



Memorandum

To: Town Council
From: Thomas Dansie, Town Planner
Date: November 7, 2014
Re: **November 12, 2014 Town Council Meeting**
Item B9: Request for Sponsorship – Zion Half Marathon

Salem Stanley, representing the Zion Half Marathon, has requested a sponsorship from the Town of Springdale. The requested sponsorship would involve the Town being the local government sponsor in renting Washington County School District buses. The buses will be used to transport runners between the start line in Virgin and the finish line in Springdale both before and after the race.

The Washington County School District has a policy that allows local governments to rent their buses, but prohibits private entities from renting the buses. Thus an event such as the Zion Half Marathon is only able to use school buses if a local government will act as the event sponsor.

The School District Policy requires the sponsoring organization (the Town in this case) to accept all liability for damages to the school buses as well as for damages caused by the school buses for the duration of the event.

The Zion Half Marathon is requesting the Town to sponsor the race to allow rental of the buses. The race organization will pay the rental fee. The town will not be financially responsible for the bus rental fee.

The Town explored the possibility of renting buses on behalf of the Zion Half Marathon last year. The Council expressed support for the concept, but was concerned about additional liability the Town would incur. The Town's insurer (Utah Local Governments Trust) has said it will not cover the Town's liability for renting the buses.

Last year the Council decided to approve the request to be the sponsoring agency renting the buses, but only if the race were able to provide insurance such that no additional liability would be added to the Town.

The race organizers were unable to find insurance that would satisfy both the Town and the School District last year.

The Zion Half Marathon representatives are researching more insurance options for covering the liability associated with the buses this year. They are again requesting the Town sponsor the race by acting as the bus rental agency.

Staff suggests the Council consider whether not the Council's support for acting as the bus rental sponsor for the event has changed.