

MINUTES of the special public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **March 20, 2023** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. Meeting commenced at 12:00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Commissioners Sonja Norton, John Laursen, and Brad Horrocks.

ATTENDANCE: Michael Wilkins, Cheryl Meier, Laurie Brummond, Kevin Yack, Barbara Simper, Wendi Long, Brooks Jones, Dustin Nebeker, Ryan Wolfinger, Bret Reynolds, Trudy Wheeler, Dusty McCormick, Michael Hawley, Micheal Davis, Gennie Bird, Zeke Atwood, Travis Campbell, Troy Ostler, Bruce McKee, Keith Despain, Jeremy Raymond, Quinn Bennion, Jason Blankenagel, and Will Wright. Minutes recorded by Tai Duncan.

WELCOME: Commissioner Horrocks welcomed everyone.

PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS LIST PUBLIC HEARING
Laurie Brummond, Executive Director, Uintah Basin Association of Government (UBAOG) and Kevin Yack, Economic Development Director, UBAOG, led the discussion. Each entity is required to submit priority projects for the one-year list so they can respond to any questions for clarification. If they want to apply for a project this year, it must be on the one-year list. The State is also now requiring a capital asset inventory (CASI) be turned in to UBAOG. The list we are reviewing today has been sent to each entity for review and today's meeting will give them the opportunity to make any changes or corrections and an opportunity for the public to provide comments or input. UBAOG cannot add or delete projects to this list without the consent of the entity. After today's hearing, an updated list will be compiled and sent out to the entities to review again. Approval must be provided by April 15th so the list can be sent on to the Office of Housing and Community Development. Each applicant is required to complete the applicant priority in addition to the County Area Priority. When CIB (Community Impact Board) projects are sent to the State, a copy is sent to the UBAOG Regional Planner to review and place on the next UBAOG agenda. If the deadline is missed, your project cannot be sent on until the next trimester. Everyone was reminded to sign the attendance sheet in the back complete with accurate contact information. This list is a little different than in the past; the State has mandated a few changes to ensure uniformity across the state. In addition to a project title, entities now must include a description of the project. For example, just stating a replacement of a waterline is not enough, you must now include where that waterline is located. Additionally, the loan and grant amounts are no longer split, they just want to know how much, in total, will be requested. The last column indicates whether the entity has submitted a capital asset inventory (CASI) or not. If not, you cannot submit an application to the state. Will Wright, UBAOG has been working with the entities to complete this list in accordance to State requirements. Any corrections or changes can be done today. When the public hearing is complete, the Commission will need to make a motion to approve. A new list will be sent out with the changes as soon as possible. Quinn Bennion, Vernal City, asked for more clarification regarding the details of the projects. When they submit for water improvements it is typically for multiple locations. Kevin and Laurie suggested his description include all those possible areas – it could be a rather large description and that is acceptable. The Board is trying to increase their planning. Quinn added they, Vernal City, project for projects a full year ahead and there may be other items or grants that come forward they were not aware of at the time. They also want to try to find other match funding sources. Kevin added there are other categories that can assist with emergency projects and others that were unforeseen that need taken care of. Laurie agreed and understands the frustration but this is a new requirement from the State in order to help the CIB plan better and better utilize the limited funds. Laurie has suggested to other entities to add all the details to the description, even if it becomes a large description, it will meet the requirements.

Commissioner Horrocks asked if entities were limited to three projects and Laurie responded no. This list is for projects that could be done in the near future. The CIB is trying to plan around the revenue sources, ensuring everyone has access to some funding. They don't foresee anyone applying for three projects in one year; it's too much of a process to get all the planning accomplished for that many. However, if an entity can, then go for it. We do not want to limit them. CASI has been a lot of work for

entities but the CIB feels this will help streamline the process. Cheryl Meier, Uintah Transportation Special Service District 1 (USSD1), tried to narrow down to three projects for each part of her District, transportation and recreation. In her CASI, she submitted a list of all Class B Roads, 1400 miles. They mentioned they didn't particularly like it but USSD1 doesn't really have any assets. Laurie said it was acceptable. Laurie also noted there is one more CIB Tutorial on April 12th at the Western Park. Candace will be available to help explain the CASI. It will be valuable for entities to attend. She encouraged each entity to list something in CASI as they cannot apply without it. It's a lot of work but important and greatly appreciated. Laurie added a public comment regarding USSD1 projects was submitted electronically and will need to be read at that time.

They started through the list of entities alphabetically. No one was available from the Ashley Valley Sewer Management Board so Will read their projects. They only have one: Master Plan and Sewer Model, to have a sewer plan performed and recommendations placed into a model. They have indicated they will provide half the cost of the \$250,000 project planned for October 2023. This is typical funding split for a plan project.

