

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

March 14, 2024

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Jim Wingfield called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A verbal roll call was taken. Present were Patrick Webb, Tricia McFarland, Pat Medina, and John Marta. Absent were Sven Edstrom, and Custer McLeod.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA
MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2024.

John Marta motioned to approve the minutes, Patrick Webb seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Town Clerk Ginger Redden read the additional bills.

Pat Medina moved to approve payment of all bills as presented, Tricia McFarland seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

4. NORTH FORK MINERS STUDENT COUNCIL-UPDATE ON HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

The High School Student Council Members present were Piper Smith and Sydney Ness. Winter Sports went well, boys wrestling got 5th and girls wrestling got 1st. FBLA had 50 students qualify for the State Competition in Denver. FFA is competing in a State Career Development Event in April at Fort Collins. Knowledge Bowl took 2nd. College bound seniors are now applying for scholarships.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment started at 6:35 p.m.

Ruth Pettigrew, 344 N 3rd Street, asked the Board if there could be a different seating arrangement for the next work session on the cat Ordinance. She stated that there wasn't a whole lot accomplished at the last one.

Mary Hockenbery, 188 N 1st Street, wanted to invite everyone to go to the Quilt Show that is happening March 15th, 16th, and 17th at Heritage Hall. She mentioned that Ginger entered a quilt and that there is another quilt being borrowed from the Crawford-Hotchkiss Museum depicting the Towns history.

James McCain, Rogers Mesa, told the board that the trial was wrapped up. He said that they declared that Fluoride is a toxin. He said that there is no evidence showing that .75 milligrams per liter didn't have any effects. The EPA admitted that it is a toxin. He stated that it doesn't matter how it is voted on, it should be an informed consent with the residents.

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5. PUBLIC COMMENT (cont.)
Public comment ended at 6:43 p.m.
6. STAFF COMMENT
Pat Medina said that she agrees with Ruth that there was nothing accomplished at the last work session. John Marta said that he doesn't think that another work session is necessary.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS
No Public Hearings scheduled for this meeting.
8. OLD BUSINESS
NORTH FORK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE
No one was present to represent the North Fork Valley Chamber of Commerce.

FARM LEASE AGREEMENT- OPENING AND POSSIBLE AWARDING OF SEALED BIDS
Mayor Wingfield asked that Trustee Patrick Webb read the two sealed bids that were submitted.

John Odle- \$4,800.00 a year

Kyle Pitt- \$6,750.00 a year

Pat Medina made a motion to approve the sealed bid for Kyle Pitt's bid for \$6,750.00 a year for the farm lease, Patrick Webb seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

LAWN CARE BIDS-POSSIBLE AWARDING OF THE BID

Mayor Wingfield said that there was some confusion in the Tree Trimming. Pat Medina stated that one didn't give very much information, another was more detailed and is currently the one doing the Town's lawn care, and the other is very detailed but more expensive.

Don Dybala was present and had put in a bid for the lawn care. He stated that he had worked for a tree company and City of Delta. He explained the jobs that he implemented into his bid. He said trees would be trimmed in the assigned areas and extra charges for anything beyond that. He said that he included his insurance and that he is insured for all the items of work that he put in his bid.

The Board conversed about the costs and information that each bid provided.

Patrick Webb made a motion to renew the service with Helping Hands Lawn Care, Pat Medina seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

ELECTION UPDATE

Mayor Wingfield said that the Election is on April 2nd with four (4) candidates running for three (3) open Trustee positions.

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8. OLD BUSINESS (cont.)

WATER/SEWER TAP FEES AND SERVICE FEE INFORMATION UPDATE

Mayor Wingfield said that the Town is looking into the rates to get an idea for an increase in rates to be eligible for DOLA grants. Information is currently being gathered and sent to a representative to have a survey completed. Town Clerk Ginger Redden explained the information that was needed and said that it would be six (6) months for this to be completed.

UPDATES WATER SHARES FOR MUNICIPAL WATER

Mayor Wingfield said that he is always looking for more possibilities to get the Town more water. Engineer Joanne Fagan said that the Town is doing some work and when there is something to present to the citizens, it will be brought up.

