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Bid proposal worrying East Carbon, Sunnyside officials

By MELONEY RIGBY
Staff writer

During a special joint council meeting last week, Sunnyside and East Carbon officials addressed concerns regarding the proposed sale of Sunnyside Coal Company property.

Sunnyside Coal has filed for chapter 7 bankruptcy in a Colorado federal court. The cities' concerns regarding the property purchase focus on Sunnyside's water supply and reclamation of the abandoned coal mine site.

Based in Albert Lea, Minn., Penta Creeks has submitted a bid on 26,000 acres of Sunnyside Coal property. The out-of-state limited liability company's purchase proposal does not include the footprint property or the reclamation of the mine.

According to Penta Creeks' registered agent, attorney Ralph Petty of Salt Lake City, bankruptcy trustee Kenneth Rushton will handle the abandoned mine's reclamation. The registered agent also said Penta Creeks would continue to supply water to the city.

But Sunnyside and East Carbon officials have been in contact with water rights attorney Rick Knuth. Knuth assured officials that the trustee has been made aware of the city's claim. But no written agreement on the water has been received from Penta Creeks.

According to Bart Burnett in Denver, Penta Creeks' proposal has been accepted, pending approval by the bankruptcy court or submittal of a higher bid on the property.

"We plan to simply keep it a nature preserve — we won't do any mining. There might be a small ranching operation. But in general, we plan to keep it natural pristine property," said Petty.

In addition to Petty, Penta Creeks has registered the following individuals as the limited liability company's managerial board: Gregory Jensen, Albert Lea, Minn.; Gary Pestorius, Albert Lea, Minn.; George Dress, Kennewick, Wash.; and Steven Ladlie, Hollandale, Minn.

East Carbon Mayor Paul Clark indicated there was another proposal submitted on the property, but it was rejected by the trustee. Mayor Clark stressed that the other bid would prove more beneficial to the citizens of East Carbon and Sunnyside cities, the county and the state of Utah.

In 1951, a memorandum agreement was entered into by Geneva Steel Company and Kaiser Steel Corporation for the water rights. The rights were eventually deeded to East Carbon by John W. Galibreath.

East Carbon and Sunnyside officials indicate that if the agreement, amendment 51, is not honored, the two cities will combine forces for litigation on the matter.

A Wednesday ad in *The Salt Lake Tribune* confirms "the property includes significant timber, water rights and mineral rights. The trustee will sell...as is without warranty; however, it will be sold free and clear of liens, encumbrances and interests, and free and clear of any reclamation obligations."



Elk climb a hillside near the Sunnyside Coal property. The animals are part of a herd of nearly 1,000 wintering on top of the mountain behind Sunnyside. A Utah Division of Wildlife

Resources spokesman said the herd is counted every winter to check cow productivity, number of bulls and total number of animals.

Three Carbon residents arrested on drug charges



Deputies enter smoke-filled home, rescue local woman

By LAYNE MILLER
Staff writer

An elderly Spring Glen woman owes her life to quick

and located the woman overcome with smoke. He was joined by Steve Raber and they were attempting to get her out of the house. But they were overcome with smoke at

be commended for a job well done, having put their lives on the line and risking their own for the life of another," reported Robinson.

The sheriff agrees.