



JULY 8, 2014
REGULAR GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Members of the Governing Board may attend either in person or by telephone conference call.

Members Present; Pete Shearer, Clerk; Judi Beckerleg, Member, Brian Donehoo, Member;
SuZan Pearce, Member

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shearer moved to call the hearing to order at 5:07 PM.

The Board asked to discuss first the tax rates as Ms. Brenda Martinez is attending via phone and available for questions.

Ms. Shonny Bria, Superintendent, continued to cover the budget in great depth and detail

Mr. Shearer moved to suspend and continue the hearing to resume after the regular board meeting. Mr. Donehoo seconded the motion, the motion carried 4/0.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shearer called the regular session to order at 7:03 P.M. Ms. Beckerleg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Shearer moved to change the agenda bringing item VIII (B) to the very beginning of the agenda. Ms. Beckerleg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

VIII B - Discussion and Possible Action related to the Tusayan School Property Access

Mr. Shearer

Mr. Shearer opened at this time to public comment:

Robert Petzoldt, 550 Reclaim Lane, Tusayan, AZ. 86023 – Mr. Petzoldt referenced the development of Tusayan, larger than it exists today. He feels it would be a bad idea to funnel all of the traffic associated with the development through the school district. He recommends a new road and said he has many ideas. There are many places the road cannot go but there are many places a road could go. He is opposed to the traffic going on RP Drive as this is a heavily travel residential area already. It should not go on the south portion of Long Jim Loop. He shared that the sanitary district owns or maintains all of those roads, the area is already heavily traveled and the additional traffic is not wanted.

Clarinda Vail, 120 Shimmy Lane, Tusayan, AZ. 86023 – Ms. Vail was surprised to see this item on the agenda as the years of work spent to acquire the land. The land was acquired for the school district and was not intended to become a major roadway.

Ms. Vail believes the Board at an earlier meeting may have been possibly misled a little bit in being told, that this would be considered just one of the alternatives. Ms. Vail said what was submitted to the forest service is “This is the alternative”. In learning from School Facilities Board, Ms. Vail was surprised that the School Board was not provided any type of traffic plans or amounts to know what would be approved. What is proposed to be put out on the property with what it has already been zoned the road will be a minimum of 80’ wide. Even if this were to be put along the ledge the school facilities would require major block walls to be built in on major roadways.

There was a proposal to bring the forest service road, which is required to maintain access. This would be along the very edge of the property to still meet that requirement of keeping the road open but moving it away from the most developable flat spots of the property that could be developed.

Ms. Vails believes that the board is creating a huge liability in taking that much land away from the school and in addition does not believe the board was asked properly how much land? How much traffic is going to be there? What will it do to Canyon Pines which sits close by and has 29 units are being developed.

What this would do to the current residents living there now with that type of density that is proposed.

Ms. Vail said that she could not appeal the board any stronger, that we didn’t work eight years to have such a major portion be impacted like this for the school, the traffic that would impact the school.

Where the current park has been built, she does not believe that there is 80’ available. It is possible that the few park structures that have finally ever been built might have to be ripped out to meet the 80’ requirement.

This information was never mentioned in the general plan that the town approved about a month or so prior to meeting the school board. She did not know why, yet she said the maps were created and handed in over a month ago as this being the proposed alternative to Kotzin Ranch.

Ms. Vail said that this seems to be a great concern to a lot of people which she feels is witnessed by the number of people in the room, in attendance. She could not fathom why on earth the school board would want to bring that type of traffic onto school property that would never be there unless the Board allows it.

Ms. Vail made herself available for questions.

Mr. Donehoo asked, “Who is conducting the environmental impact statement?”

Ms. Vail said she believed the town had submitted it but could not identify who conducted it.

Mr. Donehoo asked if there were other options provided in the statement?

