

**WORK SESSION—JULY 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011**

Minutes of the Huntsville Town Council Work Session, held at the  
Huntsville Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

**Present:** Mayor James Truett  
Council Member Max Ferre’  
Council Member Alan Clapperton  
Council Member Laurie Allen  
Council Member Richard Sorensen  
Clerk/Recorder Gail Ahlstrom  
Legal Council Jerald Engstrom  
Treasurer Ramona Clapperton

**Citizens:** Michelle DeHaan (Waterworks)      Cory Christiansen (Water Works)  
Kevin Brown (Sunrise)                      Dave Torgersen (Sunrise)  
Dave Pilkington (Water Operator)      Lewis Johnson (Water Operator)

**Excused:** Council Member Richard Sorensen

Mayor Truett called the meeting to order and explaining that this meeting is held in conjunction with the Huntsville water plant operators, Lewis Johnson and Dave Pilkington, Sunrise Engineers Dave Torgersen and Kevin Brown, and Waterworks Engineers Cory Christiansen and Michelle DeHaan. The meeting was set up so the town can get some guidance on how to go about getting upgrades done at the culinary water plant. Mayor Truett received an email today from the Department of Environmental Quality stating that the treatment plant faces an imminent shortage of filters and they consider Huntsville Town’s water system in an emergency situation. (See Attachment #1)

When the Mayor read the letter he called and spoke with Ying Ying Macauley at the State. The town realizes that the treatment plant needs some attention. Lewis mentioned that the log removal credit the state gives is based on the bag filter, the state is giving the town two credits for the bag system and one for a certified water operator. Lewis stated that the state doesn’t count the sand filter. Lewis clarified that a log removal means you improved the water by a factor of 10. Lewis is frustrated by the state requirements, they want the town to do a four log removal, and the only way to get a four log removal at our treatment plant would be to add dirt to the water. In the spring Lewis will get readings of 1 million particles per sample, which is clean to .01 particles, which is equal to a 6 log removal. The water is cleaner before it comes into the plant by running the water through the sand filter, which the State doesn’t count as a filter. The sand cleans the water to State specifications, but the State won’t count the sand as a log removal system. Lewis said our water is clean and the filter system is cleaning the water but to maintain State approval and support from Division of Drinking Water the town will have to meet their rules. Lewis said there isn’t any other place that has used the bags the way the town has. Everyone other system has used the bags as a main part of their filtering system.

The town uses the bags as a backup for the system. Lewis stated that the town's bag system is basically filtering clean water. The State thinks the bags only last 1-3 months, and Lewis feels that he can easily use the last two bags for two more years. Lewis said we have time to do things right.

Lewis gave the group a short history on the treatment plant. Lewis said that about 13 years ago he personally drafted a letter to send to the State to ask them to help us and let us know what the town needed to do to get our treatment plant in compliance. The reply that came back was "fix the water or else!" So the town went through the process and now has a culinary water plant. Now the town has received another letter that says fix the water plant or else! Lewis feels that this letter is what the town needed to help find funding and we shouldn't over react.

Mayor Truett said he called Ying Ying Macauley, and told her that the town was holding a work session tonight with both engineering firms and invited her to come. Copies of the letter were sent to Doug Bousfield, Debbie Myer and Ken Wilde at the Div. of Drinking Water. Ying Ying told the Mayor that the purpose for the letter is that now there is a document that will help the town get money. The letter seemed harsh but Ying Ying feels that it will help the town get some type of grants or loans from the Div. of Drinking Water board. Dave Torgersen said it is a political move, now when the town goes to the water board it will reinforce that there is a true need at the Huntsville plant.

Michelle mentioned that she and Cory have spent the last couple of months trying to get grants for the town, and have hit dead ends everywhere they looked. However, there is loan money available. Kevin suggested the town write a letter of reply back to the State including a plan of action for the town. Mayor Truett would like to set up a meeting with Debra Myers, Ken Wilde, Ying Ying, town representatives and both engineering firms. Michelle said she prepared a letter on behalf of the town that addresses grant funding, MAGI calculations, and the town's monthly water bill. (See Attachment #2) Michelle recommended that the town prepare a cover letter to go along with this letter to be sent to the water board.

Lewis said the filter bag is the sticking point, no one manufactures the bags or filter housing anymore. There is no adaptation for the current cylinders. Lewis wanted to know if we can pin point a system that would work for the town. Michelle said that is what is done in a feasibility analysis. Cory said when you read the letter from Ying Ying it makes you upset, but Lewis is correct in saying that he can run the plant the way it is for another 2-5 years. The reality is that the State and the EPA have rules that the town will have to comply with. When Ying Ying says this letter will help the town get funding that is a totally accurate statement. The town is now placed on a high priority list, and the town is listed as a community in imminent danger. Cory feels that it will help the town. Huntsville is in need of funding and it needs to be in the form of grants. The MAGI calculation funding board says the town has too high of income and are not willing to give the town a grant. The first priority after the meeting tonight is to establish a meeting with both the compliance people and grant people in the same room.

