



Meeting Minutes

February 8th, 2023 | 9:00am

Big Sky Resort Area District

11 Lone Peak Drive #204

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I. Open Meeting

A. Roll Call

[00:01:16](#) Sarah Blechta called the meeting to order; all board members present.

B. Public Comment

[00:02:30](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed comments emailed to the District relating to the Transportation District.

[00:03:01](#) Ashley Schwader introduced herself and Two Suns Consulting.

[00:05:09](#) Courtney Jennings representing the Transportation District discussed communication and how they are improving services.

[00:06:27](#) Sarah Blechta clarified for public knowledge that the Transportation District is funded through interlocal agreements like other government services and are not included in the regular allocation process.

[00:07:17](#) Kim Beatty, the District's Attorney, explained Steve Johnson formally declared his conflicts of interest relating to the Local Governance Inc, and will not be participating in any debate, voting, or seeking to influence the board on any issues relating to the Local Governance Inc.

C. Consent Agenda: *Action*

a. Approval of Minutes: January 11th, 2023

b. Finance Report: December 2022

[00:08:21](#) **Motion**: to approve Consent Agenda: Kevin Germain

Second: Grace Young

[00:08:27](#) **Vote**: Motion Passed Unanimously

D. Regular Agenda

1. Old Business

a. Executive Report: *Discussion*

[00:08:39](#) Daniel Bierschwale discussed investment opportunities with the state Board of Investments and FY24 Letters of Inquiry updates. Leaders of the Ennis community will be visiting Big Sky and attending a Q&A regarding resort tax, and it's impacts on the community.

b. Committee Reports: Discussion

Application Revision

[00:13:24](#) Steve Johnson discussed the application process and suggested a short-form application process for requests less than \$25,000. Board members discussed a procedure for an opportunity fund.

[00:16:49](#) Kevin Germain considered a streamlined application review and minimizing questions. Board members discussed and encouraged applicants to clearly answer questions.

Elevate Big Sky

[00:18:57](#) Grace Young and Ciara Wolfe gave updates on Elevate Big Sky and the RFP for housing projects.

County Commission

[00:20:34](#) Kevin Germain gave updates on Gallatin and Madison County Commissions, including TIGER Grant and Transportation.

Incorporation Exploration

[00:21:49](#) Sarah Blechta was notified that the Local Governance group meeting is being postponed. Sarah encouraged the public to send her any questions and they will be compiled and asked when the Local Governance group meets next.

Strategic Investments

[00:22:36](#) 2 Capital Improvement Plan Bids were received, and they will be opened later in the agenda.

c. Post Office Update: Discussion

[00:23:53](#) Al Malinowski gave Post Office updates and explained the deadline is being extended for now while USPS discussions are progressing, and long-term options are being considered. Al answered questions from Board Members.

d. FY24-FY26 Strategic Plan: Action

[00:30:36](#) In January the Board met to review and update the District's Strategic Plan. Daniel Bierschwale introduced the revised draft FY24-FY26 Strategic Plan. Board Members discussed and suggested minor edits for clarity.

[00:37:33](#) **Motion:** to approve the FY24-FY26 Strategic Plan with rewording of "Develop a Tax Retention Strategy": Kevin Germain



Second: Steve Johnson

[00:37:51](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

2. New Business

a. FY22 Annual Report: *Discussion*

[00:37:59](#) Daniel Bierschwale shared the FY22 Annual Report. This year celebrated 30 years of Resort Tax and the accomplishments throughout our community. The Annual Report will be delivered to mailboxes.

View FY22 Annual Report  

b. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Bid Opening: *Action*

[00:43:15](#) Kevin Germain explained the CIP bidding and the reason for creating a CIP. Steve Johnson discussed the importance for zoning and planning. 2 bids were received.

[00:45:56](#) **Motion:** for the subcommittee to review the CIP bids, decide, and award: Ciara Wolfe

Seconded: Kevin Germain

[00:46:40](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

c. Reserves Strategy: *Action*

[00:46:56](#) Daniel Bierschwale explained the Reserve Strategy which includes the Operating Reserve (3 months of Operating Costs), Emergency Reserve, and Capital Reserve. Board Members discussed reserve commitments.

[00:52:34](#) Sarah Blechta discussed the benefit for long-term capital reserves. Ciara Wolfe discussed the value of making reserve decisions before application review meetings.

[00:56:27](#) **Motion:** fund the Reserve Strategy presented: Steve Johnson

Seconded: Grace Young

[00:56:42](#) **Vote:** Motion Passed Unanimously

d. Government Services Annual Update: *Action*

Big Sky Water and Sewer District no. 363

[00:57:17](#) Ron Edwards with the Big Sky Water and Sewer District gave updates, shared the project schedule, and discussed costs.

Big Sky Fire Department

[01:07:08](#) Greg Megaard with the Big Sky Fire Department gave updates regarding board elections and operations. The Fire Department is expecting to request funds awarded for the training facility within the next few months.

[01:10:52](#) Greg Megaard shared call volume history and projections. Board Members requested call volume of residents versus nonresidents.

[01:16:42](#) Greg Megaard shared designs for the Fire Training Facility and discussed the timeline for permitting, review, and building.

Big Sky Transportation District

[01:19:11](#) Due to a medical emergency the Transportation District will be presenting at the next Board meeting.

The Gallatin Canyon Water & Sewer District

[01:19:46](#) Scott Altman and Mace Mangold gave updates regarding board members, upcoming meetings, and annexation documents. Mace Mangold discussed environmental impacts.

The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office

[01:32:47](#) Daniel Haden gave updates and discussed call volume. The Sheriffs Office is planning to increase coverage 24/7 and incorporate Search & Rescue under the Sheriffs Office.

E. Public Comment

[01:37:25](#) Motion to Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven Johnson

Steven Johnson (Apr 28, 2023 08:27 MDT)

Steve Johnson, Secretary & Treasurer

BSRAD BOARD & STAFF: Sarah Blechta, Chair | Ciara Wolfe, Vice Chair | Steve Johnson, Secretary & Treasurer | Kevin Germain, Director | Grace Young, Director | Daniel Bierschwale, Executive Director | Kristin Drain, Finance & Compliance Manager | Jenny Muscat, Deputy Director | Tammy Estensen, Communications & Community Engagement Manager | Sara Huger, Office Manager

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