

COMMUNITY TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)

MINUTES

Thursday November 12, 2020

Meeting was held via Zoom and Conference Room and hosted by JLDC staff. Attendees were: Tom Harrington, Alison Richardson, Eric Seidensticker, Chris Lamoreaux, Bruce Binkowski, Jack Smith, Leonard Wortman, Nick Hensleigh, John Kreis, Chuck Buus, Jerry Muethling, Diana McFarland, Paul Babb, Lee Good, Hannah Nieskens and Tim Blake.

1. Tom H. called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Introductions were made. September minutes were approved.
2. **GSM Operations** – Chuck B. presented.
 - a. **Safety Report** -No reportable injuries for September with 1328 days no lost time, 1001 days no medical report and no first aid. A gas line was hit by a contractor and 911 was called. Very fast response time. No injuries.
 - b. **Current Operations and GSM Update** – Two companies out of Salt Lake are doing demo work. Fresh water line is complete. Mills are all out and on the ground. Final drawings for construction is about 99.9% complete. Concrete work took longer than expected. Working on concentrate feed system. Finalizing all engineering. Approved to spend funds to buy equipment and infrastructure supplies. All permits are in hand.
 - c. **Employment Status** - 17 full time workers and 20 contractors on site.
3. **GSM Environmental Update** – Jerry M. presented
 - a. **Permit Updates** –
 - b. **Reclamation Update** –
 - c. **Other Items** –
 - d. **Jefferson Local Development Corporation Update** – Going over a 60-page interim document on the meat processing plant. This will give the feasibility of what it takes to run a 50 day a head facility. Business development model still looking at possible COOP. MMEC will present to JLDC in December. MDC- One week ago the land trust designation was finalized by the State. We are getting close to choosing a consultant for the project. We are working on 2 Brownsfield grants to help with cleanup. Working with Kip Huckabu on a possible hydroponic growing facility in Cardwell. Old Forestry building in Whitehall has been chosen as the site for the Western Legacy Center. We should have initial costs in December. Tim from LGT gave us an update on the wind machines. They laid concrete foundations to install the turbines. Just waiting for it to cure. He said we could take a tour as soon as this is complete.
4. **Whitehall Town Update** – Personnel changes. Hired a part time billing clerk and the two other employees will split duties. Working on wrapping up the 2019 fiscal audit. Water treatment plant is in the design phase and it will go out for bid. Public Works is trimming trees in the alleys and winterizing. The mill levy did not pass so this will affect the 2021 budget. The money was ear marked to help with our first responders. Working on cutting back for the new budget. Northwestern Energy has completed the lights throughout the city. New LED lights will be a substantial savings for the city.
5. **Whitehall Schools Update** – Moving into controlled closure. They will close Nov 16-Nov 30 due to a rise in COVID cases in faculty and student body. 25% of staff out and 18% of students out. Hannah has been asked by governor elect to serve on a COVID task force. To advise and recommend.
6. **Whitehall Chamber of Commerce Update** – Fall Festival was very well received even with the inclement weather. Vendors were very happy. Money was raised for various charities. Pie contest was a huge hit. Christmas Stroll health plan was not approved by the Health Department. Thinking about doing virtual contests. Alison will be President of the Chamber and Pam from Settings will be Vice President next year.
7. **Jefferson County Commission/Events** – Leonard congratulated Health Department on their diligence and hard work. Election ha an 89% turnout. Hot Springs bridge is being installed. Should be open very soon. Whitetail Road is almost complete. County will maintain it. Bruce reported that all events are taking a hit from COVID for 2020, but that all events are going ahead for 2021 and should be successful. Halloween event was a success. Already planning next year. A flurry of sports casts have happened for high school sports. Worked closely with TSS to make these happen.
8. **Pipestone Creek Sedimentation/Jefferson Slough Project Update** – Additional work on slough. Changing the design a bit but no milfoil was detected.

9. **Fish Wildlife Parks Update** – No report.

10. **Other Items**– Northwestern will be donating for the Food Pantry here in Whitehall. They have also been contacted by a local church for funds. Hannah said that if they can donate to both, that would be great as they are both active in feeding our hungry families. A thanks went out to TSS for helping put the Vet show out there yesterday. Two of our local vets worked all day yesterday at the K-Bar helping feed the vets.

Adjourn at 8:52 am and our next meeting will be at 8:00 am on Thursday December 10th.