Ms. Vail said there were a Ten-X inclusion and a secondary access to Kotzin. Ms. Vail continued that during the process of Tusayan’s General plan; only the alternative plan was provided. Ms. Vail feels that the public was never presented a chance to even comment on this alternative it was just suddenly handed in.

Ms. Vail referenced the Boards agenda and minutes related to this item as she is not sure the agenda allowed for what was done that day. She also does not believe that the minutes reflect what the town moved forward with. The minutes reflected that this could be included as an alternative. Ms. Vail feels that this in not in her opinion how it has been acted upon with the town.

John Thurston, 291 RP Drive, Tusayan, AZ. 86023 – Mr. Thurston in commenting on the development of Tusayan would like to see the School Board take action on things that would help decrease growth in the area. Mr. Thurston would like to see the Board to simply take this off of their plate and say no, this is not one of your alternatives. Force the town to take other alternatives which one would be to look at the access that does not affect RP Drive or Long Jim Loop by the School. Mr. Thurston is familiar with this access road from riding his dirt bike on it.

Mr. Thurston gave a scenario of an argument for and against the impact of the area. He named several organizations that could be possibly involved or become involved to quash the development. Mr. Thurston believes that all opportunities to quash the development of the area should be pursued.

Bill Fitzgerald, 549 Camper Village Ln Sp.301, Tusayan, AZ. 86023 – Mr. Fitzgerald asked for clarification of the correct property line on the aerial map of the area. Mr. Fitzgerald noted the little “V” and that the little “V” area is not really developed and continued his statement by saying that he is not saying he is for or against the development. He noted that the road really does not go through school property except at that point.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated he was attending representing himself but can also give a little information about the application as he had a meeting with the supervisor. The forest service first consideration is that as little land as possible be disturbed. According to the application a good portion is already paved, another portion already has a dirt road in place by the power lines, the remainder would all have to be started. Even though the power lines have the dirt road it would still be necessary to go the 80’ and break ground.

Mr. Fitzgerald said the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) study is being done by the Stilo group. The Stilo group is paying for this and has the pick of contract people to do this. He shared that the town is planning on hiring an attorney as well to review the final study. This effort is to help protect the town from being sandbagged or blindsided.

Mr. Fitzgerald confirmed that on the application this is indeed what the town is proposing. From the north side off of the 328 forest service road which is already a dirt road. Mr. Fitzgerald believes that it will require a traffic study. He said that it is in the ordinances that they have to have a traffic study done before they can get their property planted in either location Kotzin or Ten-X.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked them about putting a road in up above the Imax he says there is a road up that direction as well. Mr. Fitzgerald said he was told building a road behind the Imax or off the 328 would not disturb one or the other any more than the other.

Mr. Fitzgerald added that during the NEPA process there is a point where the school board can suggest or ask for an alternative. Mr. Fitzgerald added that in some cases it would require probably one bridge or the road to be built up as the road would go across Coconino wash and this area floods on occasion. Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that the route that goes through the school property is high and dry but agreed that he did not know how it would affect the school in the future. He did say that it would be a wide road right by the school.

Ms. Beckerleg speaking to Mr. Fitzgerald as a counsel-member, asked why the counsel has not looked at an entrance south of the airport, understanding that forest service wants the least impact but wants to know why something like this can’t be considered?

Mr. Fitzgerald said that the Mayor and Mr. John Rueter have met with the Forest service and submitted this application on behalf of the town. If three people or more were to meet with the forest service it would be declared open meeting and they didn’t want open meeting. It was desired that all comments come back to him so that he could straighten out any problems before releasing information to the public. It appears that he is keeping things behind closed doors as much as possible, just like what was done with the amendment to the agreement. Often items only receive one public meeting for anyone to

make public comments. So no, no alternative routes have been discussed. Mr. Fitzgerald said he did not know about the route until he went to meet with the James Simino after the application was submitted.

Ms. Pearce asked where in the NEPA process is this application?

Mr. Fitzgerald said it was just starting only about a month into the process.

