



TOWN OF JACKPOT, NEVADA ADVISORY BOARD

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Board Members

Teresa Hugill
Bruce Ririe
Monica Burt
Monique Gollihar

Jackpot Staff

Shawn Burt
Brian Hugill
Beth Lamb
Shelly Hester
Maria Salas

JACKPOT ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, February 9, 2023

6:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Jackpot Advisory Board was called to order by at 6:00 pm mountain standard time on February 9, 2023, in meeting room of the Jackpot Admin Building, Jackpot, Nevada.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Teresa Hugill
Bruce Ririe
Monica Burt
Monique Gollihar

Absent:

Others Present: Shawn Burt, Jackpot Public Works Superintendent
Gustavo Estrada, Public Works Lead
Theresa Dimmitt, Jackpot Helping Hands, Tourism, & SC
Brian Hugill, Jackpot Fire Chief
Lyndsey Merryman, Jackpot Recreation Center
Stormi McCarthy, Jackpot Combined School
Mike Christensen, Raft River Electric

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE GALLERY:

Chairperson Teresa Hugill advised the public to step to the front of the room to identify themselves and to speak clearly for the record. She stated that they should try and not speak out of turn or among themselves. If anybody has a cell phone it should be muted and if a call needs to be answered, it must be taken outside.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairperson Teresa Hugill led the pledge of allegiance.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

Pursuant to N.R.S. 241.020, 2 (c) (3), this time is devoted to comments by the general public, if any, and discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified to be an action item.

Chairperson Teresa Hugill presented Shawn Mathis and Alex Torrero each a plaque in recognition for the time they served as Jackpot Advisory Board members and their dedication to the town.

Chairperson Hugill commented that there are things happening in the town that won't be discussed in the meeting, but the board will listen to those who wish to speak, each speaker will have two minutes.

Shawn Burt (Jackpot Public Works Superintendent) stated that he along with the board would like to listen to those who wish to speak, but there can't be any action or discussion taken on that matter because it's a civil matter. This matter doesn't involve the town board or the county, he reiterated that it's a civil matter. He asked that those who speak be respectful and they would be given two minutes, if the situation becomes out of control he will stand up and shut the entire thing down.

TOWN OF JACKPOT

- a. Raft River Electric Company update of the electrical service provided to the town of Jackpot.

Mike Christensen (Raft River Rural Electric) stated that he doesn't think or know of any power outages or interruptions in the previous month. He thinks that things have been pretty good. He mentioned that they have communicated with the school regarding college scholarship opportunities and donations. There are some cool things that Raft River has to offer, and they just need to be communicated better. He hopes that some children can benefit.

He commented that he's visited the school and Raft River is in communication via email also.

Stormi McCarthy (Jackpot Combined School Principal) stated that a Raft River has talked to them about scholarships and for the senior night game Raft River contributed donations. Mr. Christensen commented that in the past they have offered things for people who are interested in lineman school and now they have broadened it to any technical trade college. There will be four two thousand dollar scholarships available.

- b. Nevada Health Center update.

Kerrie Preston (Jackpot Clinic Practice Manager) stated that there will be a new woman's health provider starting March first. She will be in Jackpot the first Wednesday of every month. The provider's name is Rachel Grant, and she is a nurse practitioner (APRN). She will be able to provide all health services, but she will be focusing on woman's health services in the town. Those who are interested or have any questions are welcomed to call the clinic to schedule, there are plenty of openings.

- c. Discussion and consideration to review, advertise, or make a recommendation to fill the vacant position(s) on the Town of Jackpot Advisory Board.

ACTION ITEM

Chairperson Teresa Hugill stated that this item would be tabled.

JACKPOT COMBINED SCHOOL

NON ACTION ITEM

1. Jackpot Combined School update.

Stormi McCarthy (Jackpot Combined School principal) thanked the town for the pizza and ice cream party that was provided for the students who won the Christmas tree decorating contest. The students loved it.

She thanked Raft River for their help and sponsorship at the senior night game. She hopes that the following week the school will host play-offs and they are hoping to have Taqueria El Jaguar sell tacos in the concession area, so she encourages people to attend and support.

