

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

February 10, 2022

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Wilkening called the meeting to order at 6:30 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.

At this time the Board needed to amend the agenda to add a Liquor License Renewal for JohnnyDog LLC doing business as PJ's Pub.

Patrick Webb moved to amend the agenda with the above noted change to place it under New Business, seconded by Jim Wingfield. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 13, 2022

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

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

5. OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2021-03 FENCING PERMIT UPDATE

Mayor Wilkening turned this item over to Jim Wingfield. Jim told the Board that this Ordinance started out to ensure safety on properties with a corner lot. Once the Ordinance had the first reading there were questions raised and input from Tom Wills about some of the items mentioned.

Jim Wingfield and John Marta met with Building Inspector Bruce Stanley and notes from the meeting were given to the Board. Jim said that this Ordinance should be simple and easy to enforce, and he would like to hear opinions from the other Trustees. There was several minutes of discussion including:

The Ordinance should not be limiting

Safety should be the emphasis

Fences should be maintained

Fence material should be weather resistant and suitable for the outdoor environment

This should be an Ordinance people can live with

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5. OLD BUSINESS (cont.)

Attorney Nerlin told that Board that with direction from them, he will look over the comments and materials from this meeting and put it into an Ordinance for a possible first reading in March.

The Board directed Attorney Nerlin to move forward with this plan.

Tom Wills asked if he could have time to offer some suggestions and was told that due to time constraints he would not be allowed to do so. Tom said he would send a memo.

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

Kim Shay introduced the new Vice President of the Chamber, Shelly Ware.

The Chamber will be hosting the Candidate Forum at the Town Hall building on Wednesday, March 2nd at 5:30 p.m. There will be a Zoom link available for the forum.

The VFW (Veteran's of Foreign Wars) in Hotchkiss has disbanded due to lack of members.

The museum will be expanding into the space that was being used by the VFW.

Chamber meetings are the last Thursday of the month and are held at the museum.

The Delta County Fair will be held July 29th to August 7th this year. The Fair Board reduced the size and is now comprised of six (6) members. Kim will oversee the parade and vendors. They would like to have a bigger kid's zone that would offer affordable games sponsored by the local businesses. The theme this year for the Fair is Stars, Stripes and Country Nights and Fair books will be provided again this year.

ONE DELTA COUNTY UPDATE

The meeting for One Delta County was held on this past Tuesday. All the Board members are the same and a secretary is needed. A membership drive will be going all year with different levels available to sign up for. The County is currently handling the salary for Greg Pope (Executive Director) and they hope to be self sufficient within the next couple of years.

ELECTION 2022 INFORMATION

There are four (4) Trustee seats available with five (5) candidates running. The Mayor's seat is up for reelection with one (1) candidate running. The Candidate Forum will have the Zoom option set up by the Town.

RESOLUTION 2022-02 BALLOT QUESTION RATIFICATION

Mayor Wilkening reminded the Board that this was approved at the January meeting, but the Resolution was not ready at that time.

Jim Wingfield moved to approve the ratification of Resolution 2022-02 a Resolution of the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado, to submit to a vote of the registered electors of the Town of Hotchkiss, Colorado at the Town's regular municipal election April 5, 2022, a question of whether to allow for the publication of ordinances via title, seconded by Sven Edstrom. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

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5. OLD BUSINESS (cont.)

OVERLAND WATER SHARES LEASE DISCUSSION

Mayor Wilkening reminded the Board that this discussion was started at the last meeting. The Town did not accept any of the bids last year due to them only being for the cost of the assessment value. The costs change due to upkeep and improvements made as well as any other fees that may come up associated with the Overland water. Patrick Webb reminded the Board that this water cannot be used for domestic purposes.

The Town owns three hundred (300) shares of this water. After several more minutes of discussion the Board said they would like to sit down with the Overland Ditch Company and have a work session once Public Works Director, Mike Owens is back from vacation. Mayor Wilkening will go to the Overland Ditch Company's annual meeting on Monday night.

