

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

June 10, 2021

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Wilkening called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Roll call was taken and present were Mary Hockenbery, Pat Medina, Sven Edstrom, Patrick Webb and John Marta.  
Absent was Jim Wingfield.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FOR MAY 13, 2021

John Marta moved to approve the minutes as presented, Pat Medina seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting "Yes". Motion passed.

MINUTES FOR JUNE 1, 2021

Mayor Wilkening had one correction; in the Executive Session Pat Medina was not listed as being present at the end.

Mary Hockenbery moved to approve the minutes as amended, Patrick Webb seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting "Yes". Motion passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

John Marta moved to approve payment of all bills as presented, Pat Medina seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting "Yes". Motion passed.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

5. OLD BUSINESS

WATER RESTRICTIONS REMINDER

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that there was some improvement in the water situation but not much. Public Works Director told the Board that not all of the reservoirs filled and the water is 60% of normal for the year. People are encouraged to conserve water and fix any leaks that they may have.

ORDINANCE 2021-01 DMEA (DELTA MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION)  
FRANCHISE AGREEMENT-SECOND READING

Attorney Bo Nerlin told the Board that since the since the First Reading of this Ordinance last month, Engineer Joanne Fagan and Public Works Director Mike Owens have some concerns. It is possible to move forward with the adoption of this Ordinance tonight with the understanding that Mike and Joanne can sit down and discuss these concerns with DMEA and have a possible amendment to the Ordinance.

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5. OLD BUSINESS (cont.)

ORDINANCE 2021-01 DMEA (DELTA MONTROSE ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION)  
FRANCHISE AGREEMENT-SECOND READING

Some of the concerns include:

\*Having Town water lines and DMEA electrical lines in the same trench.

\*The Town applying for grants to help fund DMEA projects, giving Town grants to DMEA would short the Town on money for Town projects.

The Trustees had several more minutes of discussion. An update on the amendment to Ordinance 2021-01 will be given at the meeting in July.

John Marta moved to adopt Ordinance 2020-01 a Franchise Agreement between the Town of Hotchkiss and Delta-Montrose Electric Association, an Ordinance granting a franchise by the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado to Delta-Montrose Electric Association, its successors and assigns to locate, build, construct, reconstruct, replace, modify, upgrade, uprate, relocate, remove, acquire, purchase, extend, maintain, and operate into, within and through the Town of Hotchkiss, Delta County, Colorado. All facilities necessary for or related to the purchase, transmission, and distribution of electricity to the Town of Hotchkiss and the residents, businesses and industry of the Town of Hotchkiss by means of lines, wire, cables, fiber, poles, facilities, equipment or otherwise, over, under, along, across and through any and all streets, alleys, viaducts, bridges, roads, lanes and other public ways and places in said Town of Hotchkiss, and fixing the terms and conditions thereof, with the understanding that Engineer Joanne Fagan and Public Works Director Mike Owens will discuss the concerns with DMEA and come up with a possible amendment to this Ordinance, seconded by Mary Hockenbery. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting "Yes". Motion passed.

DISASTER DECLARATION DISCUSSION

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that this process was started in 2020 due to the CORONA virus. The last declaration that was made by the Board expires today. Attorney Bo Nerlin told the Board that most of the municipalities are letting their declarations expire.

Mary Hockenbery moved to let the current disaster declaration expire without renewal, seconded by Pat Medina. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting "Yes". Motion passed.

HOTCHKISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE/ONE DELTA COUNTY UPDATE-  
KIM SHAY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Kim told the Board that the Hotchkiss High School Activity sign that is currently located at 185 W Bridge Street needs to be relocated. Kim is hoping that the Town will agree to the High School placing it at the "Y" (the conjunction of Highways 92 and 133). Kim would like to talk about it further, especially with the consolidation of the schools starting next year.

June 19<sup>th</sup> the North Fork Recreation District will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Grand Opening of the new Cross Roads ball fields.

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5. OLD BUSINESS (cont.)  
ONE DELTA COUNTY

One Delta County has won a contract for the implementation of a Solar Farm South West of Delta.

