

**MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING
PALISADE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 28, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Town of Palisade was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Granat with Trustees present: Bonds, Sundermeier, Somerville, Mayor Pro-Tem Mikolai, Chase and L'Hommedieu. A quorum was declared. Also, in attendance were Town Manager Janet Hawkinson, Town Attorney Jim Neu, Town Clerk Keli Frasier, Finance Director Travis Boyd, Police Chief Deb Funston, Fire Chief Richard Rupp, Community Development Director Allyson Shellhorn, Utilities Director Matt Lemon and Parks Recreation and Event Director Troy Ward.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Motion #1 by Trustee Chase, seconded by Trustee Bonds, to approve the agenda as amended to add Resolution 2020-11 entitled "A Resolution Of The Board Of Trustees For The Town Of Palisade, Colorado Approving The Contract With The Colorado Department Of Transportation For The Multimodal Highway 6 Project: MTF M021-002 (23620), Palisade/Us 6." under New Business.

A voice vote was requested
Motion carried unanimously

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation for Teacher Appreciation Week was read and presented by Trustee Somerville.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is intended to allow the Board to spend its time on more complex items. These items are generally perceived as non-controversial and can be approved by a single motion. The public or the Board members may ask that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration.

- **Expenditures**
Approval of Bills from Various Town Funds – April 10, 2020 – April 24, 2020

- **Minutes**
Minutes from April 14, 2020 Board Meeting

Motion #2 by Mayor Pro-Tem Mikolai, seconded by Mayor Granat, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Trustee Bonds, Trustee Sundermeier, Trustee Somerville, Mayor Granat, Mayor Pro-Tem Mikolai, Trustee Chase, Trustee L'Hommedieu

No:

Absent:

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Miller 817 Elberta Avenue, raised concerns regarding COVID-19 and referred to his letter to the Editor:

"The consensus view from medical and public health experts is that until we have a vaccine to keep us from contracting the disease and more effective treatment for those experiencing its life-threatening symptoms, we are all going to be at ongoing risk, needing to modify our behavior accordingly.

When Mesa County health officials determine that our COVID-19 case numbers are low enough and we have adequate resources to detect and treat current and new incidents of the disease, only then should restrictions be lifted.

Adequate testing and careful monitoring of suspected cases will be the critical check and balance to keep us safe and to prevent a second wave of the virus. Local health teams, supported by state and federal government, are focused on obtaining these resources.

But once a person contracts COVID-19, it is urgent that effective contact-tracing is conducted. Otherwise, the spread of the virus can quickly get out of control. Who will do this? Contact-tracing is labor-intensive and needs to be executed in a disciplined manner. Do we have adequate capacity in Mesa County? How long will it take to develop this capacity? Will an insufficient number of contact-tracers be the next supply chain issue in our resource-constrained fight of COVID-19?

Mesa County has residents who have skills and want to help, people who are unemployed due to the pandemic. C.M.U. has new graduates coming online with allied health and nursing skills. I challenge our county commissioners, municipal governments, and health care community to collaborate and deploy a corps of local contact-tracers, so we can safely move towards lifting restrictions and reducing the risk of a lethal second wave."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sewer Fees Abatement from 2017

Town Attorney Jim Neu reiterated that the Town was made aware of a 2017 sewer improvement project in 2017 that the associated sewer tap fees were never filed correctly by the previous Town staff. Finance Director Travis Boyd filed these fees in December 2019 per Town Ordinance 2017-30 with the Mesa County Treasurer's office. Mr. Wedel, owner of 3809 and 3815 North River Road contacted the Town and submitted a claim agreed upon by the Town in 2018 for the previously stated fees to be abated on his two properties. Mr. Neu stated he had been in contact with CIRSA and that staff at the time of this agreement had been in contact with them regarding this matter, but no documentation other than what Mr. Wedel has provided to the Town could be located. Staff decided to bring this to the Board's attention to ratify the agreement made between previous Town staff and Mr. Wedel.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mikolai stated that he and the Town Manager spoke with Mr. Wedel and now have a better understanding of what the circumstances were that led to his contacting the Town in 2018.