PARKING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Attorney Bo Nerlin showed the Board a slide show to go over the Parking Ordinance. There is the 2020 model traffic code and the Chapter 17 update. The codes that the Town is held to with the MTC were listed. It allows parking for those with disabilities and enforcement with municipalities. It has regulations against larger vehicles. Limits for recreation vehicles are no more than thirty (30) days or thirty-six (36) hours. He stated there needs to be further definition on trailers, movement of vehicles and parking for non-licensed vehicles. He considered shortening the thirty-six (36) hours limit, residential parking on roads, changing the fine for each violation from \$10.00 to \$20.00 and the contested fine from \$20.00 to \$40.00. Chief Green told the Board that the department hasn't been enforcing parking violations lately with Chapter 17 being rewritten. Bo Nerlin said that it is a way of making it worth the officer's time. They are trying to get as much information together as possible to work up more of this chapter. He is looking for the Board's feedback. Mayor Wingfield said that he agrees with the timeframes. Patrick Webb said he wanted to talk about parking on Bridge Street. He said that he doesn't know of any big issues pertaining to parking. He stated that we are more so creating a problem to solve a problem, that is in so causing more of a cost issue. He stated that a lot of people in Town don't have a driveway or garage and need the on-street parking. Pat Medina said that there are a lot of vehicles parked on Bridge Street, as there are just as many residents as there are businesses. She stated that with the businesses that are there, it is rare for a vehicle to be parked for longer than the 2-hour window. Chief Green stated that a lot of these issues being brought up are already in the Ordinance and not enforced. He stated that the parking Ordinance was brought up with the recent businesses coming into Town without enough parking. Bo Nerlin said that parking in driveways was brought up as an idea to talk with the Board about and it isn't implemented. Chief Green said that he is trying to eliminate a household with a mass number of vehicles that take up the neighbors parking as well. There is no current way to enforce this now, even if there are seldom spots for parking.

CHAPTER 17 UPDATE-SET A POSSIBLE WORK SESSION DATE

Mayor Wingfield said that there is a letter from PETA and that he would like to schedule another work session. The Board agreed to meet on Tuesday, March 19th at 5:30 p.m.

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8. OLD BUSINESS (cont.)
MUNICODE ORDINANCE ADOPTION UPDATE
Bo Nerlin said that he wanted to put this on hold to get Chapter 17 updated after the new council members are sworn in.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Wingfield brought up the IGA with Delta County for River Ridge Road. It was brought up that under 3d, the out-of-town taps should be considered, not just given. Bo Nerlin said that there had been a revised version given to the Delta County lawyer. The County would like to adopt this at their next meeting on Tuesday, March 19th and then the Town could ratify it in a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 19th as well. Joanne Fagan said that her comments have gone to Bo and that she is disappointed that we are not getting the easements to loop the lines to the High School. Joanne Fagen mentioned that she hasn't seen anything new for the Miner's Trail in months. It was discussed that the IGA needed to be approved with conditions and that there would be a special meeting planned before the work session on Tuesday, March 19th.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Marvin Jackson told the Board that two (2) aerators went down at the sewer ponds, one has been fixed and the other is still be worked on, the sub-pump at the lift station is fixed, potholes around Town are being filled, and the lower tank will be drained soon for maintenance.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Scott Green told the Board that he didn't have anything to report on this month.

10. NEW BUSINESS
DONATION REQUEST-RURAL PHILANTHROPY DAYS
Ginger Redden explained the event and said that in the past the Town has donated \$500.00. It will be held in Fruita this year.
Patrick Webb made a motion to approve the donation request for \$500.00 to the Rural Philanthropy Days, Tricia McFarland seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

DOG PARK IN HOTCHKISS-TAMARA GRAHAM

Tamara Graham told the Board that she has lived here since 1993. She said that there is nowhere in Town to take her dog and stretch its legs. She stated that she travels to Delta, Montrose, or Grand Junction to go to their dog parks. She said that she has talked to a lot of the people in these areas that also travel from Hotchkiss and Cedaredge. She stated that this would be a benefit for socializing dogs and bring in revenue for the Town as a possible tourist destination. This would also help with promoting a healthier and happier community. The Fairgrounds was brought up as well and was told that it is Delta County property. Mayor Wingfield said that there is a lot that goes into bringing a dog park into Town as far as location, insurance, and maintenance.