At this time Kim Shay read a personal letter from her thanking Mayor Wilkening, The Board and the Town Clerk's Office for sticking with the investigating and following through with the Marshal's Office situation. She also thanked Deputy Julia Thompson for staying on and commended her for being here through it all.

COFFEE WITH A COP UPDATE

Deputy Julia Thompson told the Board that she invited Colorado State Patrol (CSP), Delta County Sheriff's Department (DCSO), Paonia Police Department, Montrose County Sheriff's Department, Gunnison County Sheriff's Department and the Hotchkiss Fire Department to mention a few. The fire Department is bringing a truck and the Montrose County Sheriff is bringing their SWAT vehicle. This event will be held on Saturday, June 12 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE

Mayor Wilkening talked with Sheriff Mark Taylor and the DCSO is very supportive of the Town of Hotchkiss. The DCSO will be in the area on Deputy Thompson's days off and will be available in the event back up is needed. Mayor Wilkening read a Facebook post to the Board from Sheriff Taylor voicing his support.

Mayor Wilkening thanked the Sheriff and the County Commissioners for the support they have given the Town through the last couple of months.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Wilkening reminded everyone that this is a comment period only, no discussion will be held. Each person has 5 minutes to speak.

Nina Barrow stood up and thanked the Board for the investigation and the change that has happened in the Marshal's department. Nina has a support network for women, men and children in the North Fork Valley that are victims of domestic violence and abuse. She encouraged the Board to hire a Marshal that will respect these victims, listen to them and be trained to handle these tough situations. She would love to write a good review to leave on Google about the Hotchkiss Marshal's Office.

Amy Fortin addressed the Board and asked that the next Marshal be someone that takes the time to help victims and be supportive. It is difficult to come forward with a problem such as this when you feel no one will help.

Bob Pennetta thanked the Board for a good job of ridding the Marshal's Department of bullies. Protect and serve is an important motto and should be high on the list of any new officers that are hired as well as courtesy and consideration. He was choking up due to the experiences he has heard from the women in the room so far. Protection is needed for these victims.

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6. PUBLIC COMMENT (cont.)

Bev Wilmore encouraged to Board to not just hire someone but to do some investigating and make sure that the new officers listen, support and respect any and all that come in to the Marshal's Department.

Margaret Hollander told the Board that she would appreciate being able to feel safe. She has been harassed for helping some of the victims of abuse and the Officer's that she has talked to do not take her seriously.

Jennifer Esterol brought in resources that could be useful to the new Marshal coming in and told the Board some of her story. Jennifer said that her life was saved thanks to some of the women here tonight.

The final speaker was a young man that told the Board he would like to know that there would be someone reliable and that he could talk to in the Marshal's office that was trustworthy. He would like to have someone that he could rely on. He held a paper in his hand and said it was a subpoena for his dad that Marshal Miller never served.

Mayor Wilkening thanked everyone that spoke during Public Comment.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilkening and Mary Hockenbery talked about the Main Street Program. DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) may have funding available. They will know more after the Region 10 meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Mary will share the details of this funding at the July meeting.

The Planning Commission is down a member. This person was originally a Town employee that lives in Town but Larry would like to discuss changing this to be a citizen of the Town instead.

Mayor Wilkening and Mary Hockenbery attended the Municipal Quarterly. This was the first meeting held in a year and a half. Funding from various governmental agencies was discussed including CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) money to be used for highway and road improvements.

The Town has an emergency management plan in placed that needs to be updated. Kris Stewart, the County Emergency Management Coordinator should be able to help with that.

Mayor Wilkening applied for a direct appropriation from Senator Hickenlooper's Office. These appropriations don't happen very often and he is guardedly optimistic that the Town meets all of the qualifications.

The American Rescue Act Funding amount is 233,252.57 for the Town of Hotchkiss. There are no guidelines as to how it can be used yet.

Happy birthday to form Mayor Wendell Koontz this week and Deputy Town Clerk Karen Laing next week.

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7. MAYOR'S REPORT (cont.)