Motion #3 by Trustee Chase, seconded by Mayor Granat, to ratify the decision made by previous staff to waive sewer tap fees for the properties located at 3815 and 3809 N River Road.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes Trustee Sundermeier, Trustee Somerville, Mayor Granat, Mayor Pro-Tem Mikolai, Trustee Chase, Trustee L'Hommedieu, Trustee Bonds

No:

Absent:

Motion carried.

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Trustees Bonds and Sundermeier thanked everyone present and spoke about how much they loved being a part of the Board.

Mayor Granat also spoke of his time with the Board and how it positively impacted his life. On behalf of the Town, the Town Manager presented Roger with naming a street after him. In honor of his 20 years of service to the Town and the dedication he showed as a citizen of Palisade, the street will be called "Roger's Way." The new street is at the entrance to the Cameo Sport Shooting Complex from I-70.

ROLLCALL WITH NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Present were: Mayor Mikolai and Trustees Turner, Somerville, Chase, Carlson and L'Hommedieu. A quorum was declared.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2020-09 entitled "A Resolution Of The Board Of Trustees Of The Town Of Palisade, Colorado, Appointing The Town Administrator As The Town Clerk And Town Treasurer Pursuant To C.R.S. §31-4-304." Town Attorney Jim Neu explained that officers of the Town must be appointed after every regular election of the Town of Palisade.

Motion #4 by Trustee Somerville, seconded by Trustee L'Hommedieu to approve Resolution 2020-09 entitled "A Resolution Of The Board Of Trustees Of The Town Of Palisade, Colorado, Appointing The Town Administrator As The Town Clerk And Town Treasurer Pursuant To C.R.S. §31-4-304" as presented.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Mayor Mikolai, Trustee Turner, Trustee Somerville, Trustee Chase, Trustee Carlson, Trustee L'Hommedieu

No:

Absent:

Motion carried.

Resolution 2020-11 entitled "A Resolution of the Board of Trustees for the Town of Palisade, Colorado Approving the Contract With the Colorado Department of Transportation for the Multimodal Highway 6 Project: MTF M021-002 (23620), Palisade/U.S. 6."

The Town Manager stated that the Town of Palisade received a grant to improve multimodal transportation improvements along Highway 6 through the Multimodal Options Fund Grant program. She is requesting that the Board approve the contract between the Town and the Colorado Department of Transportation for the project, which is a condition of the grant.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding the Colorado Department of Transportation involvement and the process for reviewing and approving contractors for the project.

Motion #5 by Trustee L'Hommidieu, seconded by Trustee Somerville to approve Resolution 2020-11 entitled "A Resolution of the Board of Trustees For the Town of Palisade, Colorado Approving the Contract With the Colorado Department of Transportation for the Multimodal Highway 6 Project: MTF M021-002 (23620), Palisade/U.S. 6" as presented.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Trustee Turner, Trustee Somerville, Trustee Chase, Trustee Carlson, Trustee L'Hommidieu, Mayor Mikolai

No:

Absent:

Motion carried.

Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem

Mayor Mikolai stated that per the Palisade Municipal Code, the Board is required to appoint a Mayor Pro-Tem at the meeting following the regular municipal election.

Trustee Carlson nominated Trustee Somerville, seconded by Trustee Turner. Trustee Chase nominated herself, seconded by Trustee L'Hommidieu. Trustee Somerville declined the nomination.

Motion #6 by Trustee L'Hommidieu, seconded by Trustee Somerville to appoint Trustee Thea Chase as Mayor Pro-Tem.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Trustee Somerville, Trustee Chase, Trustee Carlson, Trustee L'Hommidieu, Mayor Mikolai, Trustee Turner

No:

Absent:

Motion carried.

Introduction of options regarding filling Trustee vacancy

M.R. Neu stated that the filling of a vacancy on the Board is governed by both the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Town of Palisade Municipal Code. Neither authority requires any specific process, aside from identical language granting the Board the "power of appointment, to fill all vacancies in the Board..." See C.R.S. § 31-4-3031; PMC § 2-23. As such, it is entirely within the Board's discretion to choose how to fill a vacancy in the Board.

After reviewing state and Town law, and the guidance from CIRSA and CML, we recommend the following course of action:

1. Advertise the vacancy for a period of 14 days, requesting applicants to respond in writing to a series of questions regarding their qualifications and desire to serve.
2. If the Board desires, select finalists to interview in-person with the Board.
3. Select by a majority roll call vote a qualified individual to serve for two years in the vacant seat.

