
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Hugo, Colorado
January 8, 2024, 7:00 pm
Town Community Meeting Room

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Town of Hugo, Colorado was called to order on January 8, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Bledsoe. The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag was recited in unison. The following Trustees answered roll call: Trustee Messer, Trustee Payne, Trustee Salvador (via Zoom), Trustee Dobbs, Trustee Emmerling, and Trustee Lundy. Mayor Bledsoe declared that there was a quorum of the Board present for the transaction of business.

Staff present at this meeting were Public Works Director Forristall, Chief Marshal Payne and Judy Vick.

Guests present were Mike Vaughn, Scott Poss, Brenda Dutro, Juliet Lundy, Zach Schoenfeld, Janelle Fox, Clare Laycock, Laura Poss, Kevin Poss, Rachel Smith, Ben Ashauer, Jessica Ashauer.

Via Zoom – Troy McCue, Brenda Toft, Kim ?, Dannah Koeniger – GMS, and Gillian Laycock.

STAFF REPORTS:

Public Works Director Forristall reported that his department continues to be busy. One (1) full-time employee and one (1) part-time employee have been hired.

Chief Marshal Payne reported that his department conducted 214 traffic stops, 68 calls of service and 23 calls for citizen assistance. His department has also been involved in numerous community events throughout the month.

Budget Officer Erwin will continue to train office staff and will also assist with the Town Board election process.

GUEST REPORTS:

Rachel Smith representing Lincoln Health presented the monthly newsletter for January. Lincoln Health annual Employee Gift of Life campaign has begun. A new doctor has been hired and will begin with Lincoln Health in approximately June.

Troy McCue representing LCEDC sent his monthly report via email. Highlights of the report were ongoing SBDC work at three small businesses and Green Energy opportunities.

Dannah Koeniger with GMS gave an update on the completion of the sewer line. The final invoice included a change order due to the fiber optic line having to be moved. A motion was made by Trustee Messer and a second was made by Trustee Dobbs to accept the change order. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made by Trustee Emmerling and a second was made by Trustee Messer to approve the payment for the sewer construction. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made by Trustee Lundy and a second was made by Trustee Payne to accept the substantial completion of the work. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Koeniger gave a presentation updating the Board regarding the Wastewater Collection System, the emergency bypass sewer project with the starting date of January 10, 2024, and the Water System PER regarding the water tower. The options for the water tower are: 1. Demolition and destroy. 2. Put out of service and leave where it is. 3. Lower the tank. The project unknown is if there is lead in the paint and if lead remediation would be required for Option 2 and 3. A test would need to be done.

Scott Poss representing the Hugo Fire Protection District announced that property has been donated to the District for a new fire station. The property is located at 9th Avenue and 5th Street. The current Wastewater Collection System engineering design has a sewer line running in the middle of the property. The District has spoken to GMS and is requesting that the engineering be updated to loop around the property. The District has agreed to pay for the cost difference. GMS presented the alternate alignment for the project. A motion was by Trustee Dobbs and a second was made by Trustee Lundy to accept the alternate alignment #2. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MAYOR AND TRUSTEE REPORTS:

Mayor Bledsoe stated that it has been a busy month. The job opening for Clerk/Administrator has been reposted. The petition packets are available for candidates for the upcoming Town Board election. Mayor Bledsoe also stated that all employees are in the process of signing the personnel policy as required.

Trustee Payne reported that the HSA monthly payments have been set up of ACH deposits. Trustee Dobbs stated that the ads for the Clerk/Administrator have been posted in the newspapers.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Laura Poss addressed the Board regarding the Colorado Cobras and the continued use of the Town court. Mrs. Poss read a letter to the Board stating the benefits of the program and the positive progression for her children.

Zach Schoenfeld spoke to the Board about the future of the pool and his support of the Colorado Cobras.

Brenda Dutro announced that there will be a retirement reception for Randy Trainer on January 27, 2024, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM at the Hugo Community Room.

Gillian Laycock reported that the asbestos abatement and demolition of the property located on 3rd Avenue will begin soon.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Trustee Messer and a second was made by Trustee Payne to approve the following items: Approval of minutes from December 8, 2023, Town Board Meeting and the minutes from December 11, 2023, December 13, 2023, and December 19, 2023, Special Town Board Meetings and Ordinance #291 – An ordinance amending the Town of Hugo's code concerning collection of delinquent amounts. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Works Director Forristall spoke with ESTech regarding the cost to move the fiber optic lines during the sewer replacement project and is waiting for a response.

During the August 14, 2023, Board Meeting, the Board approved fencing material to be used by Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association at the property located at 9th Avenue and 5th Street. As of the January Board meeting date, construction of the fence has not been completed. A motion was made by Trustee Lundy and a second was made by Trustee Dobbs to give ESRTA 60 days to begin construction and 90 days to complete the construction of the fence. Those voting in favor were Trustee Payne, Trustee Messer, Trustee Lundy, Trustee Dobbs and Trustee Salvador. Those voting opposed were Trustee Emmerling. MOTION PASSED.

Trustee Salvador reported on the Board workshops held during the month.

A motion was made by Trustee Payne and a second was made by Trustee Lundy to recess for 10 minutes. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS:

An update on the search for an attorney was given by Marshal Payne. There has been no response from Attorney Jeff Wells. Marshal Payne made a recommendation to the Board to request a proposal from the law firm Hoffman, Parker, Wilson and Carberry. A motion was made by Trustee Dobbs and a second was made by Trustee Emmerling to contact the law firm. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The issues with the pool were discussed. The safety and integrity of the pool need to be determined. GMS agreed to help facilitate finding an engineer that can provide answers to the questions regarding the pool. A motion was made by Trustee Dobbs and a second was made by Trustee Payne to move forward with an engineer evaluation of the pool. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Due to the unknown status of the content of lead paint on the water tower, the discussion was tabled until further information is received.

Trustee Salvador provided the recommendations from the Board workshop regarding the lease with Colorado Cobras. The Board recommends that the Colorado Cobras pay a deposit in the amount of \$1,000 and will be charged a monthly rent in the amount of \$500. The Colorado Cobras must also provide a copy of the current liability insurance. Ben Ashauer spoke to the Board about the Colorado Cobras and the additional classes he is providing. Mr. Ashauer emphasized the community service he is providing to the youth in the community. A motion was made by Trustee Lundy and a second was made by Trustee Emmerling to extend the current lease for 3 months to allow Mr. Ashauer to present detailed information to the Board. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trustee Dobbs and Marshal Payne would like to install 12-hour parking signs at the railroad park. The Board was not provided with any information on the topic. A motion was made by Trustee Lundy and a second was made by Trustee Emmerling to table the discussion. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Town is required to have an Election Official. Trustee Messer did not have any responses from the list of candidates he was to contact. The appointment of an Election Official was tabled.

A motion was made by Trustee Lundy and a second was made by Trustee Payne to appoint Jan Bandy to the Library Board. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A Special Board Meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

A Board Workshop is scheduled for February 5, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

The next scheduled regular Board Meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2024, at 7:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Trustee Lundy and a second was made by Trustee Dobbs to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Lora Bledsoe, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shannon Wallace, Town Clerk Pro Tem