

August 26, 1992

TO: City Services Committee City Council

FROM: Greg Trainor, Utility manager

RE: Minutes  
City Services Committee Meeting  
August 13, 1992

The City Services Committee met on August 13, 1992. Present were Jim Baughman, Paul Nelson, John Bennett, Greg Trainor, Tim Woodmansee, Ron Lappi, and Darren Starr.

Items discussed were:

1. Nexrad Site on Somerville
2. Hunting on Somerville
3. Curbside Recycling
4. Utility rate increases for 1993
5. Rising landfill rates

Tim Woodmansee provided a report on the Department of Commerce proposed weather radar tower (Nexrad). This is part of a nation-wide modernization program which will result in new offices being constructed in Grand Junction and the employment of 21 additional personnel. The weather radar and the advanced weather interactive processing system is proposed to be located on a 1/2 acre parcel of ground on the north portion of the Somerville Ranch on the top of Grand Mesa. (Please see the attached summary). The Committee recommended that Tim continue to work on the lease details and to prepare materials for a future City Council workshop. Commissioning of the entire system is scheduled for June 1996.

Tim also reported on discussions concerning the 1992 hunting lease on the Somerville Ranch. The past leasee, Dick Bageley, will not lease the property this year. Discussions were then held with Colby Olford concerning the "Ranching for Wildlife" program and his interest in a lease for 1992. His recommendation was that the property rest for a period and that the City consider a lease for the 1993 season. Ranching for Wildlife is a DOW-sponsored program which allows an individual to set his own hunting seasons, providing hunting opportunities for private, guided hunts and public hunters. The Committee recommended that an "request for proposal" be developed this Fall, giving all those interested in proposing a hunting program a chance to make their pitch to the City Services Committee for

the 1993 season. (This action occurred prior to the interest being expressed by "Outdoor Buddies, inc.)

Darren Starr reported on an increase in landfill rates for compacted trash being proposed by Mesa County for January 1993. This would increase the fee the City pays from \$3.85 to \$4.45 per yard. This is a 16% increase and purportedly will be used by the County to fund land acquisition and a solid waste management plan. A Solid Waste Management Task Force has been established and Jim Shanks has requested to be appointed to the Task Force due to the significant financial interest the City has in the operation of the landfill. Scheduled rate increases in sanitation rates in the 10-year financial plan are 4.67% for 1993. The landfill increase is estimated to result in an additional 2% increase in Sanitation rates for a total estimated rate increase of 6.67%. The current residential rate is \$7.50 per month. A 6.67% increase would bring the rate to \$8.00 per month.

The Committee reviewed the proposed curbside recycling program which will be on the City Council workshop agenda for August 31, 1992. The components of the program are a voluntary program, \$1.50 per month rate, implemented over a 5-year period. Discussion was held concerning the subsidy required to finance the program and the Committee recommended that the subsidy come from the General Fund. The subsidy is estimated to total \$147,137 over a five year period with an annual range between \$11,001 and \$47,155. The

Committee also recommended that the contract for this phased-in program be negotiated with Steve and Elaine Foss.

Finally, the Committee discussed the annual utility rate increases outlined in the 10-year financial plans. The increases are estimated to be 4.5% for water, 6.67% for solid waste and 6.5% for wastewater. These estimates are not based on revised 1992 revenue receipts nor on revised 1992 expenditure data. Revised 1992 experience may result in a change in these rate estimates, particularly in wastewater.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration**

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CENTRAL  
REGION 601 East 12th Street, Room 1836  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2987

July 20, 1992 W/CRx3:PJS:

Tim Woodmansee, Property Agent  
City of Grand Junction  
250 North Fifth Street

Grand Junction, Colorado 81507-2668 Dear Mr. Woodmansee,

With this letter I would like to provide you with some background information to impart to your city council, which will explain--- how and why the National Weather Service (NWS) chose the specific site and plan for our modernization program in Grand Junction.

The National Weather Service has embarked on a Modernization and Associated Restructuring (MAR) program to move our equipment, facilities and people into the 21st century. MAR involves the implementation of new equipment such as the Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS), the WSR-88D Weather Radar and the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS); along with more intensive education and training in the sciences of meteorology and hydrology for our forecasters. As the enclosed fact sheets will explain, MAR will enable us to do a better job than ever of predicting and tracking severe weather.

In Grand Junction, the NWS considered several factors in choosing the proposed sites for the radar tower and new office. Primary factors in favor of the proposed locations were: 1. The site is well positioned within the NEXRAD coverage network. 2. A radar at the recommended site would provide excellent coverage in all directions except the unavoidable blockage by the Rocky Mountains to the east and southeast. 3. The site is well positioned to provide low-level detection of severe weather approaching the Grand Junction area. 4. The site is on a plateau which would limit clutter returns from surrounding mountains.

The proposed WSR-88D tower site is on a 1/2-acre parcel of land in the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 27, T11S R97W on Grand Mesa, which is land owned by the city of Grand Junction. In consideration of Grand Junction's aesthetic mountain landscape views, the radome atop the 50-meter tower will be the only one in the country not painted white, but rather will be a light tan or brown to more readily blend into the mountain background. NWS will occupy a new office which will be constructed near our existing balloon inflation/upper air building at Walker Field. The enclosed layout plan shows the Walker Field location of the proposed NWS office.

Weather Service Office (WSO) Grand Junction staff currently issues adaptive forecasts for Grand Junction and vicinity and is the warning office for 15 counties in western Colorado. Current proposed modernization plans at Grand Junction call for groundbreaking for the new office in April 1994; completion of construction by February 1995; installation of ASOS at Walker Field in October 1994; delivery of the WSR-88D radar equipment in September 1995 and commissioning of the radar in June 1996. AWIPS is expected to be installed at Grand Junction sometime after 1996. The 4,550-square-foot office would house a staff of 21. After modernization, the office staff would make all forecasts and have severe weather warning responsibility for 22

counties in western Colorado and two (2) counties in eastern Utah. The staff would continue the upper air observation program currently in effect.

The benefits to Grand Junction will be a significant improvement in the safety and protection of its residents from severe weather because of the much greater sensitivity and range of the WSR-88D, the long-term continued presence of the NWS staff, and the significant impact of up to 21 families on the city's economy.

I hope I have provided enough information to clearly demonstrate the positive aspects of National Weather Service modernization and expansion in the Grand Junction area. If you have any other questions about the future of NWS modernization at Grand Junction feel free to call me at 816-426-5400 or Regional Transition Manager Lynn Maximuk at 816-426-7621. Thank you for this opportunity to explain NWS modernization to you and your city officials.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Augulis  
Central Region Director