Ryan Wolfinjier, Ashley Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District (AVWSID), reviewed their priority list: Water Treatment Plant to Expand Capacity of Propane Tank to increase overall capacity, Sewer System Improvements in the Ashley Area for improved operations, Loop Line Improvements from Merkley to Choc Rock Tank, Water System Improvements, Sewer System Improvements, and Sewer Hydraulic Model and Master Plan Update. Will noted they will need to provide more details on the description of the projects such as water upgrade sizes and flow and which areas. Ryan will reach out to him with that information. Kevin added they will continue to work with entities to ensure they have the best possible information in the list to submit by the April deadline.

Bob Abercrombie, Ballard City Mayor, was unable to attend so Kevin read the projects for Ballard City and Ballard Water. Ballard City priority projects are Flood Mitigation, \$150,000; Street Improvements, \$3,000,000; Land Acquisition, \$100,000; Storm Drain Improvements, \$1,000,000; Maintenance Building, \$200,000; Highway Sidewalks and Lighting, \$250,000; and Street Maintenance, \$500,000. Ballard Water Improvement District priority projects are: Upper Zone Water System Improvements, \$2,500,000; Two (2) Mile Sewer Pipeline, \$2,000,000; One (1) Mile Sewer Pipeline, \$2,000,000, and Fire Hydrant Project, \$200,000.

Trudy Wheeler, Jensen Water Improvement District (JWID), presented their three projects: Meter and Communication Upgrade to acquire meters with radio read capability, \$2,000,000; Water System Upgrade to install 1.5 miles of eight-inch line in Redwash Road and add 1 mile of eight-inch line in 5500 South Loop, \$1,000,000; and a Water System Improvement project to replace aging lines from six inch to eight inch for fire flow, \$2,000,000.

Dustin McCormick, Maeser Water Improvement District (MWID), has two projects on the one-year list: Water System improvements for \$1,000,000 and Sewer System Improvements for \$450,000. They plan to redo the creek crossings along Ashley Creek and extend it to provide another transmission line or replace transmission lines along the foot of Yellow Hills. There are several areas in the district with concrete sewer lines that are showing their age, the H₂S is deteriorating them. He will get the specific details to Will to include in the list. Commissioner Norton asked if one of these projects had to do with the improvements on 2500 West. Dustin responded the crossing was not in that project. All the creek crossings will be in the same project as they are all about the same age. They are waiting on the canals in order to work with them in 2024. Costs have gone up so they are preparing that project for 2024.

Mike Davis, Naples City, reviewed the 5 projects they have on the list. 2500 South Storm Water and Street Improvements project is currently at CIB and the money is being held, they are waiting for NRCS to put it out to bid. 1500 East to Highway 40 is already being funded but more funds may be needed. UDOT, Utah Department of Transportation has provided some funding and the project should start soon. The other two projects are in case something breaks down, Public Works Equipment and Asphalt

Management. Asphalt projects are usually City wide so the description would have to include all City roads. Item #4, 2000 East Street Improvements, should actually be priority #2. The High Country Subdivision is old and in need of some infrastructure improvements; there is no curb and gutter and the water lines need upgraded. Expansion of the roads to do curb and gutter may not be possible.

Will read the project for Ouray Park Water Improvement District (OPWID): Acquire water rights to diversify water sources for stability of services for a total of \$4,500,000; of which \$2,500,000 will be requested from CIB. They are working with the state and feds for some funding for the remaining amount.

Gennie Bird, Uintah County Municipal Building Authority (MBA), presented three projects: Five Trucks and Two Belly Dump Trucks for County Operations, \$1,400,000 rather than the \$1,000,000 shown; Landfill Compactor, \$1,000,000; Cemetery Equipment Building to house cemetery equipment, \$1,000,000.

Commissioner Norton asked if some of the projects are in conjunction with other entities and if that funding should be stated even if it is not on the list. Kevin added the more information we have, the better. Such information will help with prioritizing. We want to utilize the funds efficiently.

