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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hugo, Colorado

October 9, 2023, 7:00 pm

Town Board Meeting Room

(Due to number of audience, meeting was moved to the Town Community Room)

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, Town of Hugo, Colorado was called to order on October 9, 2023, at 7:05 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, 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, and Chief Marshal Payne.

Guests present were Renita Thelen, Christopher Rosado, Sr., Sara Lancaster, Patsy Tompkins, Ronald Bowens, David St. Aoro, Jeremiah Higgins, Ben Ashauer, Randy Younger, Ryan Smithburg, Dave Smith, Linda Messer, Ben Orrell, Linda Orrell, Gillian Laycock, Nyal Smith, Nicole Strausberg, Michael Gaskins, Sheri Gaskins, Clare Laycock, Juliet Lundy, Jim Covington, Hellen Overkill, McKee Overkill, Chris Davis, and Zach Schoenfeld. Jessica Borns, Brett Parsons and Shannon Wallace joined via zoom.

A motion was made by Trustee Emmerling and a second was made by Trustee Salvador to approve the agenda as presented. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Clerk Pro Tem Salvador reported that the CML Fall Meeting in Hugo was well attended. Clerk Pro Tem Salvador thanked the board members for their assistance.

Public Works Director Forristall reported that his department has been working on issues with the water wells. Also, the department has been repairing potholes, installing speed limit signs and are continuing to winterize equipment, etc. Director Forristall requested a Public Works committee meeting on October 16, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Chief Marshal Payne reported that his department recorded 139 traffic stops and 77 calls of service. His department has also been involved in numerous community events throughout the month. Shari Brady has been hired as the Public Safety administrative assistant.

**GUEST REPORTS:**

Linda Messer representing Lincoln Health presented the monthly newsletter for October. She spoke about the current quality of care statistics. Also highlighted were Drs. Heidi Oster and Sujatha Nallapareddy. Lincoln Health will begin working with Morgan Community College to offer CNA classes in 2024. Lincoln Health has been very active in the community events.

Randy Younger representing the First National Bank Hugo/Limon spoke to the board. Mayor Bledsoe gave the board and audience a summary of the Town's funds investments in CDs and Money Market Accounts and spoke about why the Board was looking at different investment opportunities. Mr. Younger explained that the rates at the First National Bank of Hugo/Limon are the "economic engine" for Hugo businesses and individuals and that investing the Town's funds in another institution would "cannibalize the town." First National Bank board members Ryan Smithburg and Chris Davis also voiced their opinions and concerns of the Town moving the funds from the First National Bank.

Troy McCue representing LCEDC gave his monthly report. Highlights of the report were the AmeriCorps VISTA/Grant Corps arrangement with Community Resource Center, DOH Housing Toolbox Meeting, the upcoming Grow with Google classes, update on the Opportunity Zone, and the recent EDC Board Strategic planning meeting.

**MAYOR AND TRUSTEE REPORTS:**

Trustee Emmerling thanked Trustee Salvador for organizing the CML Fall meeting.

Mayor Bledsoe also thanked the Trustees for their involvement and assistance in hosting the CML Fall meeting. Mayor Bledsoe also highlighted the success of the Hugo Main Street Wine Walk and Back Alley event. Mayor Bledsoe encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Fall Festival.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Linda Orrell, Zach Schoenfeld, Sheri Gaskins, and Gillian Laycock addressed the Board concerning the financial difficulties and decisions facing the Board.

Ryan Smithburg, First National Bank Hugo/Limon board member, addressed the Board regarding the importance of the local Bank.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Trustee Dobbs and a second was made by Trustee Messer to approve the following items: Approval of minutes from September 11, 2023, Town Board Meeting, Colorado Beer and Wine License Renewal application for VFW Post 6612, and the September financials. The approval of workshop report from October 2, 2023, was moved to Old Business. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Hugo Housing Authority board members Patsy Tompkins and Jessica Borns updated the Board on the Housing Authority transition. The Hugo Housing Authority is surveying the property and asked the Board if the Town would pay for the survey. The approximate cost of the survey is \$800-\$1,000. A motion was made by Trustee Emmerling and a second was made by Trustee Dobbs to pay the cost of the survey. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Hugo Housing Authority requested an inventory list of items in the storage shed. Public Works Director Forristall stated the contents of the shed include air conditioning units, a small toolbox and valve sockets. Director Forristall offered the use of Town maintenance equipment until the Hugo Housing Authority is able to purchase required equipment.