Cory said the compliant board will help the town make the argument that the town needs grants. The town should ask for grants first for the feasibility study, which can be done in a very short period of time. Waterworks will evaluate all the options, from finding a new bag system to the installation of a membrane system.

The town needs to set up a meeting with the State, explain the town's plan, conduct a feasibility study, make a decision on the options presented, and then go after the funds needed and see how much of that money the town can get in grants instead of loans. Cory's experience with working with the technical and compliance people at the State is that they really do want to help communities out. The town needs to meet eye to eye with the State, show them that we have contracted with two engineering firms showing good faith that the town knows that there is an issue that needs to be addressed, have a schedule in mind, and express the town's need for grant money to do the feasibility studies needed. Cory said he is confident that the State will provide a grant for this, especially since the town has received this letter. Any amount of grant for the town is good.

Michelle reminded everyone that the State reports to the EPA, and the EPA comes down on the State to make sure systems are compliant. So the State wants to help the town by keeping themselves out of trouble.

Kevin said he used to sit on the Department of Environmental Quality Board and understands how the State works. Lewis said he wants the distribution end of the plant finished up just as much as he wants to see the treatment plant upgraded. There are 200 meters in town that need to be replaced. The town's proposal for a two part project can be presented as a unified front. Waterworks will take care of issues relative to the treatment plant and Sunrise will take care of the distribution end and analysis of water rights. Kevin will set up the meeting date and time and let everyone know. Cory will prepare a cover letter for the town to be printed off on town letterhead, in response to the letter from the State.

Gail mentioned that in the letter prepared by Waterworks addresses the MAGI calculations. The State is using the 84317 zip code for its MAGI numbers; these numbers are disqualifying the town from grant money by saying we are not a low income community. Gail has documentation of income surveys to each home owner in Huntsville Town that proves that Huntsville is a low income community; she used this information to qualify the town for a CDBG grant. Gail said the 84317 zip code is for Huntsville Town, the un-incorporated Huntsville area, and all of Eden. Gail stressed that the town's water system supplies water to Huntsville Town residents only.

Cory pointed out that the data Gail collected has been summarized and sent to the State. The issue isn't whether Huntsville is a low income community it's that the State is looking at a median, and the funding people are saying the town doesn't qualify. If the town goes to this meeting just trying to prove that Huntsville is a low income area, it will be a hard battle to win. Cory thinks having the town a high priority on the State S list will help the town more than the low income argument. Mayor Truett said the last thing the town wants to do is raise its water rates, but he understands that the town will be forced to do so in order to pay back loans. Cory stated that the town may get grants but water rates will still need to be raised, the funding agencies will push for that.

Cory mentioned that there are other opportunities for funding. The CIB is more likely to fund a project that is ready to go than for funding engineering. Mayor Truett asked if there is a way to roll the engineering fees into the amount of money received or loaned. Waterworks has been asking for money to do the feasibility study, and then the town would still have the opportunity to request an additional grant/loan from the drinking board. Cory stated that the engineering costs can be rolled into the funding. Mayor Truett stated that USDA is also another funding option. Gail asked if the town is going to accept the \$30,000 loan from Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) or not. Sunrise Engineering helped secure that funding. Dave Torgersen recommended that the town wait on accepting the loan until after the meeting with UDEQ. Now the town has this letter from UDEQ there could be grant opportunities pop up.

Mayor Truett asked how long it will take to get the town into compliance. Cory replied that the feasibility study will take about 4-6 weeks. It's not how fast the engineers can move, it's the suppliers that will hold things up. Cory doesn't anticipate a long pilot process if any. He doesn't want to see a lot of money spent on piloting a new system. Michelle commented that if the town picks a system that has already been approved by the State things will go a lot faster and a pilot study could be avoided. Mayor Truett would like to see a system installed that will still be viable in 20 years. Michelle said the town has good water quality and won't have to go to a system with greater log removal; the bigger risk would be a change in water quality. Michelle would like to look further into the town's Source Water Protection Plan, if you have open day light to your water and there's a fire it can change the quality of your water drastically. It will be beneficial to keep this in mind.

Michelle with put together some text and email it to Gail, to go on town letter head to be sent with Waterworks letter to UDEQ.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

---

Gail Ahlstrom, Clerk/Recorder

---

James. A. Truett, Mayor