



Big Sky Resort Area District Board Meeting

April 8, 2019 | 8:30 am

Resort Tax Office - 11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 204, Big Sky, MT

Open Session

[08:30:21 AM \(00:02:44\)](#) Call meeting to order

- Kevin Germain, Chair
- Steve Johnson, Vice Chair
- Buz Davis, Secretary
- Sarah Blechta, Treasurer
- Mike Scholz, Director
- Daniel Bierschwale, District Manager
- Rosie Barndt, Compliance Auditor
- Troy Bentson, Attorney (remotely)
- Kim Beatty, Attorney
- Kristin Drain, Tax Revenue Manager
- Whitney Brunner, Assistant Manager
- Artem Pechischev, Administrative Assistant

A. Public Comment

B. Consent Agenda

[08:32:06 AM \(00:04:29\)](#) **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda: Steve Johnson.

[08:32:09 AM \(00:04:32\)](#) **Second:** Buz Davis.

[08:32:16 AM \(00:04:39\)](#) **Vote:** All in favor. Motion Passed.

a. Minutes for Approval

b. Correspondence

c. Treasurer report

d. Financials report

C. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. Big Sky Community Strategic Plan: *Update*

[08:32:20 AM \(00:04:43\)](#) Whitney Brunner and Steve Johnson presented an update on the Big Sky Community Strategic Plan. Steve Johnson talked about upcoming Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday April 9th, 2019. Board Members discussed different ways to involve more community members into the process via website and social media.

[08:39:33 AM \(00:11:55\)](#) **Public comment:** Laura Seyfang talked about timelines for the Advisory Committee meeting. Board Members discussed this issue and agreed to contact Logan Simpsons requiring a invitation notice to go out 10-14 days prior the meeting. Kevin Germain said 9-month schedule for the meetings could be a good option.

b. Staffing Structure: District Manager: *Update*

[08:41:13 AM \(00:13:36\)](#) Kevin Germain welcomed new District Manager.

[08:41:21 AM \(00:13:44\)](#) Daniel Bierschwale introduced himself to the public.

c. Legislative Session: Defensive Lobbying: *Discussion*

[08:41:52 AM \(00:14:15\)](#) Mike Scholz gave an update on tax bills.

[08:42:53 AM \(00:15:16\)](#) Steve Johnson commented on gateway sales tax stating: similar proposals will not go through based on this year dynamics.

[08:44:09 AM \(00:16:32\)](#) Mike Scholz shared his point of view regarding taxing tourists and property tax rebates. Steve Johnson talked about issues gateway tax has met.

d. Legislative Session: Resort Tax Bill: *Update*

[08:46:11 AM \(00:18:34\)](#) Board members talked about a successful vote 17-1 on SB241.

[08:48:15 AM \(00:20:38\)](#) Steve Johnson gave his opinion on a situation with a other bills while senate was in session.

[08:49:50 AM \(00:22:13\)](#) Buz Davis asked Daniel Bierschwale about organizations supporting SB241. Board members discussed a short list of these organizations.

[08:51:22 AM \(00:23:44\)](#) **Motion:** To move items **e,a,b** and **c** to closed board meeting session: Kevin Germain.

[08:51:49 AM \(00:24:12\)](#) **Second:** Steve Johnson.

[08:52:01 AM \(00:24:23\)](#) **Vote:** all in favor.

e. Other

[08:52:14 AM \(00:24:37\)](#) Mike Scholz talked about financial reports.

2. New Business

d. Appropriations Pre-Q&A Meeting or Question Submittal: *Discussion*

[08:53:59 AM \(00:26:22\)](#) Sarah Blechta talked about Q&A questions and the ways to simplify the process.

[08:55:46 AM \(00:28:09\)](#) Board members discussed what improvements could be done regarding Q&A.

[08:56:40 AM \(00:29:02\)](#) Steve Johnson shared his opinion on sharing Q&A questions. Kevin Germain proposed a different approach to the Q&A.

[08:58:25 AM \(00:30:48\)](#) Sarah Blechta proposed the time line for Q&A. Board members discussed the details.

[09:01:14 AM \(00:33:37\)](#) Sarah Blechta and Kevin Germain discussed need of the third meeting for the Q&A.

[09:03:07 AM \(00:35:30\)](#) Mike Scholz talked about responsibilities of the Board members and District manager for the Q&A process. Board members discussed merging third Q&A meeting with the regular board meeting.

[09:06:52 AM \(00:39:14\)](#) Buz Davis shared his opinion on being in favor for 1 on 1 sessions for the Q&A process.

[09:07:21 AM \(00:39:44\)](#) Steve Johnson talked about involving District manager into Q&A process.

[09:07:58 AM \(00:40:21\)](#) Kevin Germain proposed to add Q&A questions as the agenda item on May 15th.

[09:09:01 AM \(00:41:24\)](#) Daniel Bierschwale had question regarding executive summary.

[09:12:12 AM \(00:44:35\)](#) Buz Davis asked if it would be a good idea to go through the last year applications. Board members discussed the value of it.

a. Administrative Ordinance 98-01, as amended (Effective on: June 1, 2015): Plan and process for amendment: *Discussion*

[09:14:13 AM \(00:46:36\)](#) Kevin Germain presented District Manager project list and talked about potential applicants for 2020 appropriation cycle.

[09:16:37 AM \(00:49:00\)](#) Board members discussed the deadlines for Q&A questions being sent out and process details.

[09:23:50 AM \(00:56:12\)](#) Daniel Bierschwale and Board members talked about the reasons causing the application process to be changed. Steve Johnson shared his opinion on the Q&A project.

[09:25:10 AM \(00:57:32\)](#) Daniel Bierschwale proposed to add new applications review process as an agenda item.

[09:25:28 AM \(00:57:51\)](#) Kevin Germain talked more about deadline dates for the appropriation cycle this year.

[09:26:28 AM \(00:58:51\)](#) Buz Davis asked about reviewing ordinances and legal opinions. Kevin Germain set point of work for the appropriation cycle.

[09:28:28 AM \(01:00:51\)](#) Steve Johnson talked about enabling state laws.

[09:29:17 AM \(01:01:39\)](#) Whitney Brunner asked what Mike Scholz found regards to if sales tax could be added to the review list to look at it from the state law perspective. Mike Scholz and Steve Johnson

discussed this subject. Kevin Germain stated it should not be done right away.

[09:31:05 AM \(01:03:28\)](#) Buz Davis talked about board members support to the new District Manager.

f. Colorado Association of Ski Towns Membership: *Discussion*

[09:31:29 AM \(01:03:52\)](#) Whitney Brunner presented information about the Association. Board members talked about structure, values and the cost of joining the Association. Board members decided it will be a good idea to join the Association.

D. Public Comment – none.

[09:36:50 AM \(01:09:13\)](#) **Motion:** To adjourn the Open Meeting: Kevin Germain.

[09:36:54 AM \(01:09:17\)](#) **Second**

[09:36:57 AM \(01:09:19\)](#) **Vote:** No vote needed.

[09:37:05 AM \(01:09:28\)](#) **Adjournment**

*Meeting was broadcast on Facebook Live by Explore Big Sky
For more information please contact Artem Pechishev at info@resorttax.org or 406-995-3234
Big Sky Resort Area District Board meetings are open to all members of the public.*