

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

December 12, 2024

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Patricia Medina called the meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. A verbal roll call was taken. Those present were Jim Jorgensen, Randy Thalmann, Custer McLeod, Roger Christian, and Sven Edstrom.

Absent was Mayor Jim Wingfield.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Sven Edstrom moved to approve the minutes as presented, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Town Clerk Ginger Redden read off the additional bills.

Custer McLeod moved to pay the bills, Sven Edstrom 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

No one was present to represent the North Fork High School.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

6. STAFF COMMENT

Town Clerk Ginger Redden mentioned that the Secret Santa program has seven (7) families and fourteen (14) children.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

ORDINANCE 2024-09 CHAPTER 17 POSSIBLE SECOND READING AND ADOPTION BOARD DELIBERATION

Jim Jorgensen asked about the section that involves putting a collar on a cat. Mayor Pro-Tem Pat Medina stated that it is to assist in enforcement that is operated off complaints. Chief Scott Green told the Board that he has talked a lot with Town Attorney Bo Nerlin on the collar or microchip being a form of identification. Pat Medina said that if a cat is picked up without a collar, it could be considered a feral cat.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ruth Pettigrew, 394 N 3rd Street, she told the Board that it has been a fascinating process for over a year. She read that the cat would have to have a Town tag as well, which would enforce

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

Page 2
12/12/2024

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Cont.)
ORDINANCE 2024-09 CHAPTER 17 POSSIBLE SECOND READING AND ADOPTION
PUBLIC COMMENT
the use of collars. Her cats tend to take them off. She stated that she has talked with a local veterinarian on the prospect that you would have to be within proximity to be able to read the microchip. Which would in turn cause trauma to the trapped cat.

Mary Hockenbery, 188 N 1st Street, told the Board that the cat collar has always been in the Ordinance and she would hate to see it all get kicked aside due to this one change. She said that this has come to fruition not due to neighbors fighting, but about cats as a whole. There has been an abundance of cats within Town. The cat issue has always been complaint driven and will remain that way. Individuals that own cats should take care of their cats and in doing so they have nothing to worry about with this Ordinance.

BOARD DELIBERATION

Custer McLeod read the specifications for identifying cats and voiced that these are sufficient. Sven Edstrom asked Chief Green how he felt about where the Chapter sits now. Chief Green said that he is happy with it and that there has been a lot of effort put into it. Sven Edstrom agreed that it is sufficient as is. If there are issues with it in the future, that can be adjusted as needed at that time.

Jim Jorgensen made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-09, the adoption of Chapter 17 as presented, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with four (4) Trustees voting for and one (1) Trustee, Roger Christian voting against. Motion passed.

POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE 2025 BUDGET AND MILL LEVY

ORDINANCE 2024-06 POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR 2025

Town Clerk Ginger Redden explained any changes that were made to the final draft of the 2025 Budget and Mill Levy.

Jim Jorgensen made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-06 the adoption of the 2025 Budget as presented, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2024-07 APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES AS AN EMERGENCY

Sven Edstrom made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-07 appropriating sums of money to defray expenses as an emergency, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2024-08 AMENDING ESTABLISHED RATE OF MILL LEVY FOR 2025

Sven Edstrom made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-08 amending the established rate of the Mill Levy for 2025, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

Page 3
12/12/2024

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Cont.)
POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE 2025 BUDGET AND MILL LEVY
RESOLUTION 2024-04 TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY
Town Clerk Ginger Redden explained the Resolution to the Board.
Sven Edstrom made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-04 to appropriate additional sums of money, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor.
Motion passed.
8. OLD BUSINESS
BRUIN WASTE RECYCLING UPDATE
Town Clerk Ginger Redden told the Board that Bruin Waste would like to meet the 75 participants' goal before starting the service and there have been 42 that have signed up to date. Pat Medina stated that it would be beneficial to have it reposted to the bills, Facebook and the Town website.
9. MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Pro Tem Pat Medina said that she told Chief Green about a safety issue of people sleeping in campers within Town. She worries about carbon monoxide emissions and there are Ordinance against living in campers within Town limits.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Scott Green told the Board that he is getting training entered in for the end of the year. He has hired two (2) new officers. One is graduating from the academy on December 13th and the other has ten (10) years of experience as a detective. Both new hires can speak and write in Spanish. The grant that they received from the State will fund one of the new hires while they are in the academy and, being that they graduate soon that will save some money for the grant. He included a printout in the packets about paving the Public Parking Lot on Hotchkiss Avenue that will be put out to bid. He told the Board that he would be in contact with Commissioner Wendell Koontz about Delta County taking on half of the paving for the parking lot. Randy Thalmann asked if there was a conversation started with DMEA about the lighting for either the public parking lot or the walking path near the Hotchkiss K-8. Chief Green said that he has spoken with former Mayor Larry Jakubiak about the walk path by the K-8, with Larry stating that it was brought about just as he was leaving the office. The Board instructed Chief Green to get in contact with Kurt Clay about the walking path.

PUBLIC WORKS

Department Head Marvin Jackson told the Board that there were a couple small issues with the Water and Sewer Plant but everything has been smooth.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

Page 4

12/12/2024

10. NEW BUSINESS

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL-PAT'S BAR AND GRILL-PAT MEDINA

Mayor Pro-Tem Pat Medina appointed Roger Christian to lead the meeting while she steps into the audience. Town Clerk Ginger Redden and Chief Scott Green both told the Board that there are no issues with the application.

Jim Jorgensen made a motion to approve the Liquor License Renewal for Pat's Bar and Grill, Randy Thalmann seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE 2024-09 NATURAL MEDICINE

Attorney Bo Nerlin told the Board that this was an emergency Ordinance to prohibit the licensing in residential zoning and there is a State Mandate for 1,000 feet radius from a school in place. This is a change that will affect the zoning code and will help the State in the licensing process.

Custer McLeod made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-09, Roger Christian seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

POSSIBLE CLOSING ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH FOR CHRISTMAS EVE DISCUSSION

Town Clerk Ginger Redden explained that this would be the fourth (4th) year that the Town Hall would be closed for Christmas Eve.

Jim Jorgensen made a motion to close the Town Hall for Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

ATTORNEY NERLIN CONTRACT RENEWAL POSSIBLE APPROVAL

Mayor Pro-Tem Pat Medina said that Bo has been diligent with the Town. Attorney Nerlin told the Board that he has been with the Town for 11 years and hasn't increased his rates within that timeframe.

Custer McLeod made a motion to approve Attorney Bo Nerlin's Contract with the Town, Jim Jorgensen seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pat Medina mentioned that the Town is hiring for a Building Inspector and Janitor.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley M. Rodarte, Deputy Town Clerk