Ms. Vail added that the application has been submitted and probably within today or yesterday the 30 day window for responding. She added that this is why she feels the Board's decision is important.

Eric Gueissaz, Forest Road 328 P, Grand Canyon, AZ. 86023 – Mr. Gueissaz resides on Rowell Road and once served on the school board. Mr. Gueissaz with Mr. Shearer has read all of the formalities that can happen to a school district that has obtained land from the federal government.

In order for the school district to allow such transition of road through the district, they would have to revert the land back to the government for this to become a reality. He continued, the 80 acres that was given to the school district is sovereign piece of land deeded to the school district which either gives up its entire piece of land back to the forest service so such a project and road access can come through or oppose to not allowing the road to go through at all.

Another issue about access to the Kotzin or Ten-X is that the town of Tusayan has done is look inward to their benefit and their property to double up to become commercial properties. Also, they wish to have housing for their employees and anyone else.

Mr. Gueissaz's does not believe in anything that he has read, meeting attended or heard from anyone, including the park service; that beyond the boundaries of Tusayan, nobody seems to have concern. He stated the magnitude of what is being proposed and that nobody cares. The forest service seems to think it is okay. The park service seems to have some concern about the park water accessibility.

In returning to the school property this is a sovereign piece of land that either you agree to erode and give it up or you keep it by saying no road.

John Vail, 120 Shimmy Lane, Tusayan, Az. 86023 – Mr. Vail showed the board where his house is located in reference the proposed roadway, his home is the closest home to the proposed road that would be affected. When he sits on his porch and can hear the kids up there playing he loves it, says he has been a supporter of the school park and the school being able to acquire the property.

Mr. Vail says putting a road right through the school's property is going to severely limit the school's ability to build on that property.

What Stilo is proposing is 3 Million square feet of retail. Try and grasp the size of this. All of the employees that will be working in this 3 million square feet of retail will be driving through your property, by the kids, by the playground that was just built. Mr. Vail believes that if they can afford to build 3 million square feet of retail, they can surely afford to move their utilities elsewhere.

Jennifer Thurston, 291 RP Drive, Tusayan, AZ. 86023 – This property was hard fought for to acquire for the school. There is no advantage for the school to allow this road to go through. Every square inch of that land should be for the children. It just that simple.

John Thurston added, if the board does deny this, the Stilo group has at least 3 other alternatives, a couple of them I don't prefer but there is one that there is already an access that goes to the property.

Ms. Vail offered an older component of the very first application for the property. She added that this is simply an example as things have changed a bit, but an example of how to keep a road going only to

school facilities and move the required easement that is required to have away. This was the plan to remove the forest service road that has to remain open. This would take the road to the very edge, to just keep the 328 open, this is required. This could be a small road but just another thing that has been considered from the beginning to remove any extra traffic. This was for just the forest service road not for a major development.

Mr. Donehoo inquired as to who generated this information?

Ms. Vail replied HDA Architects prepared this for the school's application

Mr. Shearer, Board Clerk, commented that in 1999–2000 Mr. Shearer and Mr. Rueter worked to open up Long Jim Loop road through what is now the school site. This was done in order to make the valley and Tusayan a safer place. This helped to eliminate the congestion that was present. It was a success, buses no longer had to do 3 point turns making it a safer community.

Then Mr. Shearer and Ms. Vail worked for 7 years to take ownership of the land along with Mr. Gueissaz and a lot of other folks and they were successful.

So, what we are looking at here tonight is when we had our meeting at the school site, we were told some things that weren't totally true. Mr. Shearer believes the focus should be on the safety of the kids and the safety of the community.

Mr. Shearer shared that one comment that was not completely true, that the school would be immediately sued 35 million dollars if we did not approve this. Mr. Shearer felt the board was basically being scared into feeling that the school has to give up the road or the school would be liable. The example was Flagstaff was sued for 35 million.

Ms. Shearer says he has talked to the lawyer and the lawyer said the school is still liable whether you own the road or give access to someone else if it is on school property.

