

## **The GGHS Seeks Ownership of Galloping Goose No. 5**

The Galloping Goose Historical Society recently requested that the town of Dolores transfer the title of the Galloping Goose No. 5 over to them.

At the town trustee's monthly workshop on January 26, 2015, members of the GGHS committee for Galloping Goose No. 5 presented a Power Point timeline of the events of Goose No. 5 since she was sold to the Dolores Rotary Club in 1952. Or so it was thought! In 2002 a bill of sale surfaced when it was found in the safe of one of the original five men who put up the money and purchased No. 5 from the railroad. To save a few dollars in sales tax, Receiver Pierpoint Fuller made the sale out to the Town of Dolores since the fledgling rotary club did not have tax exempt status yet. When the original Bill of Sale was gifted to the museum, the historical society had been in existence for fifteen years and had made restoration and operation agreements with the Dolores Rotary Club.

Read the whole fascinating story online in the Cortez Journal for February 2, 2015, at [www.cortezjournal.com](http://www.cortezjournal.com) and search for "Historical Society Wants Goose No. 5"

Some talks and negotiations were entered into over the years with the town, but nothing was finalized. Then in 2012, the directors of the Society asked for a committee to be formed to study the situation, compile documents, and draw up the timeline. The next logical step and a good place to start was to ask the town trustees and Rotary Club to attend a presentation on the history of Goose No. 5, with a proposal to transfer ownership to the GGHS.

This stood to reason as the Historical Society was formed with the express purpose of restoration and operation of No. 5 once again to run on the rails! As our members know, this was accomplished and Goose No. 5 hit the rails in 1998, eleven years after the Society was formed and built a replica depot.

The transfer of ownership would immediately dissolve all liability for the Town of Dolores and ensure that Goose 5 would continue to be maintained as the GGHS's charter calls for. Galloping Goose No. 5 would remain in Dolores in perpetuity never to be sold or leased, and if the Society should cease to exist, ownership would revert to the Town of Dolores.

To date, the trustees of the Town of Dolores have given consideration to our request in executive session meetings; unfortunately, the Society has not been invited to these talks or to offer more information. Subsequently, no formal reply to our request has been received; the Society was presented a lease/operating agreement last month with no accompanying remarks. The GGHS has written a letter to the trustees and asked for more information that would be helpful to the GGHS Directors as we move through this process.

Continuing on, look for more articles in the future as we will keep our members up to date. Until then, please read the excellent article by Jim Mimiaga in the Cortez Journal referenced above.

Marie Richmond, Chair of the Committee for Galloping Goose No. 5  
Board Member