice facility but both grant funds must be spent for their specific purposes.

Council Member Bruce Curtis felt that a number of people have spent an enormous amount of time in the project of funding a museum / community center and it is exciting to him that we may have found a way to construct a combined facility for the area. He is very hopeful that both funding sources come through so we can go forward with construction.


Mayor Bunker thanked those in attendance for their interest and comments. He felt that we do need a meeting facility in Delta and this proposed facility will not compete with the Millard County Fair Building or the Palladium because it will be for smaller groups of approximately 300 or less, with dividers to make smaller rooms available also. If funding is received, we could begin construction sometime next year.

Council Member Betty Jo Western asked where maintenance funds would come from for the facility. Mayor Bunker stated the facility would be approximately the same size as the Delta City office building and library. Cost of utilities at the Delta City building were approximately \$42,000 last year. These costs would be shared between Topaz Museum and Delta City. We also have the transient room tax in place, which was set aside to help offset maintenance costs for the building. Currently, the transient room tax is approximately \$1,000 per month, and there is about \$40,000 in the account.

We could also charge fees for use of the facility. This matter will have to be addressed because we cannot have a facility that is not maintained.

Council Member Western also asked if we had new drawings of the down-sized facility. Mayor Bunker stated that we do not currently have updated drawings of the facility. When grant approval is received, we will get drawings done. We do not want to spend funds for drawings until we are certain we will have funding to go forward with the planned facility.

Mayor Bunker declared the public hearing adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

  
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GAYLE BUNKER, Mayor

  
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GREGORY JAY SCHAFFER, MMC, City Recorder

MINUTES APPROVED: RCCM 05-19-11