



UEB Meeting Minutes, May 4, 2022

Meeting Time and Location: Began at 4:30pm. Held remote via Zoom meeting.

Attendance: Jim Kerr, Lee Hall, Larry Quinn, Jerry Rotz, Chris Cope, Michael Jackson, Chris Meline

Staff: Aaron Caplan

Liaison: Greg Oetting

Guests: None

1. Amendments to Agenda

None

2. Introductions with new BOT liaison Greg Oetting

Greg is glad to be part of UEB.

3. Audience Business

None

4. Approve Minutes from March 30, 2022 and April 20, 2022

Approved Unanimously

5. Upcoming Meetings

a) MEAN Finance Committee Meeting – 12 May

b) MEAN Committee and Board Meetings – 18, 19 May

c) No UEB Meeting 18 May

Jim Kerr attending MEAN meetings in Kearney, NE on 18-19 May

6. Updates

a) Board of Trustees, Greg Oetting

There was an Urban Renewal Authority (URA) meeting to give funds to the St Vrain Market. They are doing about \$0.5M in improvements.

First BOT meeting, priorities were discussed. Fire mitigation is the highest priority. BOT wants to wean the town from grant funding.

Other priorities are getting Eastern Corridor moving and some utility issues were discussed.

Spirit Hound will be covered by Aaron.

b) Staff, Engineering. Aaron Caplan

Spirit Hound was required to dedicate the water share by May 20. They need 2 shares of Lake Macintosh. It has been difficult to find these shares. BOT gave them additional 60 days to find shares and possibly cash in lieu of shares. Town cannot sell off anything that is not surplus so cannot sell town shares. Money should cover 2 shares so that town is not negative. Workshop in June on town water rights. Lake McIntosh water shares are handled by Highland Ditch and they are very specific on their rules and regulations. New website supposedly will be set up by Highland Ditch to market these shares. Monday BOT report gives short water rights summary.

Planet Bluegrass does not need shares until they connect. There could be potential for multiple entities getting shares and splitting to town needs.

Town should probably not take cash unless sale price confirmed.

DOLA still working with town on getting RFP out for solar farm. Town would like to find best deal for intermediary contractor getting tax credits. DOLA wants to pay on invoice basis on work completed. Town must pay 28% of total cost with DOLA paying 72%. Tax credit can be part of that with documentation.

“Collective Sun” or equivalent firm appear to be only way to go based on DOLA requirements. Town needs more than one bid to evaluate.

DOLA is investigating options for the town that meet both town and DOLA requirements.

New staff handling building permits. New code enforcement person. Also new public works staff.

Electric undergrounding at RR and Fire Station is being completed. Hope to UG lines on Broadway and new hotel wants lines put UG. Need to connect all the way back to 3rd and 4th, cannot just do part. Broadway project will take this into account for transformers and infrastructure needs. Cannot go UG all the way to 5th since too costly with lot of conflicts. Have preliminary design, need to estimate cost.

Food trucks are being questioned about need for commissary to deal with food prep and wastewater dumping. Current Lyons code restricts dumping of food truck waste into wastewater system.

Longmont had transformer blow east side a few days ago.

Consultant will assist town in GIS after updated.

c) UEB Chair – Jim Kerr

- Two new solar installations and one year after installation of the smart meters. Still some issues on smart meter data.
- MEAN power supply committee will be looking at battery storage.
- Comp plan framework is weak on utilities. Water supply and wastewater is not mentioned. UEB concerns are not yet included.
- Got hourly data from MEAN to get peaks. For 2021, they are not using the actual data supplied for Lyons. May be starting for April 2022 calculations.
- Met with MEAN on renewable energy. Lyons, Aspen, Glenwood Springs and Gunnison involved and looking at renewable pool. Some have already gone to 100% renewable.

d) Other UEB Members

Larry noted that UEB comments on Comp Plan but not taken into account in the framework. Aaron noted that changes for utilities are planned.

Jerry will be out until middle of June. Jim wants to know if folks are going to be gone.