Mr. Shearer also shared that at the beginning of the meeting the board was told this was only for residential use. It is important to know that the road would really be for the whole development. Mr. Shearer added that for residential is different but because this could be up to a million people a year, a thousand cars a day, we the Board have to look at the safety of the kids and the community. Currently there are mothers pushing kids in strollers, kids riding their bikes and walking to the basketball court. Taking that rural life style away is going to jeopardize the safety of future generations.

Mr. Shearer said his focus is not to say if he is for or against the development. When the land was acquired it was done so to make this a better community for the kids and residents. Mr. Shearer feels this is a step in the wrong direction.

Ms. Beckerleg also commented that she was led to believe that this would be for residential area and not the 3 million square feet of commercial real estate. Also Ms. Beckerleg stated that this particular route was one of several alternatives. Ms. Beckerleg feels that learning that this now is not the case, she feels upset.

Mr. Donehoo commented that when someone is preparing a study that they usually have a preferred alternative but feels that it should not be expressed. The statement should be developed taking a neutral stand. Whether or not this has been done, one will have to make their own conclusions. It should all come out in the impact statement. If the other alternatives are not presented and putting a fair amount of information and details into the alternatives that they do to the preferred alternative, it will be obvious they had their minds made up ahead of time.

Ms. Pearce commented that their seemed to be concern related to getting sued and if this doesn't matter than the Board needs to make the decision, what is best for the kids.

Ms. Beckerleg expressed concern relating to losing the 80 acres of land. She added that if there is any chance of the school losing the land by offering the road then the Board's decision is very easy.

Mr. Shearer shared that the land could be lost or could not be lost it would have to go to the regional forester for the decision. His addition question is when it is not in the best interest of the future kids safety, why would we even ask for that determination? He added if there were no other alternatives he might, would rethink how can this work. He went on commenting that they have much better accesses that can work that would impact the entire community less.

Ms. Vail added comment on things being vetted out in the end and stated that this will only be vetted out at the school board's allowance. It is not an alternative without this board and it is the School's property.

Mr. Shearer talked briefly about future development of the school property and did not feel that the access helps the school. The access only helps the town more than helping the school.

Mr. Shearer motioned that the Grand Canyon School Superintendent submit formal notice to the town of Tusayan and to the US Forest Service that number 1) the district does not authorize or request that the town of Tusayan be permitted to access its property or the developers property (Kotzin) as shown in the Towns Forest Service application. 2) request that the application be amended to remove the access through the Grand Canyon School, Tusayan site via Long Jim Loop. Ms. Beckerleg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

CALL TO THE COMMUNITY

No response to call to the Community

CORRESPONDENCE

Label for Education – Ms. Lori Rommel, 134 Havasupai, Grand Canyon, AZ. 86023 – Ms. Rommel commented in more depth how this program along with box-tops has benefitted the school and students. She also shared many of the items that have been purchased through these programs and the good that is coming from this.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Governing Board Meeting Minutes: (BEDG, BEDG-R)
June 10th Regular Meeting Minutes, June 24th Special Meeting Minutes, June 30th Special Meeting Minutes

- B. Approval of Vouchers (DK, DK-E-2961)
 - 1. Payroll # 29 - \$56,319.32 # 30 - \$41,711.74
31 - \$29,994.97
 - 2. Expenditure # 6926 - \$127,469.51

- C. Donations - None

- D. Out of State Travel - None

- E. Certified Staff – Javier Abrego-Assistant Principal; Betsy Dobias-Teacher; Substitute Teachers – Lynne Singer, Andrea Siler, Mike Campbell, Tom Zell; Resignation –Peter Zwagerman 5th Grade
- F. Classified Personnel – Dan Bennett, Maintenance & Custodial
- G. Stipends – None
- H. Textbook Adoption-60 day review (IJJ) - None

Mr. Shearer moved to pull item “E” from the consent agenda for further discussion. Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

Mr. Shearer moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Item “E” as presented. Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

Discussion related to Item E of the consent agenda

Mr. Shearer noted that on the organizational chart that was approved in February does not have an assistant principal. The inquiry was if this organizational chart was set in stone.

