

**Minutes**  
**Regular Town Board Meeting**  
**Town of Paonia, Colorado**  
**September 26, 2023**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Roll Call**

PRESENT

Mayor Mary Bachran  
Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Knutson  
Trustee Paige Smith  
Trustee John Valentine  
Trustee Rick Stelter  
Trustee Kathy Swartz

ABSENT

Trustee Morgan MacInnis

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Pro-Tem Knutson makes a motion, seconded by Trustee Swartz to approve the agenda.

Motion carries unanimously.

**Announcements**

Mayor Bachran announces the addition of two questions/comments boxes; one in the community room, the other in the front office. The Mayor also expressed gratitude for the successful Mountain Harvest Festival event.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comments

**Consent Agenda**

Town Administrator Wynn states that there was one disbursement (Bruin Waste) that he did not approve, due to having questions on it. He will speak with Public Works Director Heiniger and get clarification on it before approving.

Trustee Smith questions the payment to CIRSA for bonds because it was her understanding that bonds were the responsibility of those bonded, not CIRSA. Town Attorney Cotton-Baez explained that the Town's insurance policy does contain the same coverage and serves the same purpose.

Mayor Pro-Tem Knutson makes a motion, seconded by Trustee Swartz to approve the Consent Agenda

Motion carries unanimously.

**Staff Reports**

Town Administrator Wynn explains that only the Departmental Scorecard is prepared because he didn't furnish a Town Administrator report for September but will do a larger report for October.

Departmental Scorecard highlights;

- New Meter Radio Reading integration completed.
- Local fiscal recovery firms and ARPA funding, report to US Treasury is done.

- Up and running with new ADP timekeeping system.
- Completed CEBT Staff training.

### **Actions & Presentations**

Consideration of Approval of the Planning Commission Recommendation to Approve V-23-02-Blue Sage Variance Request

Town Administrator Wynn explains overview of special meeting held on 9/21/2023. Goes through details of that meeting and items discussed. Recommends approval of variance.

#### Public comments:

S. Watson: asks questions about parking, special reviews and bike racks.

D. Muzikar: Director of Blue Sage, provides background on the project.

B. Coutermarsh: statement in support.

J. Hunt: Statement in support.

M. Barns: Blue Sage Board; statement about parking.

Community Member: Statement in support

Board discussion includes questions and answers about roof drainage, gutters, comments and statements made at public hearing of Planning Commission and agreement letters.

Trustee Smith suggests that language be added on page 40 of the parking agreement to make it clear that the town is not requiring payment for spaces because this is a Non-Profit. Secondly, to add language that if the Blue Sage is having a large event during regular business hours, they will notify the Town office, since the back lot is used by employees, town staff, and shoppers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Knutson states that comments parallel to what we heard in the Planning Commission Meeting on 9/21/2023.

Mayor Pro-Tem Knutson makes a motion, seconded by Trustee Stelter, to approve V-23-02 as recommended.

Motion carries unanimously.

Consideration of Approval for a Letter of Support for the Wilder Bunch- 2024 CPW Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance/Stewardship Application

Town Administrator Wynn provides background on the group providing the maintenance and recommends approval for a letter of support and adding a 2024 budget line item, 10-46-75 Parks and Recreation Grant Projects of \$2,500.

Ben Graves, Development Director of The Nature Connection, discusses the Wilder Bunch group and funding and explains how their funding works through the year and why they are requesting financial support.

Trustee Swartz comments on the Wilder Bunch and has been impressed with the work they have done.

Trustee Stelter makes a motion, seconded by Trustee Smith, for approval of Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance for Fiscal Years 2024 and a grant budget of \$2,500.

Motion carries unanimously.

**Appointment to the Planning Commission by the Board of Trustees**

The applicants, Susan Pagano and Suzanne Watson, briefly introduce themselves and express their interest in serving on the Planning Commission

Town Attorney Cotton-Baez clarifies that Planning Commission appointments should be made by the Mayor as stated in the Code.

Town Administrator Wynn explains that the Town is in a critical phase and feels that someone with Land Use and Municipal Code experience would be beneficial.

Trustee Smith concurs with Town Administrator Wynn and suggests Susan Watson for appointment.

Mayor Bachran states that based on her experience and the recommendations, she agrees and appoints Ms. Watson to the Planning Commission.

#### Consideration of Support Letter Regarding NEPA Phase 2 Rulemaking

Natasha Leger, Executive Director of Citizens for a Healthy Community, provides and explanation of the proposed rulemaking and why she would like the Town to send a letter. Ms. Leger also suggests some changes to be made in the letter provided before it is sent.

Trustee Smith suggests corrections to the first page, third paragraph and other minor corrections of the letter.

Mayor Bachran states that there are a few type errors to be corrected. But other than that, it is a good letter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Knutson feels the letter is too technical and doesn't sound like 'us' (Paonia). He does not feel as though it is in line with previous letters the Town has sent and that the letter needs more input on how it impacts the town.

It is pointed out that the letter deadline is September 29, 2023.

Trustee Stelter states this is a complex issue and the amount of detail is appropriate. He adds that the Town needs to express concern about a possible ecological disaster and the fragility of our water sheds.

Trustee Swartz expresses appreciation of Trustee Smith and Ms. Leger's efforts.

Trustee Swartz makes a motion, seconded by Trustee Valentine, to approve a new draft letter with minor changes to the Council on Environmental Quality.

Motion carries unanimously.

#### Consideration of Approval of Matching The rate Increase for Employee Medical **Benefits**

Town Administrator Wynn explains that the increase is only 5% and goes over increase numbers.

Board discussion includes standard costs of employees/Town, differences in Local vs State, number of employees, different plan selections and deductions.

Town Administrator Wynn goes on to explain there is no increase for dental/vision.

Trustee Smith makes a motion, seconded by Trustee Swartz, that the town continues to buy 100% of Employee Only PPO7 plan and contribute a percentage for the increase of other classifications and plans to equal a total contribution of 60% towards increases.

Motion carries unanimously.

Request of NFPPRD for Construction Workers to Camp in Town Park while completing improvements to the Skate Park. The Construction Workers would also like access to the Teen Center for access to the showers and the kitchen.

Town Administrator Wynn explains he is bringing this issue to the board, due to not being sure he had the authority to make this decision.

Public Comments:

C. Patterson: questions about who should be making decisions.

S. Watson: comments about safety concerns.

Board discussion includes indoor vs outdoor, administrative decision vs Board decision, delegation of authority, management decisions, camping needs and scheduling conflicts.

Mayor Pro-Tem Knutson makes a motion, seconded by Trustee Stelter, to approve the request for construction workers to camp in Town Park and to grant them access to the Teen Center for showers, kitchen, and camping.

Motion carries unanimously.

**Mayor & Trustee Reports**


None

**Adjournment**

Mayor Bachran adjourns the meeting at 7:43 PM.

  
Ruben Santiago, Deputy Clerk



  
Mary Bachran, Mayor