

2022 MAYORAL ELECTION



How would you generate new forms of revenue for the town to ensure our seniors and services are taken care of and our infrastructure is improved over time?

Generating revenue for the town is my number one priority for Dubois. I've explained this in detail in almost every Chamber Q&A response, so I won't bore you with the same information.

Revenue isn't just a big deal for the town's budget, it's vital to our well being as a community. We need young families to join our workforce and populate our schools. Without new, younger people moving here, our school funding gets decreased which means less administration or teachers are hired or wages or not increased. With little revenue, our town is in a bad position to negotiate with the county or even the state of Wyoming. A better economy puts us in the position to make demands for public services or even to fund them ourselves. Infrastructure improvements get much easier when you're monetizing the results of better streets or better water and sewer.



Jason Kintzler

So how do we generate revenue? Last week, I detailed ways we can leverage the tourism industry to generate new revenue without necessarily increasing the number of people visiting us in the summer months. Developing our existing tourism economy and reforming our lodging tax are just two quick ways to accomplish this.

There are highly skilled people in Dubois -- from logging and milling to craftsman and construction professionals. These skill sets can be leveraged to create a new craft industry here, akin to the potential we have for artists and others segments. In today's landscape, you can create cottage industry that's not tied to commodity prices or high volume requirements that are subject to as much government overreach and regulation. We should "own" woodworking in Wyoming and the region.

Given our location and amazing access to high speed internet, there are many opportunities for us to develop a tech sector for people seeking this remote Dubois lifestyle as well. I've already talked to other entrepreneurs wondering if running their business from Dubois is viable.

As a town, we have many assets that are not generating revenue to their full potential. In some cases, they may not ever generate enough revenue, and like a business, decisions have to be made to liquidate them or develop them. The Headwaters, The Dennison, vacant, undeveloped property and many more assets need to be addressed. There's no doubt they all serve a purpose and a cause. Whether they are gifts from the past or not, we have to be responsible business people for the sake of the bigger picture -- the viability of our community and future generations. I've spent my entrepreneurial career generating revenue from multiple businesses in very different sectors - from technology (software) to media (County 10, Buckrail, etc.) to tourism (and now ice cream)! I've built businesses from scratch that created highly skilled jobs locally which enabled people to stay here instead of moving away to find higher paying work opportunities elsewhere.

I was appointed by the last two Wyoming Governors to the Wyoming Business Council where I've worked to develop prosperity for communities across the state. Projects like Weatherby in Sheridan, Maven in Lander, and many others over the past five years have enabled communities to retain great people and high paying jobs. I understand the equation and what's required to get these types of deals done. I assure you, we don't currently have what it takes. But, I can get us there.

We're going to need a leader who can inspire and rally the community to do what most people assume cannot be done. Without a real plan -- and a qualified person who can lead the town government and the community -- it's all just meetings and conversations. And, that's a fact.

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Raising revenue is always a challenge. Water and sewer user rates will increase by cost of living and by the infrastructure projects undertaken. In an attempt to keep rates from raising or to help defray those increases, there have already been low interest loans acquired and grants applied for. These are available through the state and federal governments. As Mayor my governing body will continue to apply for these type programs when they become available. I will also continue to research new grants and low interest loans to help.



Pat Neveau

The Town of Dubois does and will continue to offer low-income utility discounts to all qualifying rate payers.

In this great state of Wyoming, through the State Revolving Fund, Intended Use Plans (IUP's) must be updated to include planned projects. The governing body meets in public to discuss and prioritize future projects to include in the plan. Under my leadership, Public Works staff and the contracted engineer will work closely together to make recommendations to the governing body on these projects.

Our senior citizens are a valued part of our community. While the Wyoming Constitution, Article 16, prohibits the Town from making donations (gifting property), except for necessary support of the poor, there are several programs, statewide and federal, to ensure our senior community has access to health care and other services. The current board of the High Country Senior Citizens Center pursues this grant funding and uses funds budgeted by the Town of Dubois as matching funds.

I will work towards creating a better working relationship between my administration and the current senior citizens center board. I would like to create improved communication between myself and the board so Town will be aware of our seniors needs and what grants have been applied for.

I would like to see the center fully operational, offering the same level of services that was offered before the COVID-19 closures.

In 1994, in Fremont County, a Capital Facilities 1% Sales and Use Tax was voted in. This tax aimed to raise \$202,500.00 for planning, construction, furnishing, equipping, acquisition, and improvement of any land for a senior center and \$243,000.00 for an Endowment Fund to be managed by the Town of Dubois. For years the endowment fund earned enough interest to enable a sizable amount to go to the senior center and to increase the growth. Unfortunately, in recent years interest rates have declined. Per Town code, there is a mayoral appointed investment committee that monitors, reviews, and reports on the Town's investment activities, including the Senior Center Endowment Fund. As Mayor, with the senior center board, I will ensure the continued monitoring of this fund in an effort to help it grow.