

Voter Review

1995

of Local Government

**sunburst
Final Report**

SEPTEMBER 12, 1995

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To the Citizens of the Town of Sunburst,

The Sunburst Study Commission elected by the voters on November 8, 1994, present this final report to the citizens of this town.

The responsibility of the study commission, as defined in state law, is to "study the form and power of government and existing procedures for the delivery of local government service and compare them with other forms available under the laws of the state of Montana." After completing these two phases of the study, it is the responsibility of the commission to submit an alternate form of government to the qualified electors. In every phase of this study, this commission sought advice and information from as many people as possible. All meetings of the commission were open to the public. In addition to the independent efforts of this study commission, our recommendations reflect the thoughts and opinions of those who participated in the Citizen Input Form and of those who attended our regular meetings. Our commission also sought and received the help of Dr. Kenneth Weaver, Director of Montana Cities and Towns, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sunburst Local Study Commission

Tommy Olson
Debbie Brandon
Paul Spitzer

Summary of Recommendations

The Sunburst Local Government Study Commission, having thoroughly studied our present form of town government and the alternate forms of government available to towns under state law and anticipating the future needs of the town, recommend the following:

That the incorporated town of Sunburst keep it's present form of government.

That the incorporated town of Sunburst make some changes with respect to present laws and ordinances. (See Findings of the Study Commission)

Findings of the Study Commission

After a study of the government of the Town of Sunburst, it is the decision of the study commission to keep the present form of government that the city voted on in the year 1976.

The study commission feels that improvement is needed in these areas:

1. A better management of Animal Control within the city limits of Sunburst.
2. A better working agreement with Toole County on the type of police protection that the city currently employes.
3. A better grasp on the duties and responsibilities of city employee (s). (i.e. City Manager)

The study commission also recommends that the mayor-council review the Citizen Input Form (s).

Minutes for the Sunburst Study Commission

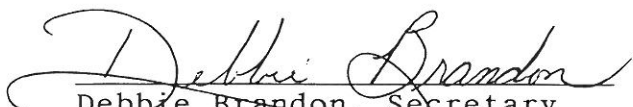
Thursday, March 16, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Terry Olson at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Sunburst City Hall, with Terry Olson, Cathi Donovan, Tom Smith, Paul Nichols, and Debbie Brandon in attendance.

As this was our first meeting, there was no old business.

New Business:

1. Election of Chairperson - Terry Olson was nominated to serve as chair by Debbie Brandon. Paul Nichols seconded, and the motion carried.
2. Election of Secretary - Terry Olson nominated Debbie Brandon for the position of secretary. Paul Nichols seconded, and the motion carried.
3. After lengthy discussion, Terry volunteered to contact Mr. Ken Weaver. Mr. Weaver is the head of the Study Review Committees for the state of Montana. Terry will ask him to advise us on the direction he feels we should take as a committee.
4. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 30, 1995. The meeting will be held in the Sunburst City Hall, beginning at 4:00 p.m.
5. Paul made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Debbie seconded the motion, and it carried. The meeting was adjourned by Terry.


Debbie Brandon, Secretary


Terry Olson, Chairman

Minutes for the Sunburst Study Commission

Thursday, March 30, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Terry Olson at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Sunburst City Hall, with Terry Olson, Paul Nichols, Cathi Donovan, and Debbie Brandon in attendance.

The minutes of the March 16, 1995 meeting were approved as read.

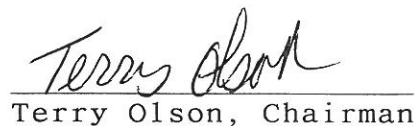
Old Business:

1. On March 22, 1995 Terry talked to Dr. Ken Weaver from the Local Government Center. Terry questioned Dr. Weaver about the need for our committee to review the resolutions and ordinances for the Town of Sunburst. Dr. Weaver stated that the Study Commission was not designed for such a task. In his opinion, it is the role of the local City Council to review resolutions and ordinances. Dr. Weaver felt that our first plan of action should be to obtain some citizen input.

New Business:

1. On March 24, 1995 Dr. Weaver sent us a sample citizen input form. After discussion, Paul made the motion that we each take the surveys home to review. He also added to his motion that Tom and Cathi should receive a form, so that they have input on this matter as well. Terry seconded the motion, and it carried.
2. Dr. Weaver requested a \$50.00 payment for his assistance. Debbie motioned that we pay Dr. Weaver \$50.00, Paul seconded, and the motion passed.
3. The next meeting will be April 6, 1995 beginning at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will once again be held at the Sunburst City Hall.
4. Paul made a motion to adjourn, and Terry seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned by Terry.


Debbie Brandon, Secretary


Terry Olson, Chairman

Minutes for the Sunburst Study Commission

April 6, 1995

The meeting was called to order by Terry Olson at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Sunburst City Hall, with Terry Olson, Paul Nichols, and Debbie Brandon in attendance.

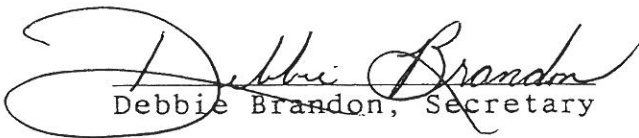
The minutes of the March 30, 1995 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

1. The committee went through the citizen input form question by question. After discussion, Paul made the motion to add the column "Dog Control" to item number six. Terry seconded the motion, and it carried.

New Business:

1. Paul motioned that we send the amended input form back to Dr. Weaver so that he can prepare a final draft. Terry seconded, and the motion passed.
2. Paul made the motion that we send the citizen input forms out with the April water bills. The deadline on returning the surveys will be May 15, 1995. Debbie seconded the motion, and it carried.
3. The next meeting will be May 18, 1995 beginning at 4:00 p.m. As in the past, the meeting will be held at the Sunburst City Hall.
4. As there was no further business, Debbie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned by Terry.


Debbie Brandon, Secretary


Terry Olson, Chairman