



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PALISADE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 23, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Town of Palisade was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Greg Mikolai, with Trustees present: Stan Harbaugh, Rick Fox, and Mayor Pro-Tem Jamie Somerville. Absent were Trustees Nicole Maxwell, Sarah Matchett, and Jeff Snook. A quorum was declared. Also in attendance were Town Manager Janet Hawkinson, Town Clerk Keli Frasier, and Finance Director Gregg Mueller.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Motion #1 by Mayor Pro-Tem Somerville, seconded by Trustee Harbaugh, to approve the agenda as presented.

A voice vote was requested.

Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Jim Hinkle, of Hinkle & Company, presented the 2024 Financial Audit for the Town of Palisade.

Mr. Hinkle shared that the 2024 financial audit was submitted with the State Auditors on time in July, internal accounting controls can be relied upon with no deficiencies or material weaknesses, and compared account balances and transactions, which show compliance with general accepted accounting principles.

Mr. Hinkle went on to commend the Finance staff for making the audit go so smoothly. In the official report communication, it was noted that there were no disagreements with management, no difficulties in the course of the audit, and no audit adjustments were required.

As the independent auditors, his team felt that they had open transparency during the audit process, that everything they asked for was provided in a timely fashion, and they were never denied access to any information they requested.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Town Manager Janet Hawkinson announced that Grand Valley Bank donated the *Rusty's Dream* sculpture to the Town of Palisade and asked if the Board would approve relocating it from the bank to a spot near the Fire Station.

The consensus of the Board is to approve relocating the sculpture *Rusty's Dream* to a spot near the Palisade Fire Station.

Town Manager Hawkinson asked the Board if they were interested in relocating the sculpture titled *Zafira*, currently located in Fruita, to the Town of Palisade.

The consensus of the Board is to forward the decision to Palisade Art Vision (PAV) for approval or denial.

The Town Manager went on to introduce the idea of cash prizes being implemented to encourage local participation in the Palisade Parade of Lights. The top three floats would be chosen by the current Town Grouch and awarded \$100.00 each.

The consensus of the Board is to support the implementation of a cash prize for the top three floats as chosen by the Town Grouch.

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 – August 27, 2025 – September 9, 2025.
- **Minutes**
Minutes from the September 9, 2025, Regular Board of Trustees Meeting.
- **Intergovernmental Agreement with Grand Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO)**
- **Intergovernmental Agreement with Grand Valley Transit (GVT)**

Motion #2 by Mayor Pro-Tem Sommerville, seconded by Trustee Harbaugh, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Mayor Mikolai, Mayor Pro-Tem Somerville, Trustee Harbaugh, Trustee Fox

No:

Absent: Trustee Maxwell, Trustee Matchett, Trustee Snook

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2025-23 - Buffer Zone Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Amendment

Town Manager Hawkinson reviewed the history of the IGA, the agreement of Mesa County and the City of Grand Junction, and the controls implemented to mitigate future development in the buffer zone.

Trustees asked for clarification that properties that would be allowed to hook up to the sewer system were limited to those where the sewer pipes were to be located. Town Manager Hawkinson confirmed.

Motion #3 by Mayor Pro-Tem Somerville, seconded by Trustee Harbaugh, to approve Resolution 2025-23 amending the Cooperative Planning Agreement between the Town of Palisade, County of Mesa, and City of Grand Junction to provide consent to extend a sanitary sewer line within the Cooperative Planning Area.

A roll call vote was requested.

Yes: Mayor Pro-Tem Somerville, Trustee Harbaugh, Trustee Fox, Mayor Mikolai

No:

Absent: Trustee Maxwell, Trustee Matchett, Trustee Snook

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tyler Loy of Palisade raised concerns about the treatment of his property during large events held in the Town, by attendees and festival contractors alike.

Carina Scott of Palisade requested that the Board look into improvements for bicycle traffic turning onto Wine Valley Road from Elberta Avenue, and raised concerns about Police response times on the Friday of the Colorado Mountain Wine Festival.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Somerville gave a brief update on the Palisade Chamber of Commerce events, Mayor Mikolai updated the Board on the latest meeting with the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee (GVRTC), Trustee Harbaugh reviewed the meeting of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC), and Trustee Fox gave an update on the Palisade Rural Fire District meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

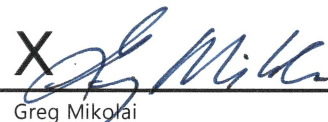
Motion #4 by Mayor Pro-Tem Somerville, seconded by Trustee Harbaugh, to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 pm.

A voice vote was requested.

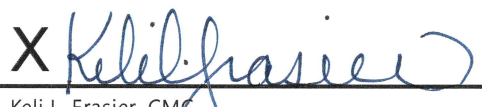
Motion carried unanimously.

WORK SESSION

A work session of the Board of Trustees for the Town of Palisade began at 6:37 pm to discuss the timeline for the Clifton Sewer Transfer Project, and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Grand Valley Irrigation Company (GVIC). Present were: Mayor Greg Mikolai, Stan Harbaugh, Rick Fox, and Mayor Pro-Tem Jamie Somerville. Also in attendance were Town Manager Janet Hawkinson, Town Clerk Keli Frasier, Finance Director Gregg Mueller, and Accountant Matthew Weatherby.

X 

Greg Mikolai
Mayor

X 

Keli L. Frasier, CMC
Town Clerk

