

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Hotchkiss Board of Trustees

February 8, 2024

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Jim Wingfield called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A verbal roll call was taken. Present were Patrick Webb, Tricia McFarland, Pat Medina, John Marta, Sven Edstrom, and Custer McLeod.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 9, 2024.

Pat Medina said that on page two (2) in the first paragraph, her name was spelled wrong. On page four (4) in the first paragraph dogs were missing from the sentence. On page seven (7) on the second paragraph, head was spelled heard.

Patrick Webb moved to approve the minutes with the stated changes being made, Custer McLeod 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.

Pat Medina moved to approve payment of all bills as presented, Tricia McFarland seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

4. NORTH FORK MINERS STUDENT COUNCIL-UPDATE ON HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

No one was present from the North Fork High School student council.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

NEW LIQUOR LICENSE- CREAMERY ARTS CENTER  
BOARD DELIBERATION

Mayor Wingfield said that the application was all in order, with Chief Green agreeing. Pat Medina asked if they have alcohol outside, how would they control individuals on their premises. Chief Green stated that as long as they have posted signs saying that there is no alcohol beyond this point, to keep the patrons contained.

APPLICANT DELIBERATION

Resa Wells said that they were happy to work with the Town as far as fencing. She said that the Creamery Arts Center has a new Board and that they are looking to make some changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was made.

Pat Medina made a motion to approve the new liquor license for Creamery Arts Center, John Marta seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

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#### 6. OLD BUSINESS

##### HOTCHKISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UPDATE

No one was present to represent the Hotchkiss Chamber of Commerce. Ginger Redden said that Nathan Sponseller has come back to the Chamber of Commerce. Mary Hockenbery had mentioned that it is now the North Fork Chamber of Commerce.

##### LIST OF WATER AND SEWER TAP FEES AND SERVICE FEES SET POSSIBLE WORK SESSION

Mayor Wingfield said that the Town needs to raise the water and sewer rates so that the Town can be eligible for DOLA grant funds. A study will need to be investigated and Ginger Redden has started contact with an agency.

##### UPDATE ON WATER SHARES

Mayor Wingfield stated that he would brief this in his mayor report.

##### SET POSSIBLE DATE FOR CHAPTER 17 WORK SESSION

Mayor Wingfield stated that he was looking to schedule this work session around 6:00 p.m. on a Tuesday or Wednesday. After consulting with the Trustees and citizens present at the meeting, Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. was agreed upon.

#### 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment was opened at 6:42 p.m.

Ruth Pettigrew, 344 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Hotchkiss, Ruth said that she had brainstormed some ideas for the Chapter 17 Ordinance revisions pertaining to cats. She stated that she thought these ideas would be very beneficial toward approving any changes. She handed a packet to the Board of her ideas. She said that she heard what Pat Medina had said at the last meeting and that she would be participating in more meetings.

James McCain, Rogers Mesa Hotchkiss, said that there is a trial still going on in California for another week. He said that Fluoride shouldn't be swallowed and that it is toxic and compared it to ingesting sunscreen. He stated that Rogers Mesa Water Company would be writing a letter on behalf of their constituents. He suggested a moratorium until there is more evidence or the Judge decides. He states that ending this practice can save the Town money. He said that the Boards decision will affect more people than just the ones that live in the Town. He said that the Fluoride levels cannot be regulated enough to avoid IQ loss in children. He stated that there shouldn't be any medicating substances in drinking water. He suggested handing out Fluoride Toothpaste to residents.

Glen Miles, 448 E Bridge St, Hotchkiss, he asked the Board about a trailer that burned down in 2023 off Hwy 133 near 133 BRGR. He stated that he was forced by the Town to remove the trailer that was on his property yet didn't own. He said that he had it on a good authority that the

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7. PUBLIC COMMENT (cont.)

Hotchkiss Fire Department had removed it. He said that he was cited for the trailer to be removed instead of going to the owners of the trailer to have it removed.

Public Comment closed at 6:51 p.m.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wingfield said that we are working hard to get the Town more water. He said that he is hoping for more facts to give more information. Engineer Joanne Fagan said that this is all still in the early stages. Mayor Wingfield said that there will be changes to the agenda to move public comment up to be before public hearings as well as adding Staff Comment under Public Comment.

