

**MINUTES OF THE HUNTSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
EMERGENCY MEETING**

Saturday, January 12th, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Huntsville Town Hall

Present: Mayor James C. McKay
Council Member Richard Sorensen
Council Member Max Ferre'
Council Member Jim Truett
Council Member Steve Johnson
Legal Council Jerald Engstrom
Clerk/Recorder, Gail Ahlstrom

Citizens: D-Bell Ron Gault

Mayor McKay called the meeting to order. There is a full quorum present today. The Mayor explained that this meeting will fall into the category of an Emergency Meeting. The meeting was called to address an immediate issue with regards to the possible relocation of Valley Elementary School, from Huntsville to Eden. Mr. Engstrom, the town's attorney, is a personal acquaintance of Jerry Groote, who is the chairman of the Weber County School Board. Mr. Engstrom spoke with Mr. Groote and his recommendation was that the town needs to prepare some information and then meet with him next week. The purpose of this is to try to gather information and create some interest in the town's proposals, prior to their meeting on January 28th. The school board's planned agenda includes a final decision on what to do with the location of Valley Elementary.

Review of draft letter to the Weber County School District: (See Attachment #1)

The council spent the next hour and a half editing and amending the draft letter prepared by Mr. Engstrom. Mr. Engstrom also displayed an aerial photograph of the current Valley Elementary and the town block it sits on. The school owns the whole block, except for Richard Creamers lot and a half, and a portion of the alley. All info was obtained by Mr. Engstrom from the W.C. Surveyor. Right now the survey shows the Berlin's still own some of the property. When the Berlin's sold the property to the school district, there was a life estate attached to their property, so they could live there until they were both deceased. Both of the Berlin's have passed away, and their life estate can be extinguished, however the school district has never prepared the paperwork to reflect this. The survey shows a total of 5.5 acres of property, if the town were to vacate the remaining alley. The Eden site has a total of 10 acres.

Mayor McKay gave a quick history on this particular block. The LDS church and the school were side by side on the south west corner of the block. The school has burned down twice in its history in Huntsville. The school district ended up purchasing the Renstrom's property, at that time the town vacated a portion of the alley so the school could do an addition.

In about 1977 they approached the Berlin's about buying their property, the Berlin's sold their property to them with a life estate so they could live there until their death, at that time the school would receive the property. Both of the Berlin's passed away by 1983, at that time the school district took control of their property. The Mayor verified all the dates with the Berlin's son.

There was discussion about the many amenities at the Huntsville park that are available each day to the school students, the playground area, the basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts, soccer, lacrosse, and baseball fields, the stage area, the ice rink, and the two bowery's, these items could all be replaced, but not the 85 year old trees. When the mayor and attorney meet with the school board they will be able to expand on a lot of these areas in further depth. The council all agreed that the location of the Ogden Valley Library across the street from Valley Elementary was a higher priority than the park. At the time when the location of the Ogden Valley Library was being discussed a great deal of study had been done, and it was determined that wherever possible it is better to locate a public library adjacent to an elementary school to provide a major educational resource to the elementary.

The town has requested letters of support from Linda Wangsgard, from the Ogden Valley Library, and the W.C. Commissioners. The Mayor asked CM Johnson to pick up a list of after school activities from the library and get it to Mr. Engstrom, so these could be included in the letter as well. The town would have to re-zone this property from Residential-1 to Commercial-1. Schools and churches are zoned Residential -1, if the property is zoned Commercial-1, then the school wouldn't have to meet the required 30 foot set-backs, giving them additional length. The Mayor mentioned another advantage, prior to the 2002 Winter Olympics, Fiber Optics were brought into the valley. The location of this facility is immediately west of the current school. No one knew for sure if the fiber optics went over to Eden or not.

Discussion continued about the concerns raised about the town's water pressure. Currently the town has two, eight inch main water lines that run in front of the school and two, two-inch lines feeding the school. These lines could be increased to whatever the Fire Board requires. The water suppression and water usage lines are usually kept separate. In recent years the town has constructed a state of the art water treatment facility with a one million gallon storage tank. There was some discussion as to the possible location of the septic tanks. They expressed concerns over the safety of having the school located on a main highway instead of nestled in the safety of Huntsville. The council agreed that if a natural disaster were to occur, having the junior high and the elementary in separate locations in the valley would increase the chance that one of the buildings would still be usable for a place of refuge.

In the council's opinion if Valley Elementary is moved to Eden, that will leave an empty school in Huntsville, which there isn't a market for. No one knows the value of the Huntsville site if it were placed for sale. The current school would have to be demolished and the basement area filled in with dirt. They discussed the most feasible method of providing for the students during the period of construction. The town would like to include their input along with the W.C. Commission, and the Library Board, before a final decision is made on where to locate the new school.

CM Sorensen made the suggestion of adding an additional paragraph that would reflect the town's willingness and commitment to helping the school board expedite efforts in getting the school rebuilt in a timely manner, and that the town appreciates the board of trustees in their desire to expand the educational facilities in the Ogden Valley.

Mayor McKay made a motion that as a Town Council, they support this letter of information directed to Weber School District in support of Valley Elementary remaining in Huntsville Town, and as part of the motion that the Mayor, Mr. Engstrom, and Council Member Truett meet with the School Board executive and report at the next council meeting, January 17, 2008. CM Sorensen seconded. All votes aye. Motion does pass.

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| Roll: | Mayor McKay | <u>Aye</u> | CM Ferre' | <u>Aye</u> |
| | CM Truett | <u>Aye</u> | CM Johnson | <u>Aye</u> |
| | CM Sorensen | <u>Aye</u> | | |

Mayor McKay mentioned that the item on the agenda has been discussed. CM Sorensen made a motion to adjourn. CM Ferre' seconded. All votes aye.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Gail Ahlstrom, Clerk/Recorder

James C. McKay, Mayor