

Minutes
Special Town Board Meeting
Town of Paonia, Colorado
June 24, 2019

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Roll Call

1. Roll Call
PRESENT
Mayor Charles Stewart
Mayor Pro-Tem Chelsea Bookout
Trustee Mary Bachran
Trustee William Bear
Trustee Karen Budinger
Trustee Dave Knutson

ABSENT
Trustee Samira Hart

Approval of Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda as presented.
Motion made by Trustee Bear, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bookout.
Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Bookout, Trustee Bachran, Trustee Bear, Trustee Budinger,
Trustee Knutson

Unfinished Business

1. After Action Report and Water System Discussion
Mayor Stewart provided an outline of the meeting as follows:
Presentation of After-Action Report
Staff Information
Open Discussion

The expectation is that there will be multiple discussions over many meetings in the upcoming months. Mayor Stewart plans to limit the meeting to two (2) hours.

Administrator Knight presented information from the after-action report for the Board and community, beginning with the Incident Management Team Objectives. Multiple successes and areas of improvement were provided from page five (5) through eleven (11). Appendix A is the improvement plan regarding all entities, including the Town of Paonia. Administrator Knight added that he believes Appendix A is the most important part of the after-action report.

MAPPING:

At the time of the water incident four (4) consecutive water systems were registered - per the State guidelines of 14 taps and/or 25 residents. Seven (7) additional consecutive water systems were identified and are working with CDPHE-WQCD and the Town to become registered and compliant systems.

A full mapping system, including consecutive water systems, location of waterlines, hydrants, pressure reducing vaults, treatment centers, storage tanks and master meters is a critical function needed and will begin with an RFP for engineering.

Motion made to direct staff to publish a RFP for GIS engineering firm to begin mapping of complete waterline system.

Motion made by Trustee Bear, seconded by Trustee Budinger. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Bookout, Trustee Bachran, Trustee Bear, Trustee Budinger, Trustee Knutson.

Administrator Knight noted that the Town would have to acquire the water company's permission to map their system. If a company denies access the Town could only map to the master meter.

Mike Drake - Stewart Mesa Water Company - Stewart Mesa Water has their system mapped and is willing to share with the Town.

Thomas Markle - suggested Town staff perform the GIS mapping.

Motion made to set RFP date of publication by the last meeting in July.

Motion made by Trustee Bear, seconded by Trustee Knutson. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Bookout, Trustee Bachran, Trustee Bear, Trustee Budinger, Trustee Knutson.

COORDINATION:

This section primarily outlines suggestions for Delta County but does include a training module for elected officials in emergency management training. Administrator Knight plans to coordinate training opportunities with Delta County.

Motion made to coordinate G-402 training for Town staff and officials and to invite other community officials.

Motion made by Trustee Bear, seconded by Trustee Knutson. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Bookout, Trustee Bachran, Trustee Bear, Trustee Budinger, Trustee Knutson.

COMMUNICATION:

This section identified the need for information contact sharing for after-hours for Board, staff, water companies, and other integral contacts.

Motion made to direct Administrator Knight to update the action-item complete dates.

Motion made by Trustee Bear, seconded by Trustee Knutson. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Bookout, Trustee Bachran, Trustee Bear, Trustee Budinger, Trustee Knutson.

Administrator Knight stated staff is researching installation of a designated phone number, answered by the same person during an emergency. A plan will be implemented regarding the continuation of regular business during an emergency. Staff will work more diligently to keep the Board informed of developments as they occur.

Updating Co-WARN agreement and contact lists.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS:

Discussion ensued regarding drafting the implementation of the plan in coordination with Delta County.

Working with Treasurer and Finance Department to update the Town purchasing policy to fit FEMA guidelines.

Finance Officer Jones provided an explanation of expenses for the water issue for Board and community.

Christina Patterson - suggested using some type of community/street "phone tree" system.

Administrator Knight added that in his opinion the final item on Appendix A as most important and suggested commissioning an updated water system analysis beginning at the springs for all users on Town water, adding that fresh eyes identifying the water potential for the full year to include:

What we can provide.

How we supply the demand year-round.

What reservoirs are adequate for the Town.

Open for Board Questions:

Trustee Bear stated he believes the incident should not have happened and that something failed in the Towns system and needs to be investigated by a non-related party.

Trustee Knutson added he was disappointed that the people who came in to assist such as Westminster were not included in the after-action report to give feedback on their opinions of the Town system.

Mayor Stewart added he does not believe the issue occurred due to a lack of water, but because of large water breaks and a malfunctioning valve. He believes discussions should resume with Arch Coal regarding the standby taps and land and water storage.

Clerk Corinne Ferguson provided information to the public and the Board that the incident was not one that could have been prepared for or prevented. The multiple events individually could have been resolved and business as usual resumed, without any issue, but it was the multiple individual events occurring at or around the same time that caused the major issues.

Administrator Knight provided information regarding change of protocols put in to place for preventative measures.

Trustee Bookout – added she is unclear of what agreements there are with the water companies - these need to be reviewed and updated.

Discussion ensued regarding:
Conservation measures.
Feasible tap sales data without additional storage

Community Discussion:

Barry Smith - Price Rd – Questioned if it was worth considering a moratorium on major subdivisions until other items suggested are dealt with.

Attorney Nerlin explained for public and to the Board that there would need to be a finding of a fact as to why a moratorium was needed and there would need to be clear evidence to support the moratorium.

Christina Patterson - Price Rd - Concerned with Riverbank subdivision taps. Questioned who approves tap sales.

Kris Kendall - Minnesota Creek Rd – Suggested that instead of worrying about Arch Coal - buy taps back from Arch and sell them to someone else. The Town created the water companies; the water companies should have a say.

Mike Drake – Believes the Town should form a water district.

Mary DiFranco – Agrees with the creation of a water district. As an owner of several properties close to Town how will she know she will be able to develop. She suggested the Town create a priority system to who Town sells taps to.

Thomas Markle – Stated the more strain on system the more delicate it becomes. He doesn't believe Town does not have baseline flow rates and questioned where the water reserve fund comes from, how much is in it, and how does the Town use it.

Mr. Markle added he finds it hard to believe the Board cannot require Arch Coal to pay stand-by fees like everyone else.

Bill Brunner – Urged the Town to utilize studies completed in the past and use WestWater Engineering, because they have a historical knowledge of the system.

Michelle Pattison - 2nd St - The current pricing structure does not encourage water conservation.

The Board directed Administrator Knight to bring a list of items for Board to assess regarding a study of the water system at a future meeting.

Motion made to set a follow-up special meeting for Monday, July 15, at 6pm to continue discussion.

Motion made by Trustee Bear, Seconded by Trustee Bachran. Voting Yea: Mayor Pro-Tem Bookout, Trustee Bachran, Trustee Bear, Trustee Budinger, Trustee Knutson.

Adjournment

J. Corinne Ferguson, Town Clerk

Charles Stewart, Mayor