

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

June 9, 2011

1. Mayor Koontz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present were Sheila Maki, Marlin McCracken, Jane Wills, Lindee Cantrell, and Dustyn Foster. Carrie Wingfield was not present.
2. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Sheila Maki moved to approve the minutes for May 12, 2011 as presented, seconded by Dustyn Foster, with all in favor.
4. **Oak Mesa Coal Reserve Update – Oxbow Mine**
Randy Litwiller, General Manager and Steve Weist, Project Manager from Oxbow Mine, were present to update the Trustees on the coal exploration on Oak Mesa northwest of Hotchkiss. Mr. Litwiller told the Trustees they are in the very early stages of the exploration project. The Oxbow Mine in Somerset employs 350 people and has been in business since 1989. The projected coal production of the Somerset Mine is 2017. They are working toward having a coal mine on Oak Mesa by that date. The Oak Mesa mine will produce coal for at least 20 years. They have been permitted by BLM to test up to 43 holes. If they find good quality coal, they will file and start the application process; which can take up to seven years. They will be asking any interested party to join with them in the exploration. When the permit is granted, the coal reserve lease will go out to bid. Mr. Litwiller said this is a long term project and a lot of questions will be answered as it progresses. They are asking for community support in this endeavor. The Trustees thanked them for the update and asked them to return to future meetings and update the Trustees and community on the progress. Mr. Litwiller said Oxbow is working on a web site to inform the public. Mr. Litwiller told the Trustees that there are environmental groups that will try to stop this mine, and support from the communities is very important.
5. Sally Soltvedt – Cancelled
6. **Elaine Brett – North Fork 2020**
The North Fork 2020 group is working on a vision for the future of the North Fork. The five areas of interest were; food, energy resources, creative arts, health and wellness and tourism & recreation. These areas are diverse and together can support the North Fork Valley for many years. They are applying for the “Heart and Soul Community Planning Grant” from the Orton Family Foundation. They are asking for a letter of support from the Town of Hotchkiss Trustees, possible in-kind support and/or a monetary donation in the future.
The Trustees approved a letter of support and will consider in-kind support and possible monetary donation during the 2012 budget, if the grant is received from the Orton Family Foundation.
7. **Julie Lange – Ice Cream/Coffee Shop Relocation**
Julie is considering purchasing the High Country Carwash and ice cream/ coffee shop. She would like to relocate the ice cream/coffee shop building a little to the northeast and use a portion of property that is of unknown owner for a drive-thru. She has checked with Delta County and the Highway department and an owner of this property is not listed. Attorney Briscoe said his only concern is liability for the Town. Attorney Briscoe said if Ms. Lange is willing to list the Town of Hotchkiss on her liability insurance as an additional insured, that would protect the Town. Ms. Lange stated she would do that. Sheila Maki moved to allow the relocation of the ice cream/coffee shop and to use the unknown property for a drive-thru, with the contingency they place the Town of Hotchkiss on their liability insurance as an additional insured, seconded by Jane Wills, with all in favor.
8. **Building Code Inspector Update**
Mayor Koontz read a report from Tim Hinz.
9. The Trustees and those attending the meeting shared cake to celebrate Mayor Koontz’ 50th birthday.
10. **Leroux Creek Planning Update**
Sheila Maki did not attend the last meeting. Tom Wills told the Trustees that the board reviewed a plan for chicken houses on Redlands and recommend denial of the request to the County Commissioners.

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11. HHS Water Line Project
The project has started and seems to be going well.
12. Enhancement Project Update – Walking Trails
The railroad has given the Town a cost of \$ 68,495 for the crossing on Cedar Street. The Town's cost will be \$ 30,600. Engineer Fagan will try to meet with Joanne Tullis about crossing her property with the trail. She will notify the staff when this meeting will be.
13. Five Minute Public Appearance
Kathy Browning told the Trustees the Rotary Club will have their annual pancake breakfast on June 25th. The money raised is for scholarships.
14. Hotchkiss Planning Commission
There was not a quorum present at the May 25th meeting. The members present discussed the public meeting for the master plan.
The next planning meeting is June 22nd.
15. Department Reports
There were no questions on Mike Owens' written report. The bulk water system is in and ready to be used. The quarter system will be discontinued in 45 days. This will give users the time to sign up for the cardless system.
The Pall water system is still having problems at the water plant. Pall will be bringing in a pilot system to get a handle on the disinfection byproducts.

There were no questions on Marshal Millers' report. It has been a quiet month. There was one break in into a camper in Willow Heights.
16. Hotchkiss Chamber of Commerce
Marshal Miller did not attend the May meeting. The next meeting is June 6th.
17. Mayor's Report
Mayor Koontz said the web site is getting a lot of positive comments.
Employee evaluations are due by the end of June.
18. Town Clerk Report
No report.
19. Upcoming Events
Creamery Arts Open Reception and Hotchkiss Happenings on June 10th,
Business After Hours on July 8th, along with Creamery Arts Open Reception,
Delta County Fair Parade on August 8th,
Hotchkiss Fine Arts at Memorial Hall on June 17th,
Planning Commission meeting on June 22nd.
20. New Business
None
21. Consideration of Bills
Sheila Maki moved to pay all bills, seconded by Lindee Cantrell, with all in favor.
22. Lindee Cantrell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Marlin McCracken, with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene F. Searle, Town Clerk

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