Mayor Wilkening thanked Billie and John Marta for trimming the bushes around Town Hall and spraying the weeds.

Don White sent a thank you note to the Town for his retirement cake and check.

The North Fork Recreation District sent an invitation to the ball field dedication to be held June 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

PARKING ON ORCHARD STREET DISCUSSION-SUE CHISHOLM

Sue Chisholm told the Board that in the interest of time, she would like to come to the July meeting to discuss this issue.

SPECIAL EVENTS LIQUOR LICENSE REQUESTS

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO (2)

DELTA COUNTY FAIR-WENDELL KOONTZ

Wendell Koontz represented the County and told the Board that during Fair Week the Fair Board would like to have a beer garden August 4<sup>th</sup> through August 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The beer garden will be under the grand stand with the Fair Board and staff acting as security. John Marta moved to approve the above noted Special Events Liquor License, seconded by Pat Medina. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting, "Yes". Motion passed.

MUSIC AT THE FAIRGROUNDS-WENDELL KOONTZ

Wendell Koontz represented the County and told the Board that the County would like to have a Special Events Liquor Permit for the Music at the Fairgrounds that will be happening monthly. The dates are June 25<sup>th</sup>, July 30<sup>th</sup>, and August 20<sup>th</sup>. These events will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The area under the grand stands will be used for the alcohol to be served with staff acting as security.

Pat Medina moved to approve the above noted Special Events Liquor License, seconded by Patrick Webb. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting "Yes". Motion passed.

NORTH FORK CHAPTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION-WENDELL KOONTZ

Wendell Koontz told the Board that this Special Events Liquor License is a back-up plan. The North Fork Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will be holding their 10<sup>th</sup> annual banquet at Zack's but wanted to have a back-up plan in case of bad weather. The banquet will be held on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Mary Hockenbery moved to approve the above noted Special Events Liquor License, seconded by Sven Edstrom. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting, "Yes". Motion passed.

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8. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

OUT OF TOWN WATER TAP REQUEST-JIM AND NICCI RICHARDSON

Jim and Nicci Richardson live at 33845 Highway 92. They currently have a tap for their residence and would like to buy another one for an apartment and shop that they are building. The apartment will be 500 square feet. Jim and Nicci signed the annexation agreement and will have to go through the Health Department to make sure that their septic system will handle another building.

Public Works Director Mike Owens told the Board that there is a two (2) inch water line that Jim and Nicci can tap into at the top of Duke Hill and it will support another residence. Mike's main concern is the septic system. If they were required to annex into Town what would happen with that. Crossing the rail road tracks to tap into the sewer would be a real issue. Engineer Joanne Fagan told the Board that this request needs to be studied more to see if there are any other concerns.

After several minutes of discussion, the Board tabled this request until the July meeting so that it could be studied a little more.

DELTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS UTILIZATION MEETING DISCUSSION

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that he was approached by Mitch Swanda, President of the Chamber of Commerce, and asked if the Town would like to send a letter, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, to the Delta County Commissioners to rejuvenate the Fairgrounds usage committee. Finding more ways to utilize the Fairgrounds would help bring more activities into Town.

Mary Hockenbery moved to support a letter, written in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, to the Delta County Commissioners requesting that the Fairground usage committee be revitalized, seconded by Pat Medina. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting "Yes". Motion passed.

Mayor Wilkening will get the letter signed and sent.

At this time Delta County Commissioner Wendell Koontz updated the Board on some of the things happening around the County. The Fair Grounds arena dirt has been replaced with dirt that is better for horses. A water truck was purchased to help maintain the dirt.

The boat ramp at the Fair Grounds is now open.

The restrooms at the Fair Grounds were vandalized again and will remain locked.

Darnell Place-Wise organized the Fair Committee.

Les Linman retired and Kevin Gallegos is the new Fair Grounds maintenance person.

The Demolition Derby is still in the works for the Fair towards the end of that week. The new dirt will be removed for the derby and replaced once the derby is over.

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9. ADJOURNMENT

Pat Medina moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Mary Hockenbery. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting, "Yes". Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginger R. Redden, Town Clerk