

Minutes of the Work Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held November 18, 2015 at the Courthouse Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

Those present: Jake Mellor, Commission Chair
Jae Potter, Commissioner
Casey Hopes, Commissioner

Also present: Seth Oveson, Clerk/Auditor
Lori Perez, Deputy Clerk
Mayor Parson, East Carbon City
Debbie Kobe, Senior Center Director
Laurie Tryon, Recorder
Julie Medley, Assessor
Dave Maggio, East Carbon City Council

Clerk's Certificate of Compliance with Open Meeting Law was filed.

Commissioner Mellor welcomed everyone.

1) **East Carbon Senior Citizens Center Issues – Doug Parsons Mayor, East Carbon City**

Mayor Parson said the dining area at the East Carbon Senior Center is too small and patrons often have to be moved to other rooms in order to eat lunch which separates the people and doesn't allow visiting. He asked if there was a possibility to add on to the East Carbon Senior Center to help ease some of the congestion.

This same area is used for other activities including: home health services, pool, cards, library shelves and quilting. The area is not adequate for the number of people using it.

Commissioner Potter asked how many East Carbon residents come to Price to the Senior Center. Mayor Parsons was not sure of the numbers but acknowledged that some do. He feels that the senior center in East Carbon serves many people and they have great participation. It is prohibitive for many patrons to travel to Price due to age and disabilities.

Councilman Dave Maggio explained the circumstances for his mother who is ninety-three and legally blind but still goes to the senior center in East Carbon every day. She eats there and stays to play cards. The center has one pool table which has limited room to play all the way around it. The line dancing and quilting were moved to Peterson Elementary because more room was needed. If everyone who was eligible to go the Senior Center went, there would be no room at all. Birthday lunch is well attended. Today there were forty-three people for lunch at the center and only two empty places. The maximum that can be served is forty-five without moving into the back rooms.

Commissioner Potter asked about the senior population in East Carbon. Mayor Parson said he could get this number. Councilman Maggio thinks it's about 700. Mayor Parson said the total population for East Carbon is approximately 1800.

Commissioner Potter asked for suggestions. Mayor Parsons would like to see the dining room enlarged and a separate room created for pool, card playing and quilters. Councilman Maggio thinks an addition to the east could be added on easy enough. There is room for expansion out towards the parking area. You could probably expand to the north too.

Commissioner Hopes said he looked at the property to the north which is owned by the school district. The conversation continued concerning the west side where there is a small parking area and a road used by four wheelers to access the canyon.

Mayor Parsons said we could talk to the school district because on the north everything is sagebrush. Commissioner Hopes has looked at putting in a patio there but it only helps with the problem in the summertime.

Commissioner Potter asked about Meals on Wheels. Debbie said East Carbon cooks their own meals and come into town once a week for supplies from the Price Senior Center. East Carbon's kitchen needs a new dish washer, ice machine, carpeting and steamer. Bonnie does an excellent job. She and her staff are very dedicated.

Commissioner Hopes said they tried to repurpose some of the equipment from the old senior center, but not all of it worked because of different sizes.

Commissioner Hopes asked for daily attendance numbers. Debbie did not bring those with her. Commissioner Hopes commented that the numbers tend to ebb and flow at both Centers. The conversation continued concerning the space needed for the pool table; the restriction of the area by the counter, the book cases for the library and the piano.

Commissioner Potter said the difficulty is the county wide reduced funds and the cost of operating two senior facilities. Councilman Maggio said the building is owned by the County and the County can ask for CIB money as well as the city. He believes most joint applications to the CIB for grant money or low interest loans are granted providing that they are for brick and mortar. This was Mayor Parson's position as well.

He asked Debbie if she knew what the cost was to run the East Carbon's Senior Center. Debbie said it is not operated separately. They get their groceries from them and the only items separated out are utilities and fuel for the vehicles. Debbie keeps track of maintenance and labor costs. Councilman Maggio said ground keeping and snow removal is done by volunteers. Mayor Parson said East Carbon City could help out by paying the water and sewer.

Commissioner Potter asked if East Carbon City could take on more of the finances for the Senior Center. He gave an example of what another community had done. Mayor Parsons said they are doing better financially because of a tax increase. They could help with sewer and water. The conversation continued concerning ECDC.

Debbie Kobe proposed combining the two centers to the one in Price. Mayor Parsons explained the problem of seniors driving to Price to eat and the importance of these services provided to them. Councilman Maggio said his mom goes every day from 11 to 6 to the EC Senior Center. Mayor Parsons said the residents use it and if it were closed there would be problems. He does not see this as an option.

The hours at the Price Senior Center are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. East Carbon's hours are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. but the residents are allowed to stay until their activities are done. Mayor Parson's proposals would be to find a grant to help fund the center.

Commissioner Hopes asked if they had looked at what the construction would cost. They had not. They would need an estimate from an engineer. Commissioner Hopes asked about an averaged cost. Bringing in modulars was suggested but ramps would have to be constructed to replace the stairs.

Seth asked if all of the meals could be prepared in Price and sent to East Carbon. Then you could take out the entire kitchen section and add it to the larger room. Debbie said that meals being prepared in a mutual kitchen are not uncommon across the State. The concern was raised about losing the kitchen employees in East Carbon. They would still need employees to deliver and serve the meals. This is an idea to expand the room and use existing staff.

Councilman Maggio said the residents have a good relationship with the dedicated staff. They help the patrons even outside of the Senior Center.

The discussion continued including mine closure, the power plant, water, residents not driving to Price to eat lunch, the importance of the activities and the exercise machines in another building sponsored by East Carbon City.

Councilman Maggio said they would like to expand twelve feet on the west side. Mayor Parsons is willing to have East Carbon City get a cost estimate for this and have a contractor look at it.

Commissioner Mellor thanked those in attendance and will call with any questions.

Commissioner Potter made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hopes seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 3:43 p.m.





Jake Mellor, Chairman

ATTEST:



Seth Oveson, County Clerk/Auditor

