



March 24, 2025

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing – meeting to follow. No comments or questions were asked.

Zoom meeting for the public 958 684 9882

Minutes

ROLL CALL

Mayor Chris Johnson

Councilmembers: Jim Crook, Jessica Hart, Cherri Olson, Jeff Peed, Tim Pobirk, Gill Saunders

Staff: Bruce Bair, Chana Clawson, Cindy Jones

Attorney: Bo Nerlin

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** Gill Saunders made a motion to approve the agenda. Tim Pobirk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Disbursements Jim Crook noted that we might need to reissue the check made payable to Jolie Clark for the sheep dog trials, as she has passed. Cherri Olson asked who the vendor Books N Bling was. It was stated that it is the name of Cindy's company. Jeff Peed made a motion to approve the minutes and disbursements. Jim Crook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jeff Peed read a thank you note from Annette Croughwell who was here previously on behalf of the sheep dog trials and received a donation.

5. OLD BUSINESS*

2nd read Ordinance 01-2025 Water shut off. Jeff Peed read the section 13-2-20. Tim Pobirk made a motion to approve the ordinance, Jessica Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried. It was noted that this ordinance will go into effect 30 days after it is published.

Facility Use Agreement has been tabled.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Engagement agreement with Peltz Bo Nerlin explained that bond counsel is necessary for the CDPHE loan. There were two bids for bond counsel: Butler & Snow in the amount of \$15,000 and \$7,500 from Tom Peltz with Kutak Rock. Jeff Peed made a motion for the mayor to enter in an engagement with Tom Peltz. Tim Pobirk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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Replacement Computers and new desk Cindy Jones explained that one office computer and Bruce's will not be able to update to Windows 11 in October and Chana's computer has a bad port and now has a splitter for both monitors, but they go black quite often. Ben Bentele has provided specs on three new computers that amount to just under \$2,000. With a new deputy clerk coming in soon the town will need a new workstation. Cindy requested that the board approve \$3,000 for all the necessary items. Jeff Peed made a motion to approve the purchases. Tim Pobirk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. NON-AGENDA ITEMS None

8. PUBLIC NON-AGENDA ITEMS Diane Collins (52 B Str) requested a variance for a shed she would like to put within the 20' setback. Bruce said he located one surveying pin. After some discussion of what size the shed would be etc Jeff Peed said he would like to know exactly where the property lines are before voting. Jim Crook said the town has an ordinance for a purpose and if the town keeps giving variances, then everyone is going to ask for them. He added that he likes juniper trees, but they are a fire hazard.

9. REPORTS

- a. **Public Works** Bruce provided a report but added that he reinstalled the telemetry reader. A town resident just discovered that their sewer was never connected to the town line but has now been repaired and the street cut will be paved this summer. There was a water leak on the 2" main today and was repaired. The Spring Project is still online.
- b. **Consultant & Town Clerk** Chana Clawson gave the board information on the possibility of sending Ebills in the future. Also, asked the board if the new employees will be subject to drug testing and background checks. The board agreed that we should do background checks & drug testing for new hire as long as it wasn't too costly (no memberships). Cindy Jones reported that she recommends having a modified audit which will cost \$7,500 to \$9,000 (compared to \$25k for full audit). She will have an engagement letter by the next meeting. The payroll company Gusto does not do municipalities or PERA. After talking with the sales person with OnPay who said they could do PERA, the onboarding person said they cannot. She is talking to the second choice of Paychex to double and triple check that they can do PERA. Mayor Johnson added that we will soon start interviewing for the deputy clerk position. The first interview will be with the clerk and mayor. The second interview we will add the mayor pro-tem and Cindy before bringing them before the board.
- c. **Board Members** Jeff Peed asked about the air conditioner in the office. Bruce replied we are still looking for someone to fix or replace it. Jessica Hart reported there was a domestic dispute in the area and the

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sheriff's department was a ways out so, Hotchkiss PD responded. Gill Saunders thanked staff for his new email and thinks he has everyone updated to the new address. He also reported that there are two groups that meet regarding the NFSIS and NFMS combining buildings (in Paonia). One local and the other at the district. He will reach out to the Superintendent and see if he can attend the meetings (as a Crawford resident).

- d. **Mayors' Report** Mayor Johnson thanked the staff and stated he appreciates the way the town is running.

10. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

11. ADJOURNMENT 8:22

POSSIBLE ACTION ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED