

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Town of Medicine Bow Budget Workshop
May 24, 2010

OPENING: Mayor Colman called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Members present were Mayor Colman, and Councilmembers Colman, Chace, and Marble. Also present was Town Clerk/Treasurer Karen R. Heath.

BUSINESS: **Jim Malone of Union Telephone** was a guest of the Council. He proposed leasing a space from the Town to place a Communications on Wheels (Cow) unit, which is a mobile cell tower with a backup generator. He said Union was a Wyoming company owned by a single ranching family. He said that all the employees lived and worked in Wyoming. He said he needed a space 35' x 45' in which to place the Cow. The said placing a permanent tower took a long time because of the permits from the FCC, and that he could place the Cow here for a year unless the Town passes an ordinance stating it was necessary for Homeland Security. A cultural assessment had to be done, and an alternative could be to mount antennae on the black water tank, painted to match. He said the red and white tank could not be used because it was too close to an air strip. The site he was looking at was behind the Community Hall near the dumpsters. Councilmember Kahl asked if they placed a tower here, could anyone use it, or only Union customers. Jim Malone said anyone could roam on their tower and they would not lock anyone out. Councilmember Kahl said she used to have a Union cell phone but she incurred roaming charges 10 miles out of town. Jim Malone said Union was trying to service all of Route 30, and he was looking at other sites along the route. Councilmember Kahl said she had a Verizon phone which used to work well until one day it went bad and that she had been told it was because Union had locked out other services. Jim Malone said they would be in so much trouble with the FCC if they did that. He said the old phones were analog which could pick up a broader signal, but when everything went digital, the bandwidths were narrower and the digital phones could only pick up specific frequencies. Councilmember Chace said that CenturyTel had bad service and she had begged Union to come here, and the only way she would do this is if other services could put up a tower. Jim Malone said anyone that owned frequencies in Wyoming could put up a tower if they approached the Council too. He said generally large companies were not interested in coming to small towns because there was not enough money in it. He said it was very expensive to place a tower, but Union wanted to put up towers in less populated places. He said they served northern Colorado and all of Wyoming, as well as a part of Utah and Idaho. Councilmember Chace asked if a company had frequencies in Wyoming could they put a tower anywhere. Jim Malone said they could. Councilmember Colman said the Council had been told so many stories about telecommunications. She said she thought it would be best to let him do this. Mayor Colman asked if he could switch his Blackberry and Jim Malone said they had Blackberry technology. Councilmember Chace said she was all for it if there would be competition. Jim Malone said he needed to come in and perform an RF study. Councilmember Kahl asked if there was any noise associated with the Cow and Jim Malone said once a month the generator cycled on. Councilmember Colman asked if he needed a T-1 line and he that might not be an issue because they could get a microwave shot. Councilmember Colman said she was in favor of anyone who wanted to come here to improve things. Jim Malone asked the Council how much they wanted per month for the space and Councilmember Colman asked the going rate. Councilmember Colman asked if it would be like a franchise and Mayor Colman said no, it was only a simple lease. Jim Malone suggested \$300 per month and Councilmember Chace said that it would be good when the landlines went down because of the ambulance and fire department. Councilmember Colman said the 911 went down when the landlines went down so it would be a good backup system. A motion was made by Councilmember Kahl and seconded by Councilmember Chace to allow Union Telephone to place a Communications on Wheels unit on a space in town for \$300 per month. The motion carried with all members present voting aye. Jim Malone said he could place the Cow here for a year but if the Council passed a resolution stating it was necessary for Homeland Security he could place it here forever. Mayor Colman said they looked forward to working with him and Jim Malone thanked him for allowing him to present the proposal. Mayor Colman directed Town Clerk/Treasurer Heath to call Attorney MacPherson and have him draw up a simple lease.

Community Hall Walkers--Town Clerk/Treasurer Heath addressed the Council and said that she and Councilmember Kahl had been in the Community Hall in the mornings assessing it for the feasibility of having people walk there, where it was safe from dogs at large and provided an even surface for those who could not walk on gravel. She said they had had to turn the light on there last Friday which was noticed by someone who asked why whoever was using it was not paying for the privilege of using it. She said the plan had been to assess the building and then ask the Council for permission to allow anyone to walk there at certain times in exchange for cleaning the Hall since nobody had applied to be hired for that purpose through the Experience Works Program. A motion was made by Councilmember Chace and seconded by Councilmember Marble to allow persons to walk in the Community Hall in exchange for cleaning it. The motion carried with all members voting aye. Councilmember Chace said that all children must be supervised by a responsible adult. She said she would also like to see a sign-in sheet there.

Budget Discussion—A discussion was held on the budget for fiscal year 2010-2011. Mayor Colman asked how the Town could plan ahead for the next 7 years to budget a replacement for the media replacement. He said there was approximately \$100,000 left from the wind farm impact money, and that \$80,000 would be used for the media replacement project now and the rest could be put into a 5 year CD at 5%, which a bank had quoted. He said the Town must look for money to replace the transmission lines because one of the new water tests coming up was for asbestos, and that was what the current lines were made of. Councilmember Chace said that law enforcement was needed in the Town because the Council was liable to keep the peace in the community. Councilmember Colman asked who the Town should join forces with and she said the Town of Hanna. She said if there was a well-spelled out legal document listing responsibilities it could work. Mayor Colman said most of the community wanted law enforcement but the underlying tone is they did not want Hanna's police. Councilmember Chace asked why, and Mayor Colman said they don't like Hanna's police pulling people over for traveling 21mph in a 20mph zone. Councilmember Chace said they needed a separate meeting to discuss it. Mayor Colman said the Council needed to know what they were going to get for the \$100,000 price. He said one thing making him nervous was that the Town of Hanna had had a meeting and had their lawyer draw up a Memorandum of Understanding which he had never seen. Councilmember Kahl said she had one and would get him a copy. Councilmember Chace said she wanted to do this with a Joint Powers Board and that the Hanna Marshal had offered to provide 20 hours of law enforcement per day. Councilmember Colman said she agreed they needed law enforcement, but that The Town of Hanna was not trustworthy, as could be seen with their actions in the High Country Joint Powers Board. Councilmember Chace said the Town did not have the funds to do it themselves. Mayor Colman said there was another offer on the table, and that Jim Chiro had volunteered to get post-certified for Wyoming Enforcement. Councilmember Kahl asked if he was experienced and Mayor Colman said he was. He said he was throwing out the option but not endorsing it yet until he saw the whole kit and caboodle. Councilmember Chace said they needed to think about this. Mayor Colman said that Joint Powers Agreements were never air tight. He asked if the

Marshal could come and talk to the Council at a special meeting on June 7, 2010 at 6pm to discuss law enforcement, at which the Public could come and ask questions.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm by Councilmember Chace and seconded by Councilmember Marble. The motion carried with all members present voting aye.

BY: _____
Kevin Colman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Karen R. Heath