



NEWS RELEASE

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County Signs New Purchase Option for Fairgrounds Expansion

Coalville – Today Summit County Manager Tom Fisher signed a new purchase option for a 12 acre parcel adjacent to the current Summit County Fairgrounds site, which will allow Summit County to expand the current Fairgrounds to 30 acres. The total purchase price for the additional 12 acres is \$600,645. The purchase of this land will result in the County canceling its option to purchase another parcel in the Hoytsville area that would have resulted in the relocation of the Fairgrounds.

Since the mid-1980's, Summit County has been saving Transient Room Tax revenue for the purpose of upgrading the Summit County Fairgrounds and facilities. This was due to the current site having limited space, incomplete facilities, and other site restrictions that diminished the Fair experience for county residents. Late last year, after a two year search and analysis of available properties in the North Summit area, the County obtained an option to purchase 79 acres of land in Hoytsville for a purchase price of \$2.2 million. In December, County officials held a public meeting at the current Fairgrounds site to discuss the Hoytsville plan with the public. During that meeting and in correspondence afterwards, the public expressed significant concern about the location, impacts and costs of the Hoytsville Fairgrounds solution and asked the Council to reconsider. Based on public input, the County Council explored other possible sites, which were determined ultimately to be unsuitable for various reasons.

After several meetings among Council Members Chris Robinson and Tal Adair, County Manager Tom Fisher and Assistant Manager Anita Lewis, Coalville Mayor Trever Johnson and Coalville City Council Member Arlin Judd, the County Council decided that expansion and improvement

of the current Fairgrounds best met the County's needs and is the most fiscally prudent solution. This investment will make the current site better equipped to sustain the Fair and provide further long term benefits to the north Summit County area.

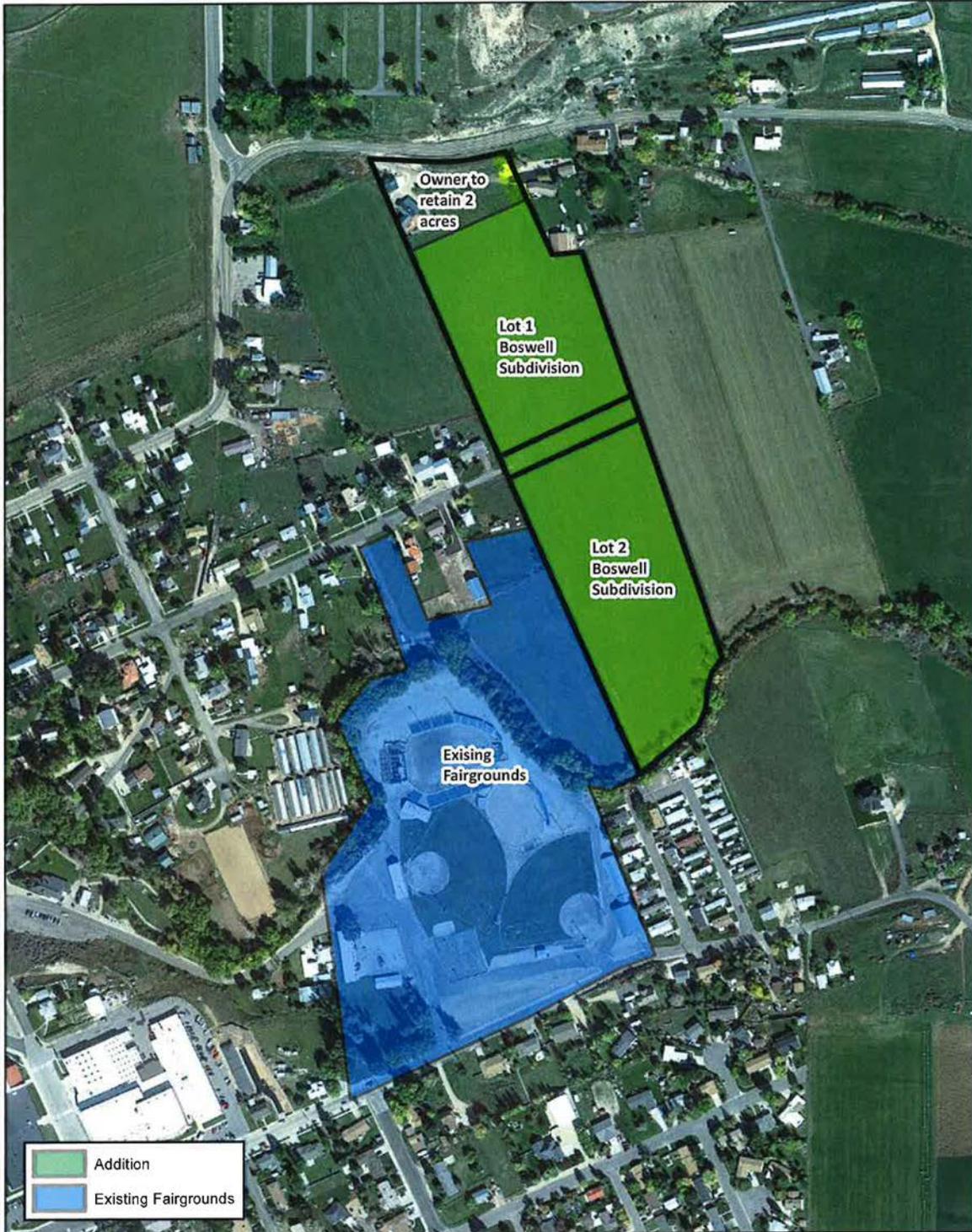
"The Summit County Fair is an important historical institution and economic driver for businesses and residents in northern Summit County and Coalville," said Council Chair Roger Armstrong. "This purchase will enable us to keep the Fair in place and allow expansion and improvement of facilities at the existing site," he added. "We heard clearly the concerns expressed by residents about the costs and scope of the proposed Hoytsville solution, light, noise and traffic impacts on the Hoytsville area, and recommendations about how to make the existing Fairgrounds site viable into the future. Furthermore, as we performed due diligence on the Hoytsville property, we ultimately determined there were infrastructure and other issues that made the property financially unfeasible," he concluded. The County Council also determined a year-round event facility in that location was not warranted at this time.

The current solution will result in substantial cost savings, enabling the County to use some of the Transient Room Tax funds to enhance and upgrade the Fairgrounds facilities. Tom Fisher, County Manager stated, "In the end, expanding and improving the current site will anchor the ability to hold the fair in North Summit, provide new facilities for the community, and turn the property into a year-round facility that may be used for a variety of event and recreation purposes."

Once the property has been acquired, the County will work with stakeholders on a master planning process to accommodate facilities for the Fair as well as ensure that the facility is useful to Summit County and Coalville residents during periods when the Fair is not being held.

The Fair has been an essential part of Summit County's history since 1909. The Coalville site has long been affiliated with this tradition and now, with Council's decision to keep it in its current location and improve upon it, the Fair will remain a significant experience and memory for generations to come.

Fairgrounds Addition



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