

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

JANUARY 8, 2026

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. Those present were Roger Christian, Pat Medina, Randy Thalmann, Custer McLeod and Sven Edstrom. Absent was Jim Jorgensen

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Connor of 184 E Main Street commented about having lighted cross walk signs and how it would improve pedestrian safety. Laurie also recommended that the Board let everyone talk and maybe have an outline available that everyone can follow.

Terry O'Brien of 176 E Orchard told the Board that he felt Town Attorney Bo Nerlin was using his position as the Town Attorney to persuade the Judge and the Sheriff's Department to find in favor of his client that has a civil case with Mr. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien claimed that he was using his status to get he and his partner Leighanne Hoyt arrested.

Attorney Nerlin read the letter in question to the Board of Trustees.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 11, 2025

Randy Thalmann noted that he was not present at the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting but was mentioned as being present.

Pat Medina moved to approve the minutes with the above noted correction, seconded by Custer McLeod. A verbal vote was taken with all voting in favor. Motion passed.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Town Clerk Ginger Redden read off the additional bills.

Pat Medina made a motion to pay the bills, Roger Christian seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

4. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

None.

5. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Attorney Bo Nerlin addressed the comment made by Laurie Connor. He said that the goal is to create a clean record of the meetings. This includes not having back and forth communication during the comment periods of the meeting.

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6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Interim Town Administrator Lauren Gister was unable to log into the Zoom Link.

7. ACTION ITEMS

DONATION REQUEST-HOTCHKISS SHEEP CAMP STOCK DOG TRIALS

Liz (no last name given) stood in for Susan. In addition to the Sponsorship Request that the Hotchkiss Sheep Camp Stock Dog Trials puts in every year, they are asking for help in setting up and taking down all the things for the Trials. There are only four (4) women on the committee, and they are requesting all the help they can get.

The Trials are held every year in May over Mother's Day weekend. Mayor Wingfield and several other Trustees said that they would be happy to help with setting up and tear down. Pat Medina moved to approve the \$500.00 donation request for the Hotchkiss Sheep Camp Stock Dog Trials, seconded by Sven Edstrom. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2026-01 DECLARING PAPER AND POSTING PLACE

This Resolution is done every year in January to declare the paper that the Town of Hotchkiss will place all of the Town information in as well as the posting place where agendas and other items of public interest to the Town are posted.

Pat Medina moved to approve Resolution 2026-01, a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado, designating the official Public Notice location and the official newspaper of general circulation for the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado, seconded by Custer McLeod. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT FOR ATTORNEY BO NERLIN

Mayor Wingfield stated that there were a few little changes to the contract, but it is basically the same as last year.

Custer McLeod said that he thinks Attorney Nerlin is doing a great job.

Mayor Wingfield stated that possibly later this summer there would be RFPs (Requests for Proposals) put out for different jobs in the Town of Hotchkiss. The Attorney would possibly be one.

Pat Medina moved to approve the contract for Attorney Bo Nerlin for the year of 2026, seconded by Sven Edstrom. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2026-02 ADDING SIGNERS FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Custer McLeod moved to approve Resolution 2026-02, a Resolution of the board of Trustees authorizing the legal signers for the Town of Hotchkiss, seconded by Roger Christian. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

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7. ACTION ITEMS (cont.)

RESOLUTION 2026-03 FREEZING DEPARTMENT HEAD WAGES

Mayor Wingfield told that Board that this was not a permanent freeze. It would only be until the Salary and Wage Survey is done this year. Mayor Wingfield said that the hope is that it will start by the end of January or first part of February and be completed by March. Randy Thalmann asked if there were any reviews being done for employees that this would affect. The answer was not at this time, are there any that would be affected.

Custer McLeod moved to approve Resolution 2026-03, a Resolution of the Town of Hotchkiss to institute a wage freeze until the 2026 Salary Survey is complete, seconded by Roger Christian. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Pat Medina moved to go into Executive Session one pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice regarding a dispute as to the town of Hotchkiss Right-of-Way along what is referred to as the Pinon Street Alley, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor, motion passed.

Pat Medina moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of receiving legal advice and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e) for matters subject to negotiation regarding a possible site lease of real property owned by the Town to City Market, seconded by Custer McLeod. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

The time was 6:53 p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

The recording of the meeting was turned back on at 8:08 p.m.

Mayor Wingfield read the following.

The time is now 8:08 p.m., and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive session were Mayor Jim Wingfield, Randy Thalmann, Roger Christian, Sven Edstrom, Deputy Town Clerk Tessa Denison, Town Clerk Ginger Redden, Attorney Bo Nerlin, Interim Administrator Lauren Gister and Town Engineer Joanne Fagan.

For the record, if any person who participated in the Executive Session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the Executive Session occurred during the Executive Session, or that any improper action occurred during the Executive Session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record. Seeing none, the next agenda item is...

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7. ACTION ITEMS (cont.)  
POSSIBLE MOTION FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION  
None
8. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS  
A letter from Pastor Jake DeField regarding lighting by the First Baptist Church.
9. ADJOURNMENT  
The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginger R Redden, Town Clerk