



**Town Council Meeting**  
**September 23, 2024, 7:00 pm Council**  
**Zoom meeting for the public 958 684 9882**  
**Minutes**

## ROLL CALL

Chris Johnson  
Cally Gallegos  
Bo Nerlin

Bruce Bair  
Gill Saunders

Jessica Hart  
Jeff Peed

Tim Pobirk  
Cherri Olson

Jim Crook  
Chana Clawson

### 1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA** Jeff Peed made a motion to approve the agenda. Jessica Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### 3. CONSENT AGENDA

#### Minutes

**Disbursements** Cally Gallegos mentioned that the town is in the process of purchasing a blade for the plow. It will be around \$1,500.

Jim Crook made a motion to approve the minutes and disbursement. Jeff Peed seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS** -Cally Gallegos announced that the food bank is now open on Saturday and it is in the church, not the thrift store. Also, Pink Night is October 18<sup>th</sup> for NF High School, homecoming is September 27<sup>th</sup>. Jessica Hart announced that there was an upgrade to the memorial at the cemetery.

**5. OLD BUSINESS\*** - *Administrator Contract renewal.* Gill Saunders handed out a paper with a list of the grants recently obtained by the administrator. The total was 1,182,521. Bo Nerlin reported that the new contract is similar to last year's. Tim Pobirk stated that it is really expensive & he doesn't know how the town will afford it. Jessica Hart seconded Tim's comments. Mayor Johnson noted that our sales tax revenue has went up pretty drastically mostly because of Amazon. Jessica Hart reiterated that she agrees with Tim & feels the town does not need an administrator. Mayor Johnson asked the attorney Bo Nerlin to explain the role of clerk vs administrator. He replied that one of the reasons a town would have an administrator is because it makes your grant application stronger by having a point person that represents the town. Gill Saunders stated that for the \$12,000 a year the town is jeopardizing future grants. Jim Crook thanked Gill because he had read (the salary) backwards. Mayor Johnson stated that he has been pleased with what Cally has done and the roll she is playing for the town.

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425 Hwy 92

Crawford, CO 81415

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Gill Saunders made a motion to renew the administrator contract. Jeff Peed seconded the motion. Bo Nerlin instructed Mayor Johnson to do a roll call vote. Jim Crook abstained (the attorney stated that it really only comes into play when there is a conflict of interest). Jim Crook stated that he hasn't been on the board long enough to know. The council went through a roll call vote: Cherri Olson voted no (although she stated that she also was confused regarding the pay, she thought the salary for the administrator was \$63,000, not \$12,000). Tim Pobirk voted no. Jeff Peed voted yes. Jessica Hart voted no. Gill Saunders voted yes & Jim Crook abstained from voting. The administrator contract will not be renewed. Tim Pobirk stated that they are not 'not renewing the contract', it needs work & the board needs to discuss things a little more. Cally Gallegos stated that she would like clarification on what her new job position is. Gill Saunders stated that it should come from the board members that voted no. Jim Crook made a motion to extend the administrator's current contract through December 31, 2024. Tim Pobirk seconded the motion. The town attorney suggested a roll call vote: Cherri Olson voted yes, Tim Pobirk voted yes, Jeff Peed voted yes, Jessica Hart voted yes, Gill Saunders voted yes, Jim Crook voted yes. The motion passed unanimously.

- 6. NEW BUSINESS** – *Making one meeting a month a work session.* Mayor Johnson explained that October 14<sup>th</sup> is a holiday, and the budget needs to be in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. He proposed that the board have a work session on October 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the budget and this contract. Mayor Johnson discussed the holidays coming in November and December, so would like to see the new schedule starting after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. Tim Pobirk made a motion to have a work session meeting on October 7, 2024 and Jessica Hart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

*Purchasing Policy* The town has never had a purchasing policy. The board was provided a copy of the policy. Mayor Johnson would like to have a vote on it by end of year.

*Scott Green* – *Wants to know if he can continue the fence, that he started before the ordinance was passed.* Mayor Johnson introduced Mr. Green. There was discussion regarding visibility since he lives on a corner. He stated he would stay 4' and from his house back he would go to 8'. Gill Saunders made a motion to approve the variance. Jim Crook seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- 7. NON-AGENDA ITEMS** Jim Crook indicated that he thought the council should approve any water and sewer taps. This will be added to the work session.

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**8. PUBLIC NON - AGENDA ITEMS** Steve Mock is fixing up the property at 528 Highway 92. He owns 2 water taps and 1 sewer tap. At this point he only wants to purchase a water tap. Cally asked that he come in the office and fill out the application and pay the fee. There was discussion regarding the square footage. He owns 5 ½ lots. Bruce Bair indicated that when the water line was put in, the line was tapped, it is not connected or activated.

Bruce said he does not have a problem with him getting the tap pending payment.

Wanda Gofforth representing North Fork Senior Connections read a flyer she provided the board and asked that they would consider making a donation, possibly even on an annual basis.

Eric "French Eric" stated he is currently working at the coffee shop & makes crepes but is fixing up an airstream to make a food truck selling buckwheat crepes. He said he has been in touch with the health department.

a. Attorneys report update legislation

Town Attorney Bo Nerlin reported that he attended the attorney's section of the municipal league to get an update on some of the changes in 2024. Some of the changes do not apply to municipalities on the Western Slope. He read some interesting cases that have gone through the courts. Something that could impact our area is Natural Medicine. Beginning now, it is available & beginning in 2025 it will be regulated at the state level. Whereas marijuana is licensed within the state, there is no dual licensing with mushrooms. You cannot have a dry county or town with mushrooms. There are no local regulations at the local level (other than typical zoning regulations).

b. Public Works Bruce Bair reported that the flows are good. He & Al added pea gravel to the playground & did drainage work. Getting ready for winter. Doing annual preventive maintenance for sewer main today & will finish tomorrow. Will repair some street cuts before winter.

c. Administrator/Deputy Clerk Cally Gallegos reported that a resident was in and is willing to purchase a culvert if the town will install it. We need an encroachment agreement, but the board needs to decide if we have time to install it.

Another EMS issue at the address of 497 I Lane is back-to-back with 497 I Street. Possible to change address to something different, like 501? Maybe put signage to direct traffic. Mayor Johnson said between the administrator and public works can make it work. Jim Crook questioned why we need to go through the county, and we do because they do our GIS and map.

Signs for the park (printed examples were provided) They can be bought

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through Conservation Trust Fund.

At our last meeting a man had cut the lock off the electrical box and had a power cord plugged into our power pole. He showed up again and the sheriff came up and issued a ticket.

Cally attended the Crawford Water Conservancy meeting. (Jeff Peed also attended). The town has shares in the Clipper Ditch. They have a serious situation with the feeder ditch that will be a huge expense. They will need a grant and also a loan. It will be on the ballot in November asking for a debt

ceiling of 1 million so they can borrow money. The feeder ditch feeds the Crawford Reservoir. It would devastate Crawford's economy.

Regarding the restrooms in the park that a citizen complained about at the last meeting. It has only been pumped once in the last 5 years so, if we could get on a schedule to have it pumped before Pioneer Days. The roof needs repaired, so maybe when that is done some fans can be installed (the power is right there).

Cally attended a Multi-Agency Coordination Meeting for emergency management with Delta County. There is a grant available to purchase a generator. We could share it with the fire department & EMS for local disasters. It could work at the lagoons. If we don't have an emergency management plan, we don't qualify for anything from FEMA. Even if we have a disaster.

Cally also reported that the money market balance is \$305,000, the checking is \$357,000 and the CTF is \$350,000 and the CD balances are \$518,000 for a total of over 1 million in assets.

Cally is working on the budget.

She is working with Rural Community Assistance for the rate study. This study is at no cost.

Sara with Region10 is working with Steve LaBonde, Bruce and Cally to get the loan application complete and submitted.

The SIPA grant was awarded today, but she was unable to attend but hopes we will still get the grant.

Besides the purchasing policy, Cally has written the following policies: Cell phone policy, credit card policy, a distracted driving policy, a hearing and eye protection policy, and a seat belt policy. The insurance company likes us to have these and if an employee isn't following these and there is a loss, they would not pay out the full workman's comp benefits. She has had the attorney look over them.

Cally wrote a plan to add to the website that we are moving forward to make the website ADA assessable. This plan will lessen the chance of the town being sued because we are not 100% compliant.



d. Board Members

Cherri Olson reported that the issue she had with the speeder happened to be an EMS worker reporting to the barn. She also said that the sheriff stated that if she had cameras, it would help identify individuals. She read on Facebook that the North Fork Chamber of Commerce is asking for memberships.

Tim Pobirk reported that there is no report on mosquitos.

Jeff Peed reported that the library is talking about putting up more signage. Also, to remove the library off the sign in front of the town hall

Jessica Hart reported that David Faulkner passed away.

e. Mayor's Report Mayor Johnson reported that he recently met with Wendell Koontz. He brought up the \$6,500 for CTF. He recommended that the town become a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

**9. POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING** October 7<sup>th</sup> work session.

**10.ADJOURNMENT** 9:32

**\*POSSIBLE ACTION ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED\***