1. **Golf Course operations update.**

NON ACTION ITEM

The golf course is closed.

JACKPOT TOURISM

NON ACTION ITEM

1. Tourism's operations update.

Theresa Dimmitt (Tourism) stated that tourism is moving forward with the message board sign and things are progressing well. She has received an invoice for tourism, and she would like to know if she needs to have the advisory board approve the payment of invoices since there is no longer a tourism board. She commented that the funds are from the recreation board.

Chairperson Teresa Hugill acknowledged that Mrs. Dimmitt would need to present the invoices to the board before they could be paid. Mrs. Dimmitt commented that there are a couple of late bills that need to be paid for, which she was unaware about and takes complete blame for.

She has received two invoices from CivicPlus and there is total of fourteen thousand six hundred fifty-nine dollars and seven cents still due on the original contract to get the website setup. She paid for other invoices that she received, and she thought that those were the only ones due because she never saw the original contract. She mentioned that as of December the tourism board owes CivicPlus an additional six thousand three hundred ninety-nine dollars and ninety-nine cents for the annual maintenance. The total is close to twenty-one thousand dollars, she's talked to the town clerk and with all the current expenses there are still funds in the tourism account to cover the two invoices. She commented that she tried meeting deadlines and paid invoices as they were sent and never investigated whether the initial contract was completely paid for, she apologized and stated that tourism would be more prepared for the following year.

Chairperson Teresa Hugill commented that she appreciated Mrs. Dimmitt for taking tourism over again and it's understandable that things may have been missed in the transition. She asked if the tourism board had funds for these costs. Mrs. Dimmitt stated that yes, there are funds.

Monica Burt (Jackpot Advisory Board member) asked if the invoices pertained to the website. Mrs. Dimmitt stated that yes, they did. She commented that she was confused because she thought the grant that the tourism board received from Travel Nevada had paid for it all, however that isn't the case if fourteen thousand six hundred fifty-nine dollars and seven cents are still owed. She thinks that the grant was used to pay-off Revize, but she isn't sure. She will be doing some research on these invoices and since there are funds that hadn't been spent in the account, she will get them paid.

JACKPOT'S HELPING HANDS FOOD BANK & SERVICES

1. Jackpot's Helping Hands Food Bank and Services update.
NON ACTION ITEM

Theresa Dimmitt (Jackpot's Helping Hands /Food Pantry & Senior Services) stated that the non-profit is doing amazing. There is an entire new board whose had their first quarterly meeting, and these board members are also the volunteers who help with the daily operations. She mentioned that Jackpot Helping Hands will be offering support groups for people who are going through rough times (mental health, depression, or just needing to vent). She's talked to Brian Hugill (Jackpot Fire Chief) about starting groups such as AA, NA, and mental health. The mental health group will start on the first Monday in March from ten to eleven.

Food Pantry

She commented that SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) has been doing an emergency program (Supplemental Emergency Allotments) since covid. They were giving people more money for their food stamps. A household size of one would receive two hundred eighty-one dollars of which one hundred thirty-two dollars came from the supplemental emergency allotment. This same size household will now receive one hundred forty-nine dollars for groceries which is a reduction of forty-six point ninety-seven percent. The problem with this in the town is that some of the rents are finally increasing and people are having a hard time. The pantry is anticipating and increase in members, in last thirty days there have been twenty new people signup for the program. This means that there will need to be an increase in the budget because the non-profit needs to pay for some of the food that is received from the food bank in Sparks. She commented that the food pantry is there to help these families. The last payments that will include the supplemental emergency allotment will be in March.

She mentioned that anybody who is on Medicaid needs to update their information because people will start being cut off from the program in March. This also includes people who receive SNAP benefits.

Chairperson Teresa Hugill thanked Mrs. Dimmitt for her work and expressed her appreciation for everything she does for people.

