

The work meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Cowley in the County of Big Horn and State of Wyoming was held on November 17, 2009 at the Administration building pursuant to due notice and call.

Mayor:
Council

Roland Simmons
Carolyn Barnes
David Banks
Dexter Woods, JR
Tim Jones
Judy Johnson
Lisa Woods
Shon Hocker
Michael Simmons
Wes Townsend

Clerk, Treasurer
Assistant Clerk
Guests

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the contract between the Town of Cowley and Big Horn School District #1 for the transfer of the Big Horn Academy.

Tim stated that the school would like to have the contract signed by the mayor to transfer ownership of the Academy, so this meeting was called to resolve any questions that members of the council or school district might have.

Michael Simmons stated that the contract states that 21 feet between the academy and the log gym and 11 feet towards the alley will be included in the sale. Michael stated that only 20 feet is needed but Willie suggested giving them 21 feet. Tim asked if this was because the building is not square. Michael was unsure. Shon Hocker stated that there is a concern as to the handicap parking. Michael stated that the ADA would require at least two handicap parking spaces. The district would like to have parking on the west side of the academy but if funding is short they will have to use the existing elementary school parking lot. Tim asked if the elementary parking lot could be expanded. Michael stated there is not enough space because there needs to be room for one traffic lane in the parking lot. Shon stated that the front door will probably have to be the handicap entrance because it can be redesigned to meet ADA requirements. He also stated that they will have to check

to see if it is allowable to cut and raise doors on a historical building. Michael stated that the problem with having the handicap entrance on the east side is that the public might have trouble finding it. Shon stated that putting it in the front would be the best.

Dave stated that he is concerned that the town is giving up more parking; he feels the town shouldn't give up all options. When the drawings for the new elementary school were presented, prior to it being built, it looked like there would be better access to the log gym but now the gym is not easily accessible from the parking lot because of the fence. Shon stated that if there is enough money in the budget there will at least be parking on the west side of the academy. Michael stated the school facilities will only allow a parking lot which accommodates 25% of the usual population in the building. Dexter stated that the council needs to look out for the town's best interests as well as the schools. He would like it to be made possible for the town to have more parking if needed in the future. Dave stated that he would like for the town to seek grant money to use to put in a parking lot on the east side of the school at the end of the grass area on the playground. It will always be the school's land but the additional parking would be helpful.

Carolyn asked what the thoughts were on removing the 6 foot fence between the academy and the elementary school. Tim stated that there needs to be access to and from the parking lot and asked when would the council like the opening in the fence to be in. Carolyn stated that she would like to see it happen before the town Christmas party. Shon stated that a hole in the fence becomes a safety issue and once the property belongs to the district he would like to make it have a campus look and find ways to channel the children safely across that area. He said if the town would like to put a gate in at their expense it can be considered. He also said that he does not like the 6 foot chain link fence and wants to see something different put up that is more attractive and still allows for safety. Dexter stated he feels the town should wait until the district has a plan for the fence rather than put in a gate as he feels it would not be used anyway because citizens wouldn't know it was there. Dexter stated he does not want to hold up the process of the district moving ahead with the project but he would like to have it in writing that the fence will come down. Michael stated that there will be

something in place of the fence whether it is a hedge, smaller fence, etc. Dave stated that is fine as long as the citizens can get to the sidewalk and go directly to the gym. Shon stated that he was told that the trees in front of the academy are diseased so will possibly need to come down. Something will be put in their place if the trees are removed. The architects will have a plan that will allow for safe travel between the parking lot and building. Tim stated that he agreed with what Dexter said about the gate, that it needs to be open so people will know it is there. A vinyl fence would be a safety issue if not kept closed when kids were coming to school. Judy asked if the gate could be closed during drop off and pick up time. Shon stated that it would be the same time as employees coming to work, so the gate would be open. If closed, kids would know not to dart out into the parking lot. Judy stated that kids will dart out from behind shrubbery also. Wes Townsend stated there should be a rule that the kids enter the school property in the designated areas and there could be consequences for not following the rule. Dexter stated that to simplify this discussion he would like to have it agreed on that the 6' fence will come down and it is understood that something else might need to go up in its place that will be more accommodating to the needs of the public and also the safety of the children. Dexter asked Shon if he is agreeable to taking the fence down. Shon stated that he is in favor of taking down the fence as it is not useable but something else will need to be in its place maybe a 2-3 foot barrier of some kind. Dexter thought this was ok. Michael asked if the verbage in the letter stating the issue of the fence will be addressed is enough to satisfy the council's concerns. The letter was read. Dexter stated that it needs to be stated plainly so that there will not be any misunderstanding in the future. Dexter stated that he wants the wording in the contract to state that the fence will come down not just be addressed.

Dave asked if the area between the academy and the log gym would be set aside for parking. Shon stated he thinks it would be a good idea as it would also benefit the district. Michael stated it would depend on what the fire code will allow. Dave stated that the council agreeing to abandon the street on 1st south was not necessarily in the best interest of the town. This time the council needs to make sure the decision is what would be the best for the citizens.

Shon stated that it would be a good idea to readdress the fence issue in a few months after the plans have been drawn up. Shon said no council member contacted him personally to discuss this issue. Tim stated that is why he set up this meeting as quickly as possible so they could meet as a group. Shon stated that the district will create a nice campus atmosphere and that the council needs to trust the district and not jeopardize this process. Tim asked if something could be written up stating the fence will come down and the safest and most user friendly barrier will be put in after the safety studies are complete. Shon stated that the fence is there for a reason but he is not sure what the reason is at this time. There are employees who will not want to have to walk all the way around. The district would like to have a gate put in but cannot justify the funds right now. If the town would like to put one in they could do so at their own expense. Dave stated that nothing has gone as it should have, but we don't want to hold up the transfer over the fence. The town has given up a lot to get the high school built here. Dave also said that we thought that someone would be present at the last council meeting from the school district to discuss the contract. Carolyn stated that the council did not even know there was a contract until last Friday. She said the council is trying to act as quickly as possible regarding this matter. Dave stated he is okay with this, if the fence stays it stays, at that point the academy will belong to the school district. Tim stated that we need access from the parking lot and we can train people to use whatever opening is available. Shon stated there will be an opening, the chain link is an eyesore and not the look the district wants.

Roland stated he is ok with this and we need to trust the district. School employees will need access to the building also, so he is confident an opening or gate will be installed.

Carolyn asked if a fence will be constructed between the academy and log gym. Shon stated that they will not as there will possibly be a preschool in the academy. Roland stated that we need to get the contract signed to get the process moving. Shon asked how the title transfer will be handled. Judy stated she would handle it and use County Title Agency in Basin to do the title commitment. Dave asked why we need to wait for another meeting to sign the contract. Judy

stated that council has only agreed to the sales price of \$10.00 now the council needs to give the mayor approval to sign the contract.

With no further business meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

These minutes have been approved by council.

APPROVAL _____

Simmons, Mayor

Roland

ATTEST _____
Judy Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer