

**Minutes**  
**Regular Town Board Meeting**  
**Town of Paonia, Colorado**  
**February 28, 2023**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Roll Call**

Mayor Bachran calls the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

**PRESENT**

Mayor Mary Bachran  
Trustee Dave Knutson  
Trustee Paige Smith  
Trustee Dave Weber  
Trustee John Valentine  
Trustee Rick Stelter

**ABSENT**

Trustee/Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas Markle

**Correspondence Received**

*Street Closure Comments*

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Trustee Knutson, Seconded by Trustee Stelter, to approve the agenda.

**Announcements**

Mayor Bachran makes an announcement about the Paonia Ditch Meeting coming up and Cory Heiniger is going as well as making the Towns proxy votes.

Trustee Weber announces he no longer has access to his dweber@townofpaonia.com email. It now requires a two-factor authentication that requires a cell phone and he does not have one. He can be reached by phone or in person.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public wanted to speak.

**Consent Agenda**

*Minutes*

September 15, 2022 Special Meeting  
October 4, 2022 Special Meeting  
February 14, 2023 Regular Meeting

*Disbursements*

February 14, 2023  
February 28, 2023

Motion made by Trustee Weber, Seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carries unanimously.

**Staff Reports**

*Finance Director*  
*Public Works Director*

Trustee Knutson and the rest of the Board publicly thank the Public Works staff for their wonderful job of snow removal during the big storm. The Town looked better than it had in a long time.

Trustee Smith asks follow-up questions about the estimates for the track vehicle and what fund it will come out of.

Trustee Smith ask questions about the \$7000 bill for snow removal. Public Works Director Heiniger answers that the cause of that bill was having two snow plows break down during removal and having to bring in outside help, it is not a normal cost.

## **Actions & Presentations**

### **Public Hearings**

None Scheduled

### **Other Items**

#### **1. Multi-Modal Trail and Park/Open Connectivity - Colorado West Land Trust**

Libby Collins from Colorado West Land Trust gave a presentation on the work they have done to finish a trail, crossing multiple properties, starting at the river park and ending at the Paonia Library. They have worked with the owner of the riverbank property about crossing and they have agreed to the project.

Ms. Collins is requesting that the Council agree to further discussion with Colorado West Land Trust about the project to finish the trail, what comes next and to discuss collaboration on the project.

The Board discusses that this project has been in the works for some time and is much desired, cost of maintenance and operations, safety issues for the river crossing, whether they can use the already approved bridge design and how best to further the discussion.

Motion made by Trustee Weber, Seconded by Trustee Stelter, to have Colorado West Land Trust continue conversations with Mayor Bachran and Interim Administrator Leslie Klusmire about this project.

Motion carries unanimously.

#### **2. Phoenix Rising Resources Contract Approval - Master Plan for Town of Paonia**

Calla Rose Ostrander presents for Phoenix Rising Resources.

Trustee Knutson states that he likes the idea of coordination with the Affordable Housing firm when they are chosen.

Motion made by Trustee Weber, Seconded by Trustee Knutson, to approve the contract with Phoenix Rising Resources.

Motion carries unanimously.

#### **3. Energy & Environment Symposium Scholarship - Trustee Knutson**

Trustee Knutson provides some background on how he became the Local Government Designee and how he would take care of the rest of the trip cost.

Board discussion continues about whether this is something that is still needed for our area, BLM leases, watersheds, Oil & Gas Commission starting to consider health and safety issues, airshed concerns, conversations about permitting, methane capture, pipeline constructions and many other issues that can and will affect our area in the future.

Motion made by Trustee Smith, Seconded by Trustee Weber, to approve the remaining cost for the Energy & Environment symposium of \$197.50 for Trustee Knutson's attendance.

Motion carries unanimously.

#### **4. SIPA Audio Upgrade -Trustee Markle & Trustee Valentine**

Trustee Valentine gives an overview of the sound issues and the research leading them to the OWL system. He further described the set-up, ease of use and benefits and drawbacks of both. He also went over the itemized list of prices that was included in the packet, explaining what was needed and why. Trustee Valentine has plans to go to Region 10 in Montrose to see and ask questions about their OWL set-up. Interim Town Administrator Klusmire and Town Attorney Cotton-Baez also share their own experiences with places they have worked with an OWL system.

Motion made by Trustee Knutson, Seconded by Trustee Stelter to authorize Trustee Valentine to begin purchasing the needed items for the OWL Laboratories system and accessories with the funds from the SIPA Grant for the sound system upgrade.

Motion carries unanimously.

#### **5. Approval of Resolution 04-2023 Establishing Roles and Responsibilities of Town Committees**

Interim Administrator Klusmire provides an overview of the current committee roles and why they should be reviewed and updated to have more traditional roles for liability and Board advisory purposes.