JACKPOT SENIOR CENTER

2. Senior Center operations update.

Theresa Dimmitt (Jackpot Senior Center) stated that everybody at the senior center is excited because they will be starting stretch and balance classes starting Tuesday at one or one thirty. They are wanting to do more meals at the senior center for the seniors due to the decrease in the SNAP benefits. This decrease will impact many of the seniors in the town because many of them were only getting twenty-three dollars before the supplemental assistance allotment as a monthly allowance. She will try to do more meals during the week.

Mrs. Dimmitt introduced Matt Merryman (Jackpot resident) is a new veteran and he is working with the senior center and Helping Hands to receive veteran advocate things. She is excited to be working with him in conjunction with all the exciting plans they have coming up.

Mr. Merryman stated that he's currently working with the Nevada Department of Veteran Services and going through their veteran advocate training. It's about twenty modules to understand what veteran benefits are, how to get access to them, and how to help veterans. He isn't becoming a veteran service officer to where he can actually file claims for individuals, but he will basically take veterans up to that point. He will work with Elko and getting veterans in touch with a veteran service officer (VSO) to file claims.

He and Mrs. Dimmitt are working from the VA Community Play Book and it's for organizations in the communities whether it be large scale operations or beginning which is where the town is at. There are three focus areas, building, expanding, and amplifying; the town is currently in the building phase and trying to understand the veteran needs in the area. He mentioned that the DD214 is the lifeline to veteran benefits. He is trying to get the veterans in the area connected to this necessary form.

He stated on February 16, 2023, there will be symposium put on by the VA at the senior center. It will be an elderly and faith based organizations symposium. There will be VA representatives through a webcast who will talk about available benefits for the elderly, those that care for the elderly, veteran spouses, and organizations that help support the veterans. This will help inform veterans of programs available. He will be in attendance for those who have questions. This will initially be informal since he can't officially answer questions until he finishes the twenty modules worth of training; he will then have the capacity to answer questions. He hopes to at least once a month have a couple office hours to focus on any questions that veterans, caretakers, or spouses may have regarding benefits.

He commented that he's been looking at ways to support the community and believes that this is a good one. He's benefited from those services, and he wants to make sure that those veterans who have served can also benefit.

Chairperson Teresa Hugill commented that this is exciting and thanked Mr. Merryman.

JACKPOT EVENTS

3. Event operations update.

Tara Norris (Jackpot Events Coordinator) stated that she just finished the pizza and ice cream party for classes who won the tree decorating contest, everybody had a great time. She's currently on break but is available to help the fire department during Easter.

She asked if the Fourth of July fireworks have been ordered and Brad Hester (Jackpot fireworks) stated that they have. She hopes that the town can do Mexican Independence day again which was stopped because of covid. She would like to work on getting dancers again. Then there is Halloween and the Christmas party.

JACKPOT RECREATION CENTER

A. Recreation Department operations update.

NON ACTION ITEM

Beth Lamb (Jackpot Aquatic Center) was present, but Lindsey Merryman relayed the report. She stated that it has been busy at the recreation center since the first. There have been two birthday parties, one swim and the other regular. They both went off well. The recreation center numbers have increased, the total for the three last weeks have been five hundred sixty-seven people in the building. It's exciting and the staff enjoys seeing everybody who attends. They have deposited six hundred and thirty-four dollars as of last week.

JACKPOT PUBLIC WORKS

1. Public Works water, sewer, landfill, streets, and operations update.

Gustavo Estrada (Jackpot Public Works) stated that they have been busy plowing snow, cleaning ramps, and sidewalks. They replaced a few stop signs in the week that were worn and faded from the sun. They did maintenance on their vehicles. They've kept in touch with Loves who is planning on closing Progressive on the twentieth to do the sewer and water tie ins along with the storm drain at the bottom. This could be done within a week or three. Love's will be closing from the highway down Progressive and through Piersanti except for those that live in that area. People will need to go through Gurley and onto the dirt road in order to get to the recreation center, library, ranch, or school. The other option is for people to use the road by Cactus Petes and onto Keno Drive.

Mr. Estrada commented that they are maintaining the upkeep at the shop, they continue to do the food pickups, and they have done some cleaning at the transfer station. They organized some metal and removed furniture that wasn't placed in the transfer station, any furniture needs to be placed in the transfer station to avoid a mess in the lower area.

He mentioned that they burned a pit of trees down by the sewer plant the previous week. This was a contained area. There are three solar power signs with flashing lights that will be installed, and they will have the speed limit of fifteen miles per hour. He has them programmed from Monday through Friday 7am to 4pm in the school zone area.

Monica Burt (Jackpot Advisory Board member) asked if signs or maps of the detour routes could be made in order for them to be posted around town to start letting people know. Mr. Estrada stated that a map would be made, and it would be posted.

JACKPOT SAFETY / FIRE

1. Jackpot Ambulance

a. Jackpot Ambulance operations update.

Shelly Hester (Jackpot ambulance) was absent due to a call.

2. **Jackpot Fire Department**

- a. Jackpot Fire Department operations update.

Brian Hugill (Jackpot Fire Chief) was absent due to a call.

Elko County Sheriff's Department

- a. Sheriff Office operations update.

Aitor Narvaiza (Elko County Sheriff) and Justin Ames (Elko County Undersheriff) were both absent. No report given.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

1. Discussion and consideration of the Town of Jackpot Accounts Payable.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT AND OTHER ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. Discussion and consideration of received correspondence.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered routine and may be acted upon by the commission with one action without extensive discussion. Any member of the commission or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the consent agenda, discussed, and acted upon separately during this meeting.

Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2023

Next Meeting Date – February 23, 2023

Motion: Monica Burt made a motion to accept the minutes for the Jackpot Advisory Board Meeting for the date January 26, 2023, and the next meeting date for the Jackpot Advisory Board Meeting for the date of February 23, 2023, seconded by Bruce Ririe. Motion passed.

VOTE:

Aye: Bruce Ririe
Teresa Hugill
Monica Burt
Monique Gollihar

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF COMMENTS

This time is devoted to comments by Advisory Board Members and/or Staff for general information or update purposes. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified to be an action item.

Theresa Dimmitt (Jackpot Helping Hands and Senior Services) stated that the transit bus travels to Twin Falls on Thursday's and on Wednesday's it's available to drive people who don't have transportation around town to run errands. It can be used to pick-up produce at the food pantry, to attend Bingo and lunch starting at noon at the senior center, visits to the clinic, store, or post office. This will continue to be the schedule until there is the need for the bus to go twice a week to Twin Falls. People will need to schedule the trip with dispatch in Elko. The number for dispatch is available at the front office.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

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Shawn Burt (Jackpot Public Works Superintendent) stated that he was glad to see many in attendance because normally that doesn't happen unless the topics are regarding drugs or closing the recreation center. He commented that many in attendance were there for a specific reason and like he mentioned before it's a civil matter and the town can't be involved. The advisory board and himself are willing to listen but can't do anything.

Mr. Burt commented that he's been working on certain things for over five years. There has always been an issue with affordable housing in the town. He mentioned that the previous week he, Chairperson Teresa Hugill, and Betty Marquez (Administration) attended a class in Reno. They met with state agencies and some department heads under the affordable housing program for the state of Nevada. The class had nothing to do with things pertaining to the town, but they made great contacts with people in the state. They visited with a few people and explained to them the current housing situation in the town; these people will be keeping the town in mind and will be helping the town file for grants and loans for affordable housing.

He mentioned that a couple years ago the town was given five hundred thousand dollars through ARPA funding from the state of Nevada. These funds are meant to be used for affordable housing developments. He stated that some of the property that is owned by the town of Jackpot under economic development allows the town to deed said property to a developer to build homes and they would receive the five hundred thousand dollars to aid in this. In the last two years there hasn't been a single developer interested in this until two days ago.

He commented that there are packets with home blueprints included on the back table for people to distribute and look at. The people who provide that service are interested in developing the property. This is all preliminary at this time.