Ms. Bria explained that the organizational chart is approved but is not set in stone.

She recommended that a new organizational chart should be outlined later as she is requesting the Assistant Principal position and in addition will be requesting to change Mr. Robert Scofield’s job title of which is not on the organizational chart. She continued that there have been many changes since the organizational chart was approved.

There was discussion related to the amount of work one person can and or should try to take on. There are some concerns that the district might suffer. One opinion was that the school should probably have a business manager. There was some concern regarding checks and balances and the audit. The board wants to make sure the district is compliant.

The thoughts of the Board are to see the Asst. Principal title change, with additional duties outlined.

Ms. Beckerleg stated that Myrna has completed AASBO program and is now a certified business manager and has the credentials to step in if needed. Ms. Beckerleg finds some comfort in this.

Mr. Shearer moved to approve the items on the consent agenda item “E” with the exception of the Assistant Principal position. Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and Possible Approval of the 2014-15 Budget

This item will be revisited after the conclusion of the Hearing which will reconvene after the conclusion of the regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Possible Approval of Authorized Check Signers on the Chase Accounts as follows; Shonny Bria, Treasurer; Myrna Hausa, Assistant Treasurer; Steven Landes, Principal

Ms. Beckerleg moved to approve the check signers on the Chase accounts as presented. Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

REPORTS

Superintendents Report

Ms. Shonny Bria discussed her desire to meet for dinner in the evening during the ASBA conference. This time could be used to begin discussion of Board Goals and possibly a strategic plan.

One comment from the Board was to develop measurable goals.

It was determined that the group will meet for dinner Friday July 25th at 6:30 P.M.

Ms. Shields will do a soft posting for this event with no official action taking place.

Principal's Report

Mr. Steven Landes recognized efforts of the current staff and the long hours and hard work they put in on behalf of the school and students. He also reported on current staffing changes and some of the assignments as currently planned. He also provided estimated class sizes. Registration is scheduled for the week of July 21st.

Mr. Landes reported on Summer Institute and thanked Board members for the time they devoted to this event. He said that this was a great event and was able to get some good feedback from staff.

Handbooks will be coming forth shortly for review and approval.

Maintenance Report

Mr. Scofield sent a report to the Board Members. Ms. Barb Shields will contact Mr. Scofield to obtain a copy of what was sent to the board for the record.

Mr. Shearer moved to take a recess at 9:13 P.M. Ms. Beckerleg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

Mr. Shearer moved to reconvene the hearing portion of the meeting at 9:39 P.M. Ms. Beckerleg seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

The budget discussion resumed.

There was much discussion related to the tax rate in the effort to keep tax rates semi level for the tax payers and eliminate the high peaks and deep valleys. It was relayed to the Board through Mr. Shearer the above request from the majority of the tax payers.

Mr. Shearer moved to adjourn the hearing portion of the meeting and reconvene the Regular Session of the Board Meeting. Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and Possible Approval of the 2014-15 Budget

Mr. Donehoo moved to approve the 2014-15 budget with the reflective change in the tax rate of 10.44 divided as out lined 9.41% primary and 1.03% secondary: with an understanding that the county has the final authority to set the tax rate. Mr. Shearer seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

CONSIDERATIONS OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SPECIAL BOARD MEETING JULY 10TH 7:00 A.M.

- Organizational Chart Revisions
- Javier Abrego
- Robert Scofield, Title

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shearer moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 PM. Ms. Pearce seconded the motion. The motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Barbara Shields, Board Secretary & Date

Kevin Hartigan, President

Pete Shearer, Clerk

Judi Beckerleg, Member

SuZan Pearce, Member

Brian Donehoo, Member