

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

August 17, 2017

1. Mayor Koontz called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m. with a quote from John F. Kennedy and Larry Jakubiak read a quote from John Adams. Those present were Mary Hockenbery, Jim Roberts, John Marta, Lindee Cantrell, Tom Wills and Larry Jakubiak.
2. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Minutes for July 13, 2017
Larry Jakubiak wanted clarification in #4 the water tank is located "on" the property.
Jim Roberts moved to approve the minutes with the above noted change. Tom Wills seconded and it passed with all in favor.
4. Farewell to Trustee Larry Jakubiak
Mayor Koontz thanked Larry for all that he has done for the Town and said that he will be missed. Larry did not want a big deal made out of his leaving.
5. Pro Tem Appointment
John Marta and Mary Hockenbery expressed interest in the Mayor Pro Tem position. John and Mary each had a few minutes to express why they were interested and a little about their backgrounds. Jim Roberts nominated John Marta for the position with Tom Wills seconding. Larry Jakubiak nominated Mary Hockenbery for the position, this motion died due to a lack of a second.
John Marta was appointed the new Mayor Pro Tem with four votes. Mary Hockenbery voted against.
6. New Trustee Discussion
Mayor Koontz said that a new Trustee would be sworn in at the September meeting. Outgoing Trustee Larry Jakubiak said a few words about how the new Trustee should be in the position to help out the Town, not for a personal agenda. He stated that you are here to work for the people of the Town of Hotchkiss, not to promote yourself. Mayor Koontz said that he has learned a lot about civility, courtesy and nonpartisanship in working with Larry.
Mayor Koontz let each of the citizens that are interested in the position of Trustee speak about their interest and told them that next month the Board may have questions for them before filling the position.
7. Street Lights Discussion at 2nd Street and the Railroad Tracks
Matthew Kottenstette said that in his research and in talking to the manufacturer of the LED lights (Mountain States Lighting) he found some possible solutions to the problem.
 - 1) A house shield that would go on the side of the light that faces the house which costs about \$10.
 - 2) Checking out the height of the pole and possibly lowering it so that the light shines closer to the ground and not out as much.
 - 3) A dimming device that costs about \$11 and would dim the light by 50%.

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7. (continued)
 - 4) A smart photo cell which would match the light cycle of the day and gradually brightens and darkens with the daylight.
 - 5) Angling the light bulb down so that it shines more toward the ground.Matthew's wife Emma said that the light is so bright that dimming it even a little would be a good first step. After much discussion between the Trustees it was decided that the Board would ask Public Works to look into these solutions with DMEA, Matthew, and Emma to find a solution.
8. Hanson Mesa Water Board-Contract Discussion

Doug Fritz is leading the project to work with the USDA to improve the water system on Hanson Mesa. Once the engineer study is complete they would like to discuss selling additional taps on Hanson Mesa to help finance the project but wanted to give the Town an update tonight. Steve Harper said there are potentially 30 people on Hanson Mesa that currently have a cistern that may be interested in buying a tap. Town Clerk Marlene Searle said that currently the contract with Hanson Mesa allows for 90 taps. Hanson Mesa will return and talk to the Board once they determine what is needed.
9. Kathy Welt-Royalty Rate Renewal Support Letter

Kathy Welt from the West Elk Mines explained to the Board that this is just a renewal. They asked for a renewal on the already approved plans because they did not get to the areas of the mine that are more costly to get the coal out of in the amount of time they were given. If they make a decision to not mine those areas, no royalties would be given at all so they are hoping for a support letter from the Town to renew their contract with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Kathy Browning stood up and read a letter that she wrote to the Board opposing the support letter.

Kathy Welt said that the business decisions that are made here are what has helped them be able to stay in business and keep 260 people employed.

