

TOWN OF BERTHOUD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2006
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The Board of Trustees for the Town of Berthoud met for a special meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, in the Board Room of Town Hall. Mayor Karspeck called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Milan Karspeck
Mayor Pro-Tem Don Ashcraft
Trustee Louis Gervasi
Trustee Peder Thorstensen
Trustee David Gregg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Glen Buckingham
Trustee Michael Patrick

STAFF PRESENT; Town Administrator Jim White
Town Clerk Mary Cowdin
Attorney Bruce Fickel
Deputy Town Clerk Charlene Reed

Mayor Karspeck noted that public meetings continue regarding the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the proposed transportation network for the northern I-25 area. Anyone who wants to participate will still have several opportunities to do so. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2006, in the Longmont Museum.

Administrator White announced plans for the third State Department sponsored international visitor to Berthoud. He will be arriving Friday, February 6, 2006, in time for "Coffee with Jim." He will have meetings with staff, and lunch at Piccabears with staff and the Mayor and the Mayor Pro-Tem. He will have a tour of Town facilities, and will also have an opportunity to meet with the media.

Administrator White announced that the first planning meeting for June in Berthoud will be held Saturday at the Jumping Bean. June in Berthoud is scheduled for June 3, 2006.

Administrator White noted there are several ditch meetings coming up on Saturday, February 11, 2006. The meeting notices will be included in the packet on Friday.

BATS TRANSITION

Administrator White noted that over the past year, the Town has entertained the idea of assuming full responsibility for the Berthoud Area Transportation System. A study was done by the North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and they are recommending that this be done. At a meeting in the fall, the Board decided to delay this decision until 2006, due to other pressing issues. At this time, Trustee Gervasi, the Board liaison to BATS, is requesting a reconsideration of the idea.

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Administrator White noted that town staff has been handling the financials for BATS since August 2003. The transition is supported by the Berthoud Golden Links Board, as documented by the letter included in the packet. Administrator White noted that when this was discussed previously, staff was not ready to move forward with the transition. The Town provides an annual contribution to this program, but it is primarily funded with federal funds, and the Town has been designated as the recipient of those funds..

Administrator White asked for direction from the Board regarding whether to go forward with this transition.

Trustee Gervasi noted as the liaison to this Committee, he has several concerns. The Town is presently active in the management of this organization, but we do not manage BATS. He noted decisions are being made without input and consideration by the Town. An example was the recent decision to expand our service area to South Loveland. He noted he does not have an objection to the change, but feels Town staff should have been involved in the discussion.

Trustee Gervasi noted there are several inaccuracies in the consultant's report and expressed concern that the conclusions may not be correct based on these calculations.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ashcraft noted this is the same information that was reviewed at the previous meeting. He suggested it is prudent to make the transition and suggested we determine what needs to be done to make this happen.

Administrator White noted this is the same information and staff is asking the Board to provide guidance regarding whether we want to proceed with this transition.

Mayor Karspeck noted during the last meeting, we had a representative of the MPO present to facilitate the discussion, but he was unable to attend this evening.

Trustee Gervasi noted there is presently a discussion occurring regarding having a regional transit system in our area, and he suggested that would be a better option for all the towns in the area. Administrator White noted this is being discussed, but not to the point of replacing systems that are currently in place.

Trustee Gervasi noted that, in the study, there was little time spent in addressing the possibility of bringing in a third party to operate the system. He noted he would like to see that option explored further.

Mayor Karspeck noted BATS was started by citizens in the early 1990's and this is something that we have that other smaller areas do not. This program was started with minimal funds, and was one of the approved uses of the sales tax funding the Town

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receives. The Town provides \$70,000 a year from that sales tax revenue to support the system. The remaining funding for this program comes from federal funds. If the Town does not take control of the program, we will lose the grant funds that are currently providing a good portion of the support for BATS. He noted that there may be other options to consider in the long term, but the question we must address now is what do we do to continue the program in the short term. Any long term planning can be addressed in the future. He noted this is a valuable asset to the community. It needs to be continued and the Town is ready to move forward with the transition.

Trustee Gervasi noted he would support this transition as a stop gap measure, with further discussion down the road for the long term solution to this issue.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ashcraft asked if further funds will be needed from the Town if we take control of this operation. Administrator White noted the funding for the program should not change in the near future.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ashcraft noted this is benefit to the community and a strong community is stronger economically. He noted he would like to see very strong checks and balances to assure that this program continues to be self-supporting and continues as a benefit to the community.

Trustee Gervasi noted in addition to the \$70,000 that is contributed from the 1% sales tax, the Town pays for personnel and supplies, including fuel.

Town Clerk noted the Town gives \$70,000 to BATS from the 1998 1% Sales Tax fund. That is pooled together with grant funds and is kept from Town funds. She noted nothing from the Town's general budget is given to BATS.

Deputy Clerk Reed noted BATS is self supporting. Some of their expenses are paid with Town funds, but every dollar that is spent is repaid from the BATS accounts on a monthly basis.

Trustee Gregg suggested it is time to go forward with this transition and he asked for an executive summary touching on key points with a recommendation by town staff. He asked that staff provide a resolution or ordinance for approval.

Trustee Gregg noted one concern is what would happen to this program if federal funding is withdrawn. If that were to occur and the grant funding supporting this program was withdrawn, there needs to be a provision for the Town to eliminate the program if those funds are no longer available. He noted this should not be a program that would be a drain on the Town's resources.

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Trustee Thorstensen asked if there is a way to set specific fares for rides. Mayor Karspeck noted the MPO makes recommendations regarding what is done in this area, and the Town has the ability to participate in the decision making process. Administrator White noted our program operates on contributions rather than fares.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ashcraft asked if there is the likelihood of federal funds changing. Mayor Karspeck noted there is always the potential for change, but it is not likely that the funds will go away. There may be changes or reductions, but it is unlikely that the funding will go away completely.

Mayor Karspeck asked staff to put together a transition plan and bring it back to the Board.

Administrator White noted we have been involved in a grant process to purchase a property to house the program and we have \$190,000 earmarked from the Federal Transit Authority for that purpose. This is a five year grant, and we hope to be able to make this purchase soon.

Mayor Karspeck moved to instruct staff to put together a transition plan for BATS. Second by Trustee Gervasi. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Karspeck noted the Board needs to adjourn to executive session to discuss land purchases and for negotiations.

Trustee Gregg moved to adjourn to an Executive Session. Second by Trustee Thorstensen. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned to an Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:05 and with no further business, adjourned.

Mayor Milan Karspeck

Deputy Clerk Charlene Reed