OFFICER THOMPSON SEPARATION AGREEMENT RATIFICATION

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that the Separation Agreement has been signed as was discussed in the January meeting.

Mary Hockenbery moved to approve the ratification of the Separation Agreement signed by former Officer Julia Thompson, seconded by Patrick Webb. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

COMMUNITY BUILDERS DISCUSSION OF THE OLD SHOP BUILDING-ERICA HELLER

Mayor Wilkening introduced Erica Heller (attending via Zoom) to the Board. Mayor Wilkening and Mary Hockenbery have been working on this project with Erica and Erica came up with a draft RFP (Request for Proposals) for the Board to look over. This RFP shares ideas for the buildings use and will help get the best possible partner for the Town.

Brownfields was in Town yesterday to gather air samples to test for volatile organic compounds and the results will be back in two (2) to three (3) weeks.

Attorney Nerlin read over the RFP and did find an area that he redlined because of the due diligence clause that would shift the burden back to the Town in the event that something comes up with the building in the future. Erica said that the clean up being done on the building by the Town helps the future owner as well as making the building more attractive to potential buyers. CDPHE (Colorado Department of Health and Environment) will also be weighing in once the results are back.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Shay addressed the Board saying that the plan for the trail to the high school that the County has chosen is close to the highway and would not be safe for children to walk on. The trail plan that Sven Edstrom and Ben Graves came up with is a much safer route as well as being a less expensive project. Kim encouraged the Board to tell the County Ben and Sven's route was the better choice.

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7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Birthdays for the month of February include Marvin Jackson, Jim Wingfield, and Bruce Stanley. Mayor Wilkening is working with the Planning Commission to identify damaged sidewalks in Town and rank them according to need of repair. They are photographing the sidewalks and putting all the information into a Power Point. They will come up with an approximate cost using \$67.00 per lineal foot. The Planning minutes have more information about the process. Public Works will work it into the Budget to get started. More information will be given in the March meeting.

Snowpack is shrinking. It looks like the Town will be in decent shape again this year for water, but conservation is encouraged.

The 2022 Budget has \$55,000 in it to do some remodeling on the Town Hall. The goal is for the Police Department and the Clerk's Office to change sides. Mayor Wilkening would like to get the refrigerator out of the Chambers and have a break room for staff. The switch will give the Police Department more room. The Town would like to have someone come in and draw up some preliminary plans to get an idea of how to proceed. Jim Wingfield and Sven Edstrom both recommended Odisea. The Clerk's Office will reach out to them and hopefully have a timeline at the next meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Mike Owens is on vacation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Green gave the Board a year-end report and update on how things are going in the Police Department. All the staff hired by Chief Green since he started are doing great, and things are progressing smoothly. With the recent resignation of Officer Thompson, Chief Green hired Kaden Heiniger to take her place. He will start at the end of the month.

Suzi Doerhoff of Police Evidence Audits, LLC (attending via Zoom) did an audit of the evidence for the Hotchkiss Police Department and helped come up with a plan to give a better understanding of how evidence should be handled. Suzi told the Board that she has worked with several Police Chiefs throughout the years and Chief Green was the perfect person to hire for this job. Chief Green complimented Evidence Clerk Joanne Katzer on her organizational skills and the way that evidence is now being handled. Suzi commends Chief Green and the Board for wanting a safer community. The Connex that was purchased for the Police Department will be updated and ready to hold evidence as needed. That process will start in the Spring.

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7. MAYOR'S REPORT (cont.)
DEPARTMENT REPORTS
POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Lexipol system has been purchased and Chief Green thanked the Board for allowing this purchase. It is a daunting system as it was designed for larger departments, but it will make the Police Department more transparent and keep all the policies up to date and in one place.

Chief Green is reaching out to the Community as well as the County to build relationships. The name change is complete as well as most of the rebranding. Training opportunities are being taken as they are available, and the Mission Statement has been established.

