

GENOA TOWN ADVISORY BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2015

The Genoa Town Advisory Board held a public meeting on September 1, 2015 beginning at 6:36pm at the Genoa Town Meeting Room, at 2289 Main St., Genoa, Nevada.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The meeting was called to order by Member Pace. Present were Board Members, Timothy DeTurk and Member Linda Birdwell. Absent from the meeting was Chair Trent Tholen and Vice-Chair Nancy Aten.

Also present was Town Manager, Phil Ritger and staff. Members of the public were asked to sign in, and the sign in sheet is attached to the original minutes as Exhibit A.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tillery Williams.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Under public comment, Sue Knight informs the board of a FAM Tour of 140 people from Brazil will be coming to Genoa on September 29th from 2:30-5:30pm, after the Genoa Candy Dance. Details of the event are explained.

Under public comment, Brian Foster with the Genoa Community Church wants to bring to the Boards attention that the Church is in need of some maintenance work.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member DeTurk moved to approve the agenda, motion seconded by Member Birdwell and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the August 4, 2015 regular meeting were approved. Motion by Member Pace, seconded by Member Birdwell and passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Verbal report from Town Manager Phil Ritger:

A) Genoa Main Street Wi-Fi Update:

Placement of 12 Wi-Fi receivers units and coverage testing has begun. GVFD has agreed to supply internet band-width at their location; cost sharing is being discussed. Also, The Pink House has agreed to supply internet band-width and receiver placement in exchange for splash page advertising.

B) Upcoming Town Sponsored Events:

Summer Concert on The Green series concludes Sept. 13 with The Three Wiseman.
Genoa Candy Dance, Sept. 26-27.
Genoa Halloween Haunt, Friday Oct. 31st.

C) Update on Annual Genoa Candy Dance:

We currently have 280 vendor booths and 10 remaining spots in all areas. We have 30 Food booths on contract. Dinner Dance tickets are one sale, both the standard and 1919 Society. Sponsorship updates and committee chairs announced.

CONSENT CALENDAR FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Member Birdwell moved to approve consent calendar, motion seconded by Member Pace and passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Agenda item no. 3:

Discussion and possible action to approve, approve with conditions, deny or defer a letter of support to the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners for the priorities and funding options identified in the proposed Douglas County Countywide Connectivity Project. Presentation by Jacques and Dominique Etchegoyen.

Introduction to the project by Lisa Granahan, Douglas County Economic Vitality Manager. Presentation given by Champions of the Project, Jacque and Dominique Etchegoyen.

Genoa Town Board's response letter attached.

Agenda item no. 4:

Discussion and possible action to approve, approve with conditions, deny or defer a contract with Integrity Fire Protection Services not to exceed \$2,750 for repair of the fire suppression system in the Town kitchen to meet UL 300 Standards with work to be completed in October 2015.

Town Manager, Phil Ritger explains, the Town kitchen fire suppression system in the stove hood has been tagged with "impairment" and cited by EFFPD as needed to be repaired/replaced. The reason for the impairment is that the current dry chemical system cannot be recharged if it is discharged. Staff has solicited bids from three (3) State Approved contractors and is recommending that the work be completed by Integrity Fire Protection Services from Sparks, NV. The Town has worked with Terry Taylor, EFFPD, to extend the repair timeframe from this month till October to avoid disruption of the volunteer candy making activities necessary to prepare for the Genoa Candy Dance.

Member DeTurk moves to approve the contract with Integrity Fire Protection Services to repair the suppression system in the Town kitchen, motion seconded by Member Pace and passed unanimously.

NOT FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: BOARD COMMENTS AND REPORTS

No Board Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Birdwell motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm. Motion seconded by Member Pace and passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by:

Sarah Macellari
Office Assistant II, Town of Genoa

Agenda Item No. 3 GTAB Response:

September 2, 2015

Re: County Connectivity Project

We would like to commend and thank Jacques and Dominique Etchegoyhen for the professional presentation they made in front of the Genoa Town Advisory Board on September 1, 2015. They addressed all questions that were raised on the Connectivity Project. Lisa Granahan and Bill Chernock were also helpful in assisting with information in a positive manner. Constructive comments from those in attendance also contributed to clarify this topic.

We have a few concerns and comments moving forward that we would like to share.

- 1) Raising taxes is not something we would normally endorse. Additional taxes are a hardship on everyone, especially seniors with fixed incomes. We do understand these selected tax increases are necessary to achieve the proposed improvement goals.
- 2) When asked about the specifics such as the chosen by-pass route for 395 we were told that the route would be selected in the future. It is perplexing for us to endorse a set of additional taxes without exact plans or scope of work.
- 3) Ensuring the additional revenue or tax for the specified county enhancements is required. Allowing these funds to be used for other purposes or the general fund would be unacceptable.
- 4) We believe these additional taxes should end or be removed in the future, when the goals and or projects have been achieved or completed.
- 5) The presentation included a portion addressing Federal Funds. It was presented that we would receive \$4 of federal funding to each \$1 of our money invested. This represents an outstanding financial opportunity that we would clearly encourage the County to pursue.
- 6) Please see the attached letter prepared by Trent Tholen, GTAB Chairman.

It is reassuring to have trust in our Board of Commissioners to review the concerns and comments above. Along with other community input, we have confidence the Board of Commissioners will carefully review, with the entire County's best interest in mind.

At the end of the day, taking our concerns and comments into account and reviewing the benefits to our County, the Genoa Town Advisory Board by majority vote supports the County Connectivity Project.

Trent Tholen, on behalf of the Genoa Town Advisory Board

Agenda Item No. 3 Member Tholen Response:

September 23, 2015

Re: County Connectivity Project

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

I would like to thank not just Jacques and Dominique Etchegoyhen for their hard work and dedication to the County Connectivity Project, but all of those who have been involved in the process so far. I understand why the County feels the need to capitalize on Federal funding; however, right now is not the right time to increase the County's liabilities. With opposition to tax increases aside, Douglas County currently has several underfunded obligations and we need to find a way to responsibly fund those first.

On the surface, the two most important obligations that are currently underfunded are the existing road infrastructure, and employees. We have deteriorating roads that aren't getting proper maintenance or repairs where needed. Yet now we're looking to expand that infrastructure. That's a tough pill to swallow. I suggest the first problem be solved before more infrastructure obligations are added. One possible solution would be, if a gas tax is being considered, to implement a gas tax (based on voter desire, of course) to help fund our existing roads, which will require less money to be transferred from the General Fund to the Road Fund. With less money being transferred out of the General Fund, the County will have more money to fund its greatest asset - its employees.

Proper employee compensation is a huge issue in Douglas County. There are several employees in Douglas County at present day that are being paid below the minimum of their pay scales. Many employees aren't receiving proper, competitive pay raises, and employees with dependents are paying extremely high rates for their health benefits. These are subjects that have been brought up several times to County management and leadership, and each time we get the response that the County just doesn't have the money to properly fund its employees. And now, the County wants to raise taxes to fund a project that is widely considered an extra - something that isn't necessary to the overall well-being of Douglas County. The words organizational sustainability are being heard a lot these days in our organization. That will be extremely difficult to achieve if the County keeps funding pet projects while expecting its employees to keep sustaining unnecessary cuts.

Although this letter isn't all-encompassing, I have touched on a couple things that need to be addressed before the Connectivity Project should be considered. Please let me reiterate, the County Connectivity Project may be a worth-while idea if the County was able to fund its current obligations. Until they can do that, for what it's worth, the County will not receive my individual support.

Sincerely,

Trent Tholen, GTAB Chairman