The appointed Board member's term will be until April 2022, when that seat will be up for election for a four-year term.

After a lengthy discussion amongst the Board including the possibility of public comment included in whichever process they choose, postponing this until COVID is done, interviewing interested parties in person, and interviewing those who ran in the 2020 election, the consensus of the Board is to have citizens interested in the seat turn in letters of interest after the Town advertises for 14 days, interview the candidates and then choose who they fill will best fill the position.

Budget Amendment for Tourism Advisory Board: \$15,000.00 for Post-COVID 19 Small Business Recovery Efforts

The Town Manager and Finance Director presented this budget amendment to the Board for approval of \$15,000 to the T.A.B. board budget. Because local businesses have had to temporarily close for public health and safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tourism Advisory Board will not have funding for marketing the Town. This amendment to the budget will allow the Tourism Advisory Board to be able to move forward with marketing Palisade when the restrictions of tourism and travel have been lifted from the COVID-19 Stay-At-Home order.

Motion #7 by Trustee Somerville, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Chase, to approve a budget amendment for the Tourism Advisory Board in the amount of \$15,000.00 for Post-COVID 19 Small Business Recovery Efforts.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Mayor Pro-Tem Chase, Trustee Carlson, Trustee L'Hommidieu, Mayor Mikolai, Trustee Turner, Trustee Somerville

No:

Absent:

Motion carried.

Should the Board of Trustees Authorize the sale of specific equipment owned by the Town of Palisade?

The Utilities Director stated that certain equipment is outdated and in a used condition. It will take excessive resources to keep these pieces of equipment in operating conditions, and requested that the Board allow the sale of the following equipment by auction:

- Grader- John Deere 570-A
- Dozer- John Deere TD-8
- 2003 GMC ¾ Ton Reg cab pick-up
- Leaf vacuum

Motion #8 by Trustee L'Hommidieu, seconded by Trustee Somerville to authorize the sale of specific equipment owned by the Town of Palisade by auction as outlined in the Palisade Municipal Code.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Trustee Carlson, Trustee L'Hommidieu, Mayor Mikolai, Trustee Turner, Trustee Somerville, Mayor Pro-Tem Chase

No:

Absent:

Motion carried.

Request to approve the 2020 Budgeted Expense of purchasing a new Kubota lawnmower for the use at our parks.

The Parks, Recreation and Events Director stated that he is requesting permission for the Town Manager to purchase a new Kubota lawnmower for use at the parks. This equipment was already approved in the 2020 budget.

Motion #9 by Trustee Somerville, seconded by Trustee Carlson to approve the 2020 Budgeted Expense of purchasing a new Kubota lawnmower for the use at our parks.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Trustee L'Hommidieu, Mayor Mikolai, Trustee Turner, Trustee Somerville, Mayor Pro-Tem Chase, Trustee Carlson

No:

Absent:

Motion carried.

Shall the Palisade Bluegrass and Roots Festival be postponed until 2021?

The Town Manager stated that Mesa County has ordered that no concerts or festivals may be held until July 1, 2020, at the earliest, which means that we will not be allowed to hold the Palisade Bluegrass and Roots Festival in June. She noted that she is requesting the Board make the decision to postpone the festival until 2021 official.

The Board had a brief discussion regarding refunds, using this year's tickets for next year to help limit refunds, and the possibility of postponing the festival to a later date this year.

Motion #10 by Trustee L'Hommidieu, seconded by Trustee Somerville to postpone the Palisade Bluegrass and Roots Festival, be postponed until June 11-13, 2021.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Mayor Mikolai, Trustee Turner, Trustee Somerville, Mayor Pro-Tem Chase, Trustee Carlson, Trustee L'Hommidieu

No:

Absent:

Motion carried.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Various Board members welcomed Trustee Carlson and Trustee Turner, discussed possible ways to help local businesses through the COVID-19 restrictions and requested educational resources for new and existing members of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Mikolai, stating that there was no further business before the Board, adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

X 

Greg Mikolai
Mayor

X 

Keli Frasier
Town Clerk