John Marta moved to approve the Royalty Rate Renewal Support letter for the West Elk Mine. Jim Roberts seconded and the vote passed with Mary Hockenbery opposing.
10. DCMH (Delta County Memorial Hospital) West Elk Clinic Update

Jan McCracken said that the floors are done and the walls are painted. Starting Monday they will be moving in the furniture. They are opening on September 5 with an Open House on September 22. The landscaping is being completed and they will be putting up signs to discourage skateboarding around the clinic.

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11. Department Heads Pay Increase Discussion
Mayor Koontz said that the budget is doing better than anticipated and he would like to reinstate the salary increase for the Department Heads. To help with the 2017 budget, the Department Heads said that they would forego their raises to ensure all other employees would receive their raises.
Larry Jakubiak moved to approve a 3% pay increase effective August 31, 2017 for all of the Town of Hotchkiss Department Heads. Jim Roberts seconded and it passed with all in favor.
12. Farm to Fiddle Update
Larry Jakubiak said that Lynda Cannon and Marsy Moore did a really good job with the Farm to Fiddle Festival. Sales were down on Saturday and there were some WIFI problems but overall things were good. The music at the Creamery Arts Center was very popular and there were always a lot of people listening.
13. Colorado Main Street Update
None.
14. Five Minute Public Appearance
None.
15. Master Plan Survey Update
Tom Wills will have a paper for the Trustees next month to let them know the results of the Survey. 10% of the Surveys were returned which is about the same as the last time Surveys were issued. The Planning Commission will tabulate and go through the results in the meeting on September 23.
16. North Fork Valley Creative Coalition Update
Mary Hockenbery said that they are still working with the West Elk Clinic on picking out art work to hang in the new building. There will possibly be an Art and Ag Tour in October and she is not sure about the annual fundraiser. The Creative Coalition is also working on a marketing grant and inventory.
17. Town Engineer Report
The bids for the sewer seep line project were opened at 6:00 p.m. today and the prices ranged from \$140,000 to \$500,000. Joanne will review all bids and talk to the low bidder and give Mike some time to look them over also. She will be ready for the Board to award the bid at the September meeting. The project will cover Pinon from Hotchkiss Avenue to the Highway. The debt forgiveness loan paper work on the water tank project is being reviewed and the Board will be able to review and approve the paperwork in September.

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18. Delta County Housing Task Force Update
None.
19. Leroux Creek Planning Update
Tom Wills said that the meeting was to discuss a subdivision going in on Redlands Mesa.
20. Department Reports
Marshal Miller thanked Larry Jakubiak for all of his hard work and said that Fair Week went smoothly.
Mike Owens was on vacation and was not present at the meeting. Public Works employee Greg Allen said that the fire hydrant has been installed by the new clinic.
21. Hotchkiss Planning Commission Update
Tom Wills said that the survey was reviewed and discussed with more discussion at the September 23rd meeting.
22. Hotchkiss Chamber Update
None.
23. Mayor's Report
Mayor Koontz said that mental health counseling is now being done at the Nature Connection building out by the High School.
An update from Mark Kurtz of Elevate was read to the Board by Mayor Koontz.
Mayor Koontz is checking with the High School on a time when the Student Government can join the Town for a meeting. It will be in either October or November.
24. Town Clerk Report
None.
25. Upcoming Events/Schedule
August 21-School Starts
August 19-North Fork Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation fundraiser at Heritage Hall
September 4-Labor Day
September 5-DCMH West Elk Clinic Opens
September 14-Town Meeting
September 22-West Elk Clinic Open House

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26. New Business
Lindee Cantrell said that the Willow Heights Park looks like it has not been mowed in a while.
Town Clerk Marlene Searle said that she is trying to get a hold of him and will let him know.
27. Possible Items for Next Agenda
Possible Appointment of a new Trustee.
28. Consideration of Bills
As discussed at the last meeting due to Fair Week the August meeting was later in the month
the bills were paid prior to this meeting.
29. Executive Session
Cancelled.
30. Lindee Cantrell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginger R. Redden, Deputy Town Clerk