

# ***Lyman discusses sewer issues and annexation***

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Mountain View mayor Scott Dellinger and public works director Dave Dasher attended the Lyman Town Council meeting last week in hopes of persuading Lyman to join in on a district wide sewer system. Mountain View's sewer system has compliance issues and must be redone now. Dellinger asked Lyman to agree to a Valley-wide system, so it would be easier to get grant money. Lyman mayor and council agreed that Mountain View needed the new system, but they said that Lyman did not need a new system right now.

The project would bring all of Fort Bridger, all of Lyman, and all of Mountain View into one sewer system. The new system would cost more than \$29 million to build. To the residents of Bridger Valley this would mean passing a capital facilities tax (cap tax) as well as, in a worst case scenario, approximately \$43 more on their sewer bill. Mountain View feels they could do better and that the increase would not be that much. The \$29 million would be broken down into three increments of \$9.8 million from grants, \$9.8 million from loans, and \$9.8 million from the cap tax.

"How realistic is it to get a \$9.8 million cap tax?" Lyman Mayor Ralph Bradshaw said.

Dasher said he feels it is a necessary infrastructure. Dellinger stated that he feels the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is going to start coming down on septic systems and that everyone will have a need for a regional sewer system.

Bradshaw stated that he didn't feel Lyman would be on board for the regional system.

"Our service will be appropriate for several more years. The compliance issues we have we feel we can fix without spending a lot of money," said Bradshaw.

"I'm all for any way we can enhance the Valley as a whole, but I'm a little leery about the cap tax," stated councilmember Eric Quinney.

Dellinger stated that either way Mountain View would have to do something because they "really don't have much of an option."

"We're not ready to jump in and be fully on board," Bradshaw said.

In other unrelated business during the work session, they discussed ideas for more parking areas and landscaping at the barn.

Lyman public works director Gary Hutchinson said they have some preliminary ideas. He has talked to Dorothy James about some landscaping ideas. The plans are more than the town can afford right now, but they are hoping to get preliminary things done, and then look into grants to finish it.

The business meeting opened with a public hearing for the annexation of lots in the Urie area. Jake Fanos was concerned about being able to keep animals on his sister's property. Town attorney Thayne Peterson said he felt it would be possible to zone the area as RA, which means they can keep their animals as long as there is enough room.

"The state really does protect agriculture," Bradshaw said.

The council agreed to change the ordinance so zoning would be "most consistent with its existing use."

The public hearing closed and the town passed the annexation on the third reading. Joy Bell stated that she would start writing the grant and have it submitted by March 1, so they could get started on Rex Snyder's project that he has planned for the area.

Bell stated that she was really happy to see "a landowner, someone in the Valley to be so excited and use a good portion of their own money to invest in business."

She thanked the town for being extremely supportive, and also for a local developer willing to put up time and money and a study in support of the project.