

Received via email at office@alpinewy.gov on September 5th, 2024.

Dear Mayor Green and Town Council Members,

I apologize I was not able to get this in by 12pm today. I have my fingers crossed to still be included. Please let me know if that is possible. Thanks for the consideration. - Cassie

Thank you very much for being proactive in requesting feedback. I can't think of anything more important than building a school for Alpine. I am excited to see new ideas and opportunities being pursued and explored by the entire community.

There are a lot of questions I do not know the answer to in regards to the proposed land use. I have included my questions below as well as my comments about the use of the Town of Alpine land for a charter school. I realize some questions pertain to the school itself but since we require a school that serves the needs of the community they are inseparably intertwined.

1. Will the town continue to own the land? If not, who will own the land that the proposed school will be on? Will the town be compensated at market rate for the land?
2. Who will own the building that will become the school?
3. Who pays the cost of building the structure? Does Alpine have control over the type of structure that is built and what it will accommodate?
4. Who will maintain the building? Does the Town of Alpine get to speak to how the building is maintained?
5. Can the Town of Alpine afford to purchase more land to replace the land lost?
6. Will the children of Alpine be guaranteed a space at the school? How will that be determined? Will the children of Alpine continue to be guaranteed spaces as our population increases?
7. Are children from outside of current town boundaries considered for first placement as well? Our population just outside of town has grown and is continuing to grow with lots of young families. They should also be able to attend the school that is closest to their homes/families.
8. How long is the contract for the proposed Charter School?
9. Is there an additional cost to taxpayers?

A charter school on land that is donated or purchased by the charter school should be pursued. Next to our citizens, our town-owned land is our most valuable resource. If this land has been earmarked for a school, it should serve as a school for the children of Alpine without exception or conditions. If our school needs are met through a charter school at another site, it could be a future recreation center, senior center or similar to benefit the community. We should not limit our options by giving up this land. Land is becoming prohibitively expensive and the town is growing at a rapid pace to say the least. We need this resource to benefit the community if not now, than in the future.

Transparency and community engagement are essential in decisions that affect our town resources and residents. This can not be solved with a single meeting or a few comments. Please continue the conversation about how town-owned land should be used. It will be worth the wait.

Thank you for hearing my comments and responding publicly to my questions. I hope to attend the meeting. I look forward to the continued discussion on the proposed use of the Town of Alpine land. I am grateful for your time.

Thank you,

Cassie Dean