This company would like to see how many people would be interested in either purchasing a tiny home ranging from eight hundred square feet to twelve hundred square feet or large homes up to three thousand three hundred square feet which are four hundred thousand dollar homes. The tiny homes can range from eighty thousand dollars to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars up to a one thousand two hundred square foot home. The benefit with these homes is that once the property is developed and the home is brought in the purchaser of the home can be in it in less than six weeks. This is something that is affordable and it's currently only preliminary. The company needs to see how many people are interested in purchasing or renting these types of homes. This won't happen the following day and it will take time because the government is involved. He would like to get a number of how many people would seriously be interested in these homes. He asked that people take packets and distribute them around town and if anybody had questions, he would be more than happy to answer them or clarify things.

Lyndsey Merryman (Jackpot resident) commented that the homes looked interesting and nice, but she would like to know if the homes were modular or what kind of homes they were. Mr. Burt stated that the homes are considered pop-up houses and they meet all the state requirements. He mentioned that the company is out of Las Vegas, and they manufacture them in Ely. The walls and roof are made of out concrete. The interior can be designed anyway the purchaser decides which is why the cost will vary. Once the foundation is set or it's put on cement blocks (concrete strips) and the home is on its way from Ely to this location the floor, the walls, and the roof will all be assembled within two days.

He stated that the dollar amounts he mentioned aren't guaranteed, but a four hundred square foot home which is a tiny home is close to eighty thousand dollars to purchase. The company is from Las Vegas and if they agree to do develop the land, they would like to do a one style home and make a community out of it which will include a community center focused around those homes.

Frank Bernsdorf (Jackpot resident) asked if the price of the home would include the lot. Mr. Burt stated that if the home is being rented it would be part of the lot, but if the residents purchase the lots, they won't be at an exaggerated amount. This is something that he doesn't have details on because he would need approval first.

Matt Merryman (Jackpot resident) asked if the company would accept VA home loans. Mr. Burt stated that they do, and he mentioned that the mini homes were just approved under HUD.

Sam (Jackpot resident) asked when, where, and on what form Mr. Burt would like signatures on. He stated that the company won't accept people who are unsure and would like for these to be built before they commit to the purchase or renting of the homes. The company want's people who are willing to do this and have a deposit for a home. He commented that he doesn't have all the details and so he wouldn't even know an amount for a deposit. He stated that the company mentioned that if there were roughly twenty homes that could be brought into the town, they would start on them immediately. Those that have signed and are seriously interested would have first selection.

Maribel Torrero (Jackpot resident) asked if the company would be offering their own financing options or would people have to look for their own financing. Mr. Burt stated that he would have to get that information from the company.

He commented that what he is trying to do is make the community development start off as rentals and if things go well, than the company would start doing homes for people to purchase. He stated that he knows what's happening in the town is tough and it's not a great deal, but he along with the advisory board are trying to help the community. He doesn't want the residents to think that he nor the advisory board care because they do. He's been dealing with the housing situation for five years.

Mr. Burt mentioned that he would like for people who are in attendance to let others know on Facebook about this because there has been many things said on social media. He commented that the town is required by Open Meeting Law to post the advisory board agendas within a seventy-two hour notice and the town is only required to post them in three locations, but the town agenda's are posted in six locations. Those that are saying that the agendas don't get posted anywhere are wrong because by law they have to be posted. The front page of the agenda has the places where the agenda is posted.

He commented that he is going to work on the town budgets again and if anybody in the community has a request of what they would like to see happen in the town of Jackpot to please let him or his staff know. This will allow him to see if it can be included in the budget or if it will be something to work towards in the future. He stated that the town belongs to the community, and he just manages it. He tries to make it better for everybody else.

Chairperson Teresa Hugill stated that it's going to take everybody in community to try and bring things back together. She asks that if anybody needs help with anything to please let any of the advisory board members know. The advisory board is there to help the community, but the board also needs the community's help.

Mr. Burt welcomed the new advisory board member Monique Gollihar, who was attending her first meeting. He also introduced Wilde Brough, who is a county commissioner and represents the town of Jackpot.

ADJOURN

Motion: Bruce Ririe made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Monica Burt.
Motion passed.

VOTE:

- Aye: Bruce Ririe
- Teresa Hugill
- Monica Burt
- Monique Gollihar
- Nay:
- Absent:
- Abstain:

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.