The new equipment (Body Cameras and Tasers) is being utilized and the Spillman upgrade will help with the property and evidence separation.

LIDARs (Light Detection and Ranging) devices have been purchased. These machines not only help catch specific cars speeding, they also can measure distances.

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that Chief Green works a lot of hours while keeping the Budget in mind and thanked the Chief for all his hard work.

Kim Shay added to the compliments by saying that Chief Green is a breath of fresh air and she cannot say enough good about him.

8. NEW BUSINESS
MINER'S TRAIL SUPPORT LETTER DISCUSSION

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that the grant writer for this project, Shana Harness, asked the Town for a letter of support to submit with her grant applications. Shana sent a template and the Clerk's Office made some changes and put it on letterhead.

Mary Hockenbery moved to approve the letter of support for the Miner's Trail Project, seconded by Patrick Webb.

Sven Edstrom asked about the clarity of the wording and said that not just the High School would benefit. The North Fork Pool Park and Recreation District was there as well as the Nature Connection. Sven asked if these could also be included in the letter.

Mary asked if she needed to amend the motion and Mayor Wilkening said that the motion can stand with the change noted by Sven. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

SPECIAL EVENTS LIQUOR LICENSE-BLUE SAGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Debra Muzikar (attending via Zoom) represented the Blue Sage Center for the Arts. Debra told the Board that they are hosting a Mexican Folk Group called Jarabe Mexicano. They are using Heritage Hall since it will hold more people than the Blue Sage Center for the Arts. The event will be held on March 11th

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8. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)
SPECIAL EVENTS LIQUOR LICENSE-BLUE SAGE CENTER FOR THE ARTS
from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Wrist bands will be given to those over twenty-one (21) that would like to drink alcohol. There will be people stationed at every door to help avoid underage drinking.

John Marta moved to approve the above noted Special Events Liquor License, Mary Hockenbery seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL-JOHNNYDOG LLC, DBA PJ'S PUB

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that this license is close to expiring. The agenda was amended for this reason.

Jim Wingfield moved to approve the renewal of the above noted liquor license, John Marta seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST-DUCKWORKS AUTO PARTS

Brandon Dowell represented Duckworks for this item. Brandon told the Board that this is the twenty-eighth (28) year for Duckworks to host its annual Customer Appreciation Barbecue. Taco Hut is going to participate again this year as well. The Barbecue will be held on Friday, March 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Jim Wingfield moved to approve the above noted street closure for Duckworks Auto Parts Store, Sven Edstrom seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

ONE THOUSAND (1000) POSITIVES CAMPAIGN-STEVE REED

Steve Reed told the Board that he would like the Town of Hotchkiss to be known as the Hometown of One Thousand (1000) Positive Encouragements. Steve would like to have encouragements posted throughout the Town of Hotchkiss. He would like all participating businesses have a yellow hand in their window to let people know that they have these encouragements hidden throughout the business and would like people to find them and have this be a positive part of our community. Steve would like to see the schools participate and have some focus on the good things in our community. Steve would like to include Paonia and Crawford as well and give kids an opportunity to see the positive when there has been so much negativity over the last couple of years. Steve said that he thinks this will help bring new businesses into the area.

The Board thanked Steve for all his efforts put toward this endeavor.

DELTA COUNTY SCHOOL EDUCATION DAY PROCLAMATION DISCUSSION

Mayor Wilkening told the Board that Delta County Public Information Officer Darnell Place-Wise sent an email asking if the Town would like to participate in doing a Proclamation for the Educators in our School District. This Proclamation will proclaim March 25th as Delta County School District Educator Day.

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8. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)
DELTA COUNTY SCHOOL EDUCATION DAY PROCLAMATION DISCUSSION
Mary Hockenbery moved to approve the above noted Proclamation to declare March 25, 2022 Delta County School Educator Day, Pat Medina seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.
9. ADJOURNMENT
Pat Medina moved to adjourn at 8:56 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