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10. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

ORDINANCE 2024-02 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING DEBT COLLECTION FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bo Nerlin said that he worked with Chief Green and the courts to work with a third-party collections company. This gives the court clerk the ability to work with them to collect unpaid court fees.

John Marta made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-02 regarding debt collection for the Police Department as a first reading, Pat Medina seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

TOWN CLEAN UP DAY-FRIDAY APRIL 19TH AND SATURDAY APRIL 20TH, 2024

Mayor Wingfield said that the spring clean up day is provided to the Town and that it is limited to citizens within the Town limits. He said that those that want to participate need to get a voucher from the clerk's office. The Town will be recycling metals, along with two (2) large dumpsters. He said that he is looking forward to the Town getting cleaned up.

FLUORIDE INFORMATION-STAFF REPORT

Marvin Jackson read a letter that he and Joanne Fagan put together from research they had done. (See attached to original minutes.) Patrick Webb said that we are not required by the State to put Fluoride in the water. He said that the .7 milligrams per liter that the Town has with steady use affects the children's IQ. He said that there are multiple places that have banned it due to it is a toxin. He stated that he doesn't know the statistics against the dental care it provides. Mayor Wingfield said that there are also places that are suing to have fluoride put back into the water. James McCain answered some questions for Patrick Webb regarding evidence of reduction of cavities and that the judge hasn't ruled on the trial. Mayor Wingfield said that there are two sides to this story and that the Town of Hotchkiss isn't doing anything wrong. Patrick Webb said that it is detrimental to children. He stated that he wanted the use of fluoride to be put into a moratorium for a year and after a year to see how the citizens feel about the practice. Ginger Redden raised the concern that the issue needs to be put to a vote of the people as it was her understanding as that is what Paonia and Olathe had done. Bo Nerlin stated that he didn't have an answer now on if it needed to go to a vote of the people or not.

Patrick Webb made a motion to put a moratorium on fluoridation in the Town water for a year and if it needs to be voted on it will be put on a ballot, Tricia McFarland seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

BARN BUDS DISPENSARY-JOSHUA FRYE

Mayor Wingfield said that Joshua Frye is waiting for his medical marijuana license to be approved. Bo Nerlin said that when it was approved through the Board it was a dual application being approved. Joshua Frye said he is waiting for the license to be approved and then he will be able to open. Mayor Wingfield said that the inspection that he, Town Clerk Ginger Redden and Chief Scott Green had done on his business went well.

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10. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

FEMA HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT UPDATE-JEFFREY RODARTE

Administrative/Court Clerk Jeffrey Rodarte said that he was looking at the Town's energy set up and that if in an emergency the Town would be severely impacted by a power outage. He had gone through the process of applying for a grant that would cover a generator that would be affixed to a mobile trailer for the North Fork Valley. The grant was awarded at the value of \$52,500.00. He told the Board that this amount will cover the cost for the generator but that there would be an extra expenditure for the electrical work that would need to be done for it to be used that the Town Hall. He asked the Board if they would approve these extra costs with the general fund. Chief Green said that doing the electrical work would cost anywhere from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 with the current contractor that did the Town Hall remodel. Patrick Webb asked if the funds could come from the Back the Badge fund and Mayor Wingfield said that it benefits the whole Town Hall so he would rather see this expense come from the General Fund. John Marta agreed with the Mayor that the Town needed this resource in case of an emergency. Patrick Webb made a motion to accept the FEMA grant with any extra funds coming from the General Fund, Pat Medina seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

SPRAY FOAM BID FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT CONNEX

Pat Medina said that the mayor is stepping away from the table as he has submitted a bid. The bids submitted were:

Jim Wingfield	\$2,000.00
Accurate Insulation	\$2,780.00

Tricia McFarland made a motion to accept the bid from Jim Wingfield to spray foam the Police Department Connex, Patrick Webb seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley M. Rodarte, Deputy Town Clerk