Sven Edstrom made a motion to approve moving public comment up on the agenda and adding Staff Comment to Public Comment, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

### DEPARTMENT HEADS

#### PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Marvin Jackson said that he has nothing to report this month, everything has been going smoothly.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Scott Green said that he and the Police Department Admin Jeffrey Rodarte have been looking into grants to go toward public safety. This would bring more lighting in higher crime areas and lighting for the public parking lot. He said that he is looking to the Trustees for direction. Pat Medina suggested that lighting over by the K-8 fields could be beneficial. Chief Green stated that the grants will possibly cover the installation of the lights but not the bulbs to go in them. He gave a list of all the uses that are and are not permitted through this grant. Mayor Wingfield said that having light in the two (2) stated locations would be great. Sven Edstrom mentioned that it should be investigated with the neighbor's opinion on the lighting before anything is put into place. Chief Green said he would move forward with the grant but look to Board guidance before any work is done. He gave the Board statistics for the Police Department for the year 2023. There were over 700 stops, over 200 citations, with many that were pushed to Delta County, over 100 vin inspections, over 2,000 CAD's that were attached to calls, over 400 case numbers, 27 arrests while counting some summons as arrests, 110 ordinance violations with most resulting in compliance before having to go to court. Chief Green said that he wanted his officers to focus more on CAD's than on reports. He stated that the ALPR cameras are still helping, with an influx of stolen license plates.

#### SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICERS

Chief Green said that he will be swearing in two (2) new officers.

Jarred Haskins, who had just graduated from the Technical College of the Rockies Police Academy at the top of his class.

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8. MAYOR'S REPORT (cont.)

SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICERS

Lorin Winnett, who has many years of experience as a Police Officer with different Police Departments and spoke of Chief Green talking him into becoming a Police Officer again.

9. NEW BUSINESS

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST-3<sup>RD</sup> STREET TO BRIDGE STREET TO PARK DRIVE-  
DUCKWORKS AUTO PARTS- CUSTOMER APPRECIATION BARBECUE- BRANDON  
DOWELL

Mayor Wingfield said that there is always a great turnout for this event. Brandon Dowell said that they have been doing this appreciation barbecue for 30 years now. They close the street for a few hours and serve food alongside Taco Hut.

John Marta made a motion to approve the street closure request for Duckworks Auto Parts customer appreciation barbecue, Custer McLeod seconded. A verbal vote was taken with all Trustees voting in favor. Motion passed.

SUPPORTING HAM RADIO NET FOR EMERGENCIES- GARY LINDBERG- 285 EAST  
ORCHARD STREET

Gary Lindberg said that he is certified with Ham Radio Communications and has been for many years now. He said that two (2) years ago he saw the need for a small local radio. He stated that there are many radio frequencies between first responders, along with family radios that have a much smaller radius. He said that with how small the Town is, a tower or antenna could be placed on a higher hill and provide a radio signal for the whole town, and everyone would only need a small radio to connect. He stated that he has been advertising for the past two (2) years, to and his group has grown to ten (10) people. One radio can cost an upward of \$600.00. He stated that the radios will not interfere with any other radio frequency. If there were to be an incident like that of what happened in Hawaii, this could be the solution for loss of cell service.

FARM LEASE AGREEMENT-SEALED BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>

Mayor Wingfield said that the Town is looking for sealed bids for the Town of Hotchkiss farm lease south of Town and this will be open until March 11<sup>th</sup>.

LAWN CARE BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29<sup>TH</sup>. THE  
BIDS WILL POSSIBLY BE AWARDED IN THE MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

Mayor Wingfield said that the Town of Hotchkiss is currently accepting bids for the lawn care maintenance and will be open until Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.

CANDIDATE FORUM-THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> IN THE CHAMBERS

Mayor Wingfield said that the DCI will be hosting a candidate forum in the Hotchkiss Chambers on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for anyone that is interested. Ginger Redden said that DCI is possibly looking into a larger venue and will give an update if the venue changes.

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10. ADJOURNMENT  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley M. Rodarte, Deputy Town Clerk