

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

October 14, 2021

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Wilkening called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A verbal roll call was taken, present were Mary Hockenbery, Pat Medina, Sven Edstrom, Patrick Webb, Jim Wingfield and John Marta.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Mary Hockenbery moved to approve the minutes as presented, Jim Wingfield seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

3. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Town Clerk Ginger Redden read the additional bills. Jim Wingfield moved to approve payment of all bills as presented, Pat Medina seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

5. OLD BUSINESS

WATER RESTRICTIONS REMINDER

Mayor Wilkening said that even though summer is over we still need to be cognizant of our water usage. Be mindful of fixing leaks and winterizing as needed.

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual meeting on November 11th at the Creamery Arts Center starting at 5:30 p.m. The Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year and Non-Profit of the year will be announced at that time.

The Chamber has four (4) positions open. Two (2) Officers and two (2) Board members.

The by laws for the Chamber are being updated.

The craft fair is being revived again this year in conjunction with the North Fork Valley Health Service District. It will go for two (2) days instead of just one (1).

The North Fork Health Service District will hold theirs at Heritage Hall and the Chamber will hold theirs at Memorial Hall.

ONE DELTA COUNTY

One Delta County will be holding their annual meeting on Thursday, November 18th at 5:30 p.m.

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5. OLD BUSINESS (cont.)

ORDINANCE 2021-03 PLANNING COMMISSION MAKE UP AMENDMENT-SECOND READING

This amendment will change the makeup of the Planning Commission from seven (7) members to five (5) members.

Mary Hockenbery moved to adopt Ordinance 2021-03 an Ordinance of the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado updating certain provisions of the Town code regarding the appointment of Planning Commission Members, seconded by Pat Medina. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

FENCING PERMIT DISCUSSION

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that this subject was brought up by Jim Wingfield at the September meeting. The discussion was about the safety of fences being built on corners and by driveways. Currently the only permit required to build a fence is a building permit for fences over six (6) feet high. Attorney Nerlin stated that this permit would be separate from the building permit. Several minutes of discussion were had about how to enforce such an Ordinance and what it should entail.

The Board directed Mayor Wilkening to talk with the Building Inspector Bruce Stanley and Marshal Scott Green and bring back some suggestions and information to the November meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Wilkening reminded everyone that this is a comment only. No discussion will be had. Ben Katz, Public Lands Program Director for the Western Slope Conservation Center, told the Board that he would like the Town of Hotchkiss to submit a comment letter for the Grand Mesa National Forest Plan. The plan is being redone for the first time in forty (40) years. Ben will try to be on the November agenda to discuss this item further.

Sheila Maki was on the agenda but did not show up. Town Clerk Ginger Redden told the Board that Sheila wanted to thank Mayor Wilkening, Marshal Green and Deputy Berger for the hard work they did on a Habitat for Humanity project in the Town.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilkening wished Deputy Neil Ferguson a happy birthday for this month.

Mary Hockenbery received a prestigious award and has been recognized Statewide. The Chamber of Commerce newsletter has a nice article and picture of Mary. Mary was congratulated.

Mayor Wilkening attended the monthly CDOT (Colorado Department of Transportation) meeting. County Commissioner, Don Suppes, told CDOT that he would like to see Roger's Mesa redone since it has been in the works for over twenty (20) years.

Funding for the pocket parks in Town can be applied for through CDOT but that funding will not be available again until the Spring of 2022.

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7. MAYOR'S REPORT (cont.)

Tom Wills had suggested that when CDOT redoes Highway 92 (Bridge Street) in Hotchkiss that the crosswalks be made from concrete to make them more noticeable. CDOT said that these kinds of crosswalks do not last across highways. CDOT will put a solid reflective surface down to help them be more visible.

CDOT will be conducting tests on the asphalt of the side streets to see if they can handle the additional traffic when the reconstruction of Highway 92 (Bridge Street) begins.

The Brownfields program representative said that there is an old oil heating tank in the old Public Works shop. An air monitor could be placed in the shop, and it is possible that the area will not have to be drilled.

Mayor Wilkening will start working on an RFP (Request for Proposals) with Community Builders to have an idea of possible uses for that building. There is a lot of interest in the building.

Hotchkiss K-8 will have a fundraiser on October 21st from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It will be a Fall Festival with a variety of activities to do.

The Blood Mobile will be at City Market on Monday, October 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Keith Ellison of 152 Poplar Way sent a thank you card to the Board for keeping Willow Heights Park so well maintained and looking so good.

8. NEW BUSINESS

SWEARING IN OF NEW DEPUTIES

Marshal Green thanked Neil Ferguson and Brian Berger for coming to work at the Hotchkiss Marshal's Office. Marshal Green then swore them in.

SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER

Marshal Green thanked Joann for coming to work at the Marshal's Office. Joann is an integral part of the Marshal's Office working to fill records requests, being the court clerk and working on evidence. Marshal Green swore in Joann.

A break was taken to have cupcakes.