Boards are allowed to stay on Zoom. UEB will stay for at least summer.

7. Solar Farm and Battery Storage Status

See Aaron description above.

There is no requirement to change the berm height. A 9-foot high limit on the solar farm and battery storage was negotiated with the Carrolls.

8. Undergrounding Electric Lines

Message from Aaron Caplan on April 14, 2022:

“Been getting a lot of requests to upgrade service panels in older buildings and some require upgrading the size of the wire and possibly transformers. I think we should look into requiring any upgrade of electrical service or modifications to any part of the service from the service panel out to the transformer shall underground their electrical service if not already underground.

I think we could put it in 13-1-270 - Modification of existing Connections. I also think we should move this section up to become 13-1-120 because it seems like it would be better before getting into the rest of the discussion on fines and other housekeeping items.”

Jim comments:

In addition we should likely have a UEB position on undergrounding electric lines. Although it can be more expensive cities like Fort Collins are nearly completely undergrounded now. The previous BOT had also directed Aaron move to underground electric lines. Undergrounding electric lines reduces wildfire hazard which appears to be a focus on most of the incoming BOT members. If the UEB agrees to add this focus it should also likely be added to the update of the comprehensive plan.

UEB goals did not include this but should likely be added as part of fire mitigation. Aaron is getting requests for increasing service size. It would be good to get service lines UG if town is working on getting mains UG. New construction is required to be UG.

Owner is responsible for their own service lines currently.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code is being updated. County requires sprinkler systems on new construction but town has so far not adopted this requirement. If this is required at the state level the town will have to adopt.

Other users of poles (eg Lyons Communications, Century Link) would be responsible for poles the town no longer uses due to UG of power. Extra cost for conduit could be considered. On Longs Peak, neither Centurylink nor Lyons Communications wanted conduit so they are responsible for the remaining poles.

UEB will discuss potential code changes in future.

9. Charging for electric meters on new or upgraded installations

Message from Aaron Caplan on April 5, 2022:

I had noticed the building dept bills new houses for water meters, but we do not charge for electric meters. Staff is not aware of a reason. Just wanted to check with UEB to confirm we should add this item to the fee schedule.

There is specific code charge for water meters, but nothing specific on electric meters. Is it part of investment fee? It would help with consistency. Standard meter is probably about \$120.

Aaron will develop potential code for UEB to consider.

10. MEAN 2022 Integrated Resource Plan

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LD8i56tyyh5pKPOjmo0xzr24uCq_ovUE?usp=sharing

Jim's extremely brief understanding:

MEAN IRP and Goals

1. 2050 Vision for carbon neutrality
2. All new energy purchases focused on renewables and carbon free
3. Discontinue coal usage as the commitments end

Lyons Potential Goals

1. Achieve carbon neutrality faster than MEAN as a whole.
2. Support MEAN's efforts to adopt a renewable pool through which MEAN members can increase their share of renewable energy by paying a premium.

SDSG questioning the MEAN plan that is planned to be approved at the May meeting. Some want to remove the coal commitments but a matter of cost. The MEAN coal plants are more in Nebraska and questions whether Nebraska or Colorado is responsible for this coal use with electricity used here.

Lyons might be able to increase its share of renewable energy through a future pool. The renewable pool will be structured such that its energy cost will not go below the base MEAN energy cost. Increasing the Town portion of renewable energy will require paying a premium.

In a 2021 survey of MEAN members, only 1/3 of members wanted to increase renewables at a faster rate than 2050 carbon free goal and only 7% were willing to pay a higher price. In Colorado, Aspen and Glenwood Springs have gone 100% renewable and Gunnison is moving in that direction.

Some in town would like alternates to MEAN but bond debt to 2040. Guzman is thought to be an option by some for a larger renewable mix, and same cost or potentially cheaper. New mayor is interested in exploring options.

Glenwood Springs' arrangement with MEAN changes every 10 years. A couple years ago they elected to renew with MEAN partly as they were offered a 100% renewable option.

Meeting ended: 6:03 pm. Minutes Submitted by: Larry Quinn