Cheryl Meier, USSD1, indicated there are eight items on the list and the bottom four should actually be the top four in priority; transportation projects will take priority over recreational projects. In previous years, they have been able to place projects on the list as placeholders such as #5, Asphalt Management. Cheryl submitted all Class B Roads as they could all potentially be in a maintenance project. The maintenance list most likely needs updated as the weather and traffic impacts change over time as well. #6, Pedestrian trails: the main trail they are working on is the Ashley Central Canal trail which they do not anticipate requiring funds from CIB. It is part of the big loop that goes all the way to Steinaker Service Canal. There are other parts of the Trail Master Plan that they do not plan on going through CIB to fund, there are many other funding sources as well. Active Transportation is a different matter. #7, Highway Infrastructure has been open ended so if the County sees a road that is due for reconstruction not just maintenance, there are avenues for funding. They want to be prepared so they can request funding before it gets to the emergency status. Cheryl will provide additional details and specifics for her projects. There are two bridges that have not been replaced along the Ashley Creek. Previous load limit tests done by the County may help determine which of the two needs to be done first. A bridge is more of an emergency. There may also be other funding sources that can be used before CIB. Recreation projects are the softball complex on Kay property, Golf Course irrigation system replacement, and indoor sports facility and outdoor pool/splash pad. She may have to adjust the titles a little and provide additional details. Some parks will need more upgrades than others and Cheryl will include the names of all of the parks. Public comment was submitted electronically; she believes they are concerned that the projects were place holders. Commissioner Norton thanked Cheryl for informing them of the change in priority and asked for the top two transportation and recreation projects. Cheryl responded: Asphalt management and Highway Infrastructure and then the indoor sports facility and golf course irrigation system.

Kevin read the public comment submitted electronically from Lionel Trepanier, Utah Tar Sands Group.

“Dear Uintah County Commissioners, Uintah Transportation Special Service District Executive Director

Please take note and consider there is a deficiency in the proposed PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS LIST because projects proposed by USSD1 are mere place holders and do not contain a summary description or related project information required by CIB rule, R990-8-5(C).

Specifically these projects totaling 18.5 million dollars have no summary description or related project information required by CIB rule, R990-8-5(C):

Uintah SSD1 Asphalt Management - Infrastructure Project \$6,000,000.00

Uintah SSD1 Pedestrian Trails \$2,500,000.00

Uintah SSD1 Highway Infrastructure \$5,000,000.00

Uintah SSD1 Bridge Infrastructure Project \$5,000,000.00;

This deficiency in the SSD1's portion of the Capitol Improvements List, if uncorrected, can result in all applications from Uintah county area being held by the Board's staff until a future Trimester pending submission of the required information under CIB rule, R990-8-5(F).

Since the Capital Improvements List does need not to be submitted until May 1st, there is time to correct this deficiency created by USSD1 using mere place holders for 18.5 million dollars of public spending.

Thank you for your continued attention to matters of public interest.

Warm regards, ~Lionel Trepanier, UTSR”

Kevin also noted any entity that plans to apply to the CIB must have a public hearing specific to the project. Citizens are encouraged to provide public comment.

Jeremy Raymond, Uintah Fire Suppression Special Service District (UFSSSD), reviewed his projects on the list. They would like to acquire a ladder truck for the Naples Fire Station, \$1,500,000 and a Pumper Truck for the Jensen Station, \$800,000. The existing ladder truck is from 1991 and has trouble with the pump testing and the ladder failing. This ladder truck is second on scene only behind Vernal City so we really need to have a quality back-up ready to go at all times. Currently, these trucks are costing around \$1.5 million, a 15% increase, and are taking two years to build. The pumper truck currently in Jensen is not passing pump testing. It is leased from the County. He would like to apply for both this year; all while building a new fire station in Tridell. They will stay on the list until they can be replaced.

Dustin Nebeker, Uintah Water Conservancy District (UWCD), presented two projects. Jensen Unit 1 Pumping Plant – Phase 1 is part of the plan to fully utilize the 12,000-acre feet from Red Fleet going to Jensen for irrigation water. They are working on petitions and asking municipalities to consider their needs through 2026. Second priority is the Steinaker Dam Abutment Repair to fortify the dam. This has been completed but they would like to be able to reduce the payment obligations to Municipal customers.

Keith Despain, Vernal City, addressed their eight projects. He will get the specifics to Will as well. Three projects are difficult to narrow down very specifically as the City deals with more than just water, sewer, or streets. First priority is the Downtown Revitalization project. They have some momentum going and they want to keep it. Second is Street Improvements throughout the city, then Water System Improvements with no shortage of need. They are starting the preconstruction on a mile-long improvement to the sewer system on 100 South but there are many other sewer improvements to be made. They also need to do storm water improvements throughout the City and develop a better system. The Trail project is anticipated but they have not materialized; they would like to find other funding sources as well and make use of all resources in the best possible way. In conjunction with three other entities, Ashley Valley Sewer Management Board, AVWSID, and MWID, priority #7 is the Sewer Hydraulic Model and Master Plan Update. Their final priority is the District Energy System.

Commissioner Norton asked if all those that do not indicate funding from other sources are asking for full funding from CIB. Keith responded most of his will request full funding with the caveat that there could be other funding sources. They are always looking for other sources and grants. Kevin concluded by informing the Commission they will continue to work on the one-year list and communicate with all entities to ensure it is accurate before being submitted.

Commissioner Laursen moved to approve the CIB One-Year Application List as presented. Commissioner Norton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:51 pm.


BRAD HORROCKS, CHAIR


MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