DISCUSSION REGARDING TOWN MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE AND RFP FOR NEW HIRE IN 2022

Attorney Bo Nerlin told the Board that Judge French, long time judge for the Town of Hotchkiss, will retire on January 1, 2022. Attorney Nerlin will send an RFP to the Clerk's office to initiate the hiring process of a new judge.

A committee was formed which includes Attorney Nerlin, Marshal Green, Mayor Pro-Tem Mary Hockenbery, and Trustee Patrick Webb. Once the RFP is advertised, interviews can be done in November and recommendations to the Board will be in the December meeting and a new judge will be hired.

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8. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

PRELIMINARY BUDGET HANDED OUT-POSSIBLE WORK SESSION DATE SET

Town Clerk Ginger Redden told the Board that this is the first preliminary budget. It will change several times before finalization and adoption in December.

Mayor Wilkening thanked the Department Heads for working so hard on the budget and also for working together to get it completed.

A work session was set for October 21, 2021, starting at 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER MEETING DATE CHANGE DISCUSSION

Due to the Town meeting falling on Veteran's Day, November 11th, a new meeting date was set for Wednesday, November 17th at the regular time of 6:30 p.m.

BUSINESS LICENSE REGISTRY DISCUSSION

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that right now the Town of Hotchkiss does not have a business license registry. The Town does have it in the by laws that all businesses must be registered but it has never been enforced. The Town does not necessarily have to charge the businesses, but it would be nice to know the businesses that are in Town.

After several minutes of discussion, the Board directed Attorney Nerlin to work with staff, go over the Ordinances and bring the information back to the November meeting.

PARK ORDINANCE TIME CHANGE DISCUSSION

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that the Town would like to have some consistency about the parks being closed. The Town Ordinance right now states that the parks are closed from 11:00 p.m. until dawn.

Mayor Wilkening will talk to the County about their park regulations and come back in the November meeting with that information. Sven Edstrom said that he is sure that Lenore from The North Fork Pool and Recreation District would like to be involved in the conversation as well.

COLORADO OPIOID SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION

Attorney Nerlin told the Board that this settlement is a result of resolving all Opioid litigation brought by several States and local political subdivisions. The Colorado Attorney General, Phil Weiser signed the agreements for the State of Colorado to participate. Ninety five percent (95%) of the State needs to participate in this program to get the maximum amount of the settlement which is more than four hundred million dollars (\$400,000,000).

Several minutes of discussion was held about this item and the terms that go with it.

Mary Hockenbery moved to allow Mayor Wilkening to sign the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to show that the Town is willing to participate in the program and bring it back to the Board in November for ratification and any thing else that may be needed, seconded by Patrick Webb. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

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8. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

RESOLUTION 2021-05 FEES FOR CERTIFIED VIN (VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER) INSPECTIONS

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that we now have a Deputy that is trained to do Certified VIN Inspections. This is different from a regular VIN inspection because it is more in depth and is for vehicles that have bonded titles, are rebuilt, reconstructed or vehicles assembled from a kit. Pat Medina moved to approve Resolution 2021-05 a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado, setting certified VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) fees, seconded by Jim Wingfield. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

COLOTRUST NEW SAVINGS ACCOUNT DISCUSSION

Mayor Wilkening told that Board that ColoTrust has savings accounts for the Town of Hotchkiss. This new account will earn more interest than it is currently earning now. The Board directed the Clerk's office to make the changes from their current savings in ColoTrust to the Edge savings accounts.

RESOLUTION 2021-06 CREATING AN AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND

Mayor Wilkening explained to the Board that making a separate fund for this money would simplify bookkeeping and keep the money used more transparent to the public. Quarterly reports will have to be made regarding how this money is spent and it will be easier to track. Any money not used by October of 2024 must be returned.

Mary Hockenbery moved to adopt Resolution 2021-06 a Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado, creating a separate American Rescue Plan Fund, seconded by Jim Wingfield. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2021-07 FEE FOR REGISTERING SEX OFFENDERS

Mayor Wilkening explained this Resolution to the Board. Marshal Green told the Board that Deputy Ferguson will be in charge of site visits to the offenders home and keeping track of the registrations.

Jim Wingfield moved to adopt Resolution 2021-07 a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado setting sex offender registration fees, seconded by Pat Medina. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2021-08 NAME CHANGE FROM HOTCHKISS MARSHAL'S OFFICE TO THE HOTCHKISS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that at first, he was worried that changing the name from Hotchkiss Marshal's Office to Hotchkiss Police Department may be expensive with all the rebranding. In looking at all that needs to be done, the cost should be minimal.

Marshal Green said that this will help with some confusion with people thinking that the Marshal's Office is a federal office and that the Deputies are Sherriff's Officers.

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8. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)
RESOLUTION 2021-08 NAME CHANGE FROM HOTCHKISS MARSHAL'S OFFICE TO THE HOTCHKISS POLICE DEPARTMENT
Pat Medina moved to adopt Resolution 2021-08 a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado changing the name of the Town's law enforcement department from the Hotchkiss Marshal's Office to the Hotchkiss Police Department, seconded by Mary Hockenbery. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.
9. ADJOURNMENT
Pat Medina moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m., seconded by Jim Wingfield. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginger R. Redden, Town Clerk