Board discussion covers committee set-ups, how committees can provide valuable help with setting policy and information gathering, the benefits of formality vs informality, possibility of reforming the Governmental Affairs & Public Safety committee and having a work session to work on the details.

Motion made by Trustee Knutson, Seconded by Trustee Weber, that the committees line out their duties by the end of March .

Motion carries unanimously.

Motion made by Trustee Knutson, Seconded by Trustee Weber, that at the April 25th, 2023 meeting from 6:30 - 8:00 pm be a Work Session on committee roles and duties.

Motion carries unanimously.

#### **6. Administrator Search Update**

Trustee Smith and Trustee Valentine, Personnel Committee, gave an update. They have received 18 applications with the last one being submitted on February 24th, 2023. They will be going through and winnowing the selection down before passing the rest on to the Board to narrow down further.

The Board discussed how they wanted to proceed, whether it was a different caliber of candidates, whether they wanted to continue with the layered interview approach, background checks, levels of experience they were looking for, whether to change the final interview process and how to narrow down the list.

#### **7.Approval of Intent to Ask Senators Bennett & Hickenlooper for Congressionally Directed Funds for Water/Sewer Projects**

Mayor Bachran introduced this topic and then explained that after doing some research that these funds wouldn't likely help with water/sewer projects since the funds have to go through the appropriations process and wouldn't be available until 2024. The Mayor then asked the Board how they would feel about still asking for the funding to buy the decommissioned school building at Fourth and Grand from the school district for \$2.5 million.

The Board discussed possible building remediation, the many different uses that could be available ie. town hall, affordable housing, community center, senior center; land use and worth, operations cost, March 10th funding request deadline, property values and planning for the future.

Motion is made by Trustee Stelter, Seconded by Trustee Smith to approve the request to ask for Congressional Funding to move forward on this project.

Public Comment:

C. Patterson: The price for that property used to be \$1.2 million so maybe the School District would be flexible on pricing and when she looked at it previously the operations costs were about \$30,000/yr.

S. Patterson: Suggests talking to the realtor since they know a lot about the property and believes that the School District would be flexible on the price. Also suggests looking at other available properties instead of just focusing on the VoTech building.

Motion carries unanimously.

### **8.Approval of Intent to Apply for DOLA and Tier I DOLA EIAF Grant for Dorris Sewer Line Replacement**

The Mayor introduces this topic by specifically talking about the Dorris sewer line, which is in rougher shape than it was originally thought. There is a maximum of \$200,000 and it could move this project forward quickly though there is a possibility that the Town may have to move on this project before the grant could be approved.

Board discussion covers, rough mapping, matching funds, timing, DOLA suggestions,, engineering is putting together bid packets currently, and it would be for the Dorris line only. If the sewer line looks like it is preparing to collapse, the Town will move immediately to replace the sewer line and the grant funding will be unusable at that point.

Trustee Weber makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Stelter to approve applying for the DOLA and Tier I DOLA EIAF grant for the Dorris sewer line.

Motion carries unanimously.

### **9.Approval of Intent to Apply for DOLA & Colorado Water Conservation Planning Grants re: Hydro-geological study of Paonia/Crawford Spring Complexes**

Mayor Bachran provides information on these grants; one would be used as a match for the other; a \$200,000 grant with a \$25,000 match. This project must be done before Spring Redevelopment can start.

Board discussion includes that the River District has reached out and has offered to help find the funding for this project, what a hydro-geological study can be used for, discussion on infiltration beds and engineering plans, DOLA, River District and the CDPHE.

Trustee Weber makes a motion, Seconded by Trustee Knutson to approve the application for DOLA & Colorado Water Conservation Planning Grants for hydro-geological study of the Paonia/Crawford Spring complexes.

Motion carries unanimously.

### **Executive Sessions**

None Scheduled

### **Mayor & Trustee Reports**

*Mayor's Report February 14, 2023 (requested)*

*Mayor's Report February 28, 2023*

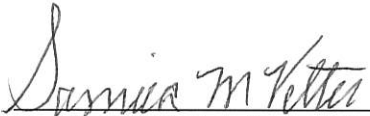
*Parks Committee February*

Trustee Smith asked question about the status of grants included in the February 14, 2023 Mayor's report.

Board discussion includes ideas for signs for community notification, fixing the website for better information, Region 10 grant processes, committee notification requirements, energy funding opportunities, Munidoc utilization.  
Trustee Smith and Trustee Weber ask for a copy of the GOCO rejection letter.  
Further discussion about packet modification after the fact.  
Mayor Bachran asks for signatures for support letter for the Congressional Funding letter.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourns at 8:38 pm.

  
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Samira M Vetter, Town Clerk



  
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Mary Bachran, Mayor