

COMMUNITY TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)

MINUTES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Meeting was a combination Zoom and in person at the Borden's Conference room in Whitehall. Attendees: Jerry Muething, Chuck Buus, Cory Kirsch, John Kreis, Gerry Keogh, Cody Wortman, Eric Seidensticker, Nick Hensleigh, Leonard Wortman, Bruce Binkowski, Tom Harrington, Tim Mulligan, Hanna Nieskens, Lindsey Graham, Paul Babb, Lee Good and Erin Carbajal.

- Tom H. called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Introductions were made. October minutes were approved.
- **GSM Operations** – Chuck Buus presented.
- **Safety Report** – 1720 days without a lost time accident. There was one contractor fall injury requiring medical treatment.
- **Operations Update** – 75-80% done on electrical with 80% done on piping. Slurry plant 80% complete. Tank building pumps and tanks being installed. Experiencing delays due to material shortages and hoping for a grand opening by February 2022 and will have company CEO and invite the governor.
- **Employment Status** – 26 full time workers, hope to have 32 by beginning of the year, with 50 contractors.
- **GSM Environmental Update** – No environmental issues reported.
- **Permit Updates** – Able to reduce the bond by \$10 million, from \$148-138 million, saving \$45k a year in interest premiums. State DEQ inspection went well.
- **Reclamation Update** – Seeded 35 acres this fall with about 5 more acres to go.
- **Jefferson Local Development Corporation Update** – Discussion about SBP new warehouse, still deciding over three or four bay building. South campus is gaining traction and moving forward with a building demo and new construction planning. North ends wants a community development group, working with Ash Grove on this. Legacy Center has an EDA application for remodel submitted. Website is almost up and running, Ecommerce will help with local products being up and running year-round. Whitehall Master Plan and Star Theater assessment is progressing.
- **Whitehall Sustainability Committee** – Working on the application process and waiting on additional information.
- **Whitehall Schools**. School bus collision on Hwy 2 left one dead and another seriously injured. Modifying bus routes to accommodate driver shortage. Annual wrestling 3-day tournament is this weekend and will be televised. Working on making many updates to schools; new flooring for the middle school, plan to replace all 171 windows, will use funds from the American Rescue Plan.
- **Whitehall Town Update** – Christmas lights are up. Annual audit has been completed. Master Plan survey is in progress.
- **Whitehall Chamber of Commerce Update** – Christmas stroll happening this Friday & Saturday, with the Chamber officer elections happening today. Plan to redo the murals around town starting off with the Jefferson Fresh Foods mural.
- **Jefferson County Commission/Events** – MT Tunnels have finally made a payment of \$5.M on their delinquent taxes, Hired a Recovery Funding Coordinator and Grants Administrator. Covid numbers have gone down in Jefferson County. Busy season for events and public radio broadcasts for school games is ongoing.
- **Pipestone Creek Sedimentation/Jefferson Slough Project Update** – Planning for Slough project expansion is ongoing.
- **Fish Wildlife Parks Update** – Public meeting on new hunting regulations will be held on December 22nd at the community center. Many changes being proposed and would be a good meeting to attend.
- **Other Items** – Leonard mentioned he would not be running for county commission when his term expires next year.

Adjourn 8:58 a.m. Next meeting will be January 13th at 8:00 am at the Borden's Conference Room.