The Hugo Housing Authority also asked that the Town Board give them 160 days from September 11, 2023, to complete the transition from the Town to the Housing Authority. The 160 days deadline would be February 18, 2024. A motion was made by Trustee Messer and a second was made by Trustee Payne to allow the 160 day transition period. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hugo Housing Authority board member Diana Jolly's term expired January 2023 and no appointment was made at that time. Due to health issues, Diana Jolly does not want to continue with her appointment. A motion was made by Trustee Dobbs and a second was made by Trustee Payne to appoint Dave Smith to the Hugo Housing Authority Board. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Jim Covington, ColoTrust board member, and Brett Parsons, representing ColoTrust, addressed the Board regarding fund investments with ColoTrust. There is approximately \$14 billion of public funds across the State invested with ColoTrust. A motion was made by Trustee Dobbs and a second was made by Trustee Payne to move \$1,096,954.13 from the First National Bank Hugo/Limon Money Market accounts to ColoTrust. Trustee Emmerling made a motion and a second was made by Trustee Messer reading "Since more information regarding this proposal has been put forth, and it seems prudent that further study and discussion be done, I move to postpone the motion until the November 13 meeting and discuss it further at the Board workshop on October 17 or November 7, 2023, at which time Mr. Younger (or his designee) can make a presentation". Trustee Messer, Trustee Lundy and Trustee Emmerling voted in favor of the motion. TRUSTEE DOBBS, TRUSTEE PAYNE and TRUSTEE SALVADOR voted opposing the motion. MAYOR BLEDSOE voted in opposition to the motion. THE MOTION FAILED. A vote was taken on the previous motion made by Trustee Dobbs. Trustee Dobbs, Trustee Salvador and Trustee Payne voted in favor of the motion. TRUSTEE EMMERLING, TRUSTEE MESSER and TRUSTEE LUNDY voted opposing the motion. Mayor Bledsoe voted in favor of the motion. THE MOTION PASSED.

Mayor Bledsoe would like to send a Request for Proposal to local and regional banks regarding the investment of funds held in CDs to leverage the best interest rates. A motion was made by Trustee Salvador and a second was made by Trustee Dobbs to send a Request for Proposal to

local and regional banks. The proposal should include CD interest rates and community involvement. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Gillian Laycock updated the Board on Proposition 123. The commitment deadline is at the end of October. The baseline housing commitment is 13 units. There are no monetary penalties if this commitment is not reached. A motion was made by Trustee Messer and seconded was made by Trustee Dobbs to move forward with the Proposition 123 agreement. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Independent Contractor Agreement between Shannon Wallace and the Board was presented. A motion was made by Trustee Dobbs and a second was made by Trustee Payne to accept the Agreement with the correction of the name at the bottom of the Agreement. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made by Trustee Emmerling and seconded was made by Trustee Lundy to appoint Shannon Wallace as Clerk Pro Tem. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

David St. Aoro appeared before the Board to request a fence variance at 214 Gold Street. Mr. St. Aoro was unaware of the variance procedure and will complete the necessary paperwork for the November Board meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Salvador and a second was made by Trustee Payne to adopt Resolution #315 – A resolution to authorize the Town of Hugo to join with other local governments as a participant in the Colorado Local Government Liquid Asset Trust (The Trust) to pool funds for investment. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made by Trustee Dobbs and seconded was made by Trustee Lundy to assign Mayor Bledsoe, Trustee Salvador and Trustee Payne as Signatories for ColoTrust. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The 2024 preliminary Budget was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Trustee Dobbs and a second was made by Trustee Lundy to accept the preliminary 2024 fiscal year budget from Laurie Erwin, budget officer, as per State statute deadlines. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ben Ashauer was contacted by Trustee Salvador addressing concerns from Board members and community members regarding the racquet ball court facility. The major concerns are the accumulation of trash and miscellaneous debris, the fire exit blocked, unpaid rent, unauthorized users and the desire of additional community members wishing to rent the space. Mr. Ashauer acknowledged the undesirable condition of the facility. The Board stipulated that the facility must be cleaned in 10 days. Mr. Ashauer made a payment toward the rent per the lease agreement this month. Mr. Ashauer was unaware of the liability issue regarding unauthorized users. Now that he is aware of the issues, he will take steps to correct them. Jeremiah Higgins inquired about the possibility of the local Vona dancers renting the facility one day a week. Mr. Higgins and Mr. Ashauer will discuss this possibility.

There will be a Public Works Committee meeting on October 16, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a Budget workshop on October 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a Board workshop on November 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Board will be Monday, November 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

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

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Lora Bledsoe, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Shannon Wallace, Town Clerk Pro Tem

