

**Town Council Regular Meeting**  
**Town of Paonia, Colorado**  
**March 26, 2013**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Regular Meeting of the Town Council held Tuesday, March 26, 2013 was called to order at 7:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were Mayor Neal Schwieterman, Trustees Brian Ayers, Corinne Ferguson, Eric Goold, Ross King, Amber Kleinman and Larry Wissbeck; Public Works Director Travis Loberg; and Town Clerk Barbara Peterson.

Mayor Schwieterman determined a quorum was present and proceeded with the meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

Trustee Wissbeck moved to approve the agenda as presented. Trustee Goold seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Paonia High School**

Mandy Bushta and Ty Coats reported that standardized testing continues this week, and ACT testing for juniors and seniors are tomorrow. The Dinner show will be held on March 29 and 30, 2013. Boy's basketball is playing Rangely as fundraiser. Wrestling shirts are available at Lasting Impressions. A poetry slam team will be coming to the high school to offer writing workshops at 10:30 a.m. on April 9, 2013.

**Announcements**

- None

**Visitors**

Karen Fogg asked if the personnel manual addressed salaries and overtime policies. Finance Officer, Cindy Jones indicated that salaried employees only get overtime if a holiday is worked. Human Resource consultant Dave Knutson indicated that the Personnel Committee has been gathering and addressing minor changes that have come up since the adoption of the manual. Hiring procedures are not in the manual, but a matter of policy.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**New Business**

**Living Farm Café – Liquor License Renewal**

Michael Gillespie was present. The Living Farm Café is requesting a renewal of the hotel and restaurant liquor license for the premises located at 120 Grand Avenue. At the staff meeting, mayor Schwieterman noted that Chief Leon indicated no issues. Trustee Goold moved to approve the renewal as presented. Trustees Kleinman and Wissbeck seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**North Fork Valley Creative Coalition – Sidewalk Special Event Request**

Annette Pretorius was present. The Creative Coalition is requesting to be allowed to set up tables on Grand Avenue, utilizing the sidewalk for commercial purposes to sell artwork directly to the public on the Fridays, May 31, June 28, July 26, August 30, and September 27, 2013. Ms. Pretorius noted contacting local business on Grand Avenue, indicating approval from the businesses. The Coalition is also requesting to be allowed to submit one application and only pay one fee rather than ten (10) separate applications and fees. Trustee Wissbeck moved to approve the sidewalk use and fees proposal as presented. Trustee Kleinman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**North Fork Valley Airport – Letter of Support**

Larry Garret was present. Mayor Schwieterman noted an e-mail from Attorney Briscoe and a draft letter of support in the packets. Trustee Ayers submitted a list of proposed changes to the letter. Council concurred to incorporate Trustee Ayers proposed changes. Trustee King moved to approve the letter of support as amended. Trustee Ferguson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### Town Manager Committee - Update

Trustee Goold read a statement summarizing progress to date. The committee began with four (4) different scenarios: do nothing; aggressively seek outside candidates; adopt a model of shared responsibilities, similar to existing structure; or adopt a joint Town Clerk/Manager position and hire from within. Trustee Goold expressed shock that none of the current Department Heads have contracts. Other issues of concern include a \$5.4 million dollar price tag for the new water treatment plant upgrades, a Public Works Director who is at an impasse regarding a future contract, codification needs to be completed and a full review of the Police Department budget and performance. These concerns could and should be navigated by a Town Manager. While doing research, Trustee Goold made the observation that the Town has not had a full-time Town Manager, and maybe there's a reason for that. Trustee Ferguson noted discussions with the regional director of the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), and that financial constraints are substantial. Because the budget already dips into reserves, the cost of a full-time Town Manager seems imprudent, according to Mayor Schwieterman. Trustee Goold put forth the opinion that the Town may not advertise outside because of costs and there is someone well qualified in house. A. Paul Douglas offered the opinion that he has respect for the Town employees that he does know and he's impressed with the jobs being done. Mr. Douglas thinks that the oversight will be good. Maridell Rose requested why the hesitation to advertise. Trustee Goold was unsure of posting requirements, but did note that the job description and salary would be available at posting time. Trustee Kleinman asked that if the posting is for a combined position, then it also implies that the Town get rid of an employee. Trustee Ferguson restated that the Town cannot afford to pay for an additional employee over existing payroll, and it is not fair to advertise for a position that the Town cannot pay. Consideration of a joint Town Manager with Hotchkiss was suggested, but that means that Hotchkiss would also need to pursue that option. Discussion regarding the combined position ensued. Arguments against include spending time and money that is not necessary and what message is being sent to employees that are doing a good job. Bill Brunner does not see where a combined position is a good fit and urges the Board to find a separate Town Manager. Mayor Schwieterman noted there is statutory ability for a Clerk/Manager position. Trustee Goold thanked everyone for the input and noted the committee will bring forth a proposal that will be voted on at a public meeting.

### Additional Business

#### Mayor's Report:

Mayor Schwieterman reported that as mentioned earlier, the Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) for the water and wastewater systems is retiring at the end of the month. Mayor Schwieterman appointed Clerk Peterson to work with the Public Works Director to propose a written agreement for additional duties. Mayor Schwieterman received a thank-you note for attending a Heart and Soul community simulation. One of the interesting parts of the simulation is where value was added to the community was in the interface between citizens and businesses. That portion added value in the quality of life aspects, but are subjective, and not easily controlled. On the State level, three (3) bills are being put forth regarding oil and gas. More information is available on the Colorado Municipal League website ([www.cml.org](http://www.cml.org)). Delta County Economic Development (DCED) is having their annual meeting at 5:30 p.m. on April 11, 2013 at Orchard City Town Hall.

Public Works: Public Works Director Loberg reported the Third Street sewer project should be finished on Friday. Spring clean-up days have not been determined yet, but citizens requested better advertising this year.

Police Report: Chief Leon was not available to report. Mayor Schwieterman noted that Paonia was not requested, nor responded to the deputy shooting in Montrose. It is Town policy that two (2) officers respond to domestic dispute calls.

Finance Report: Trustee Wissbeck indicated information has been submitted to the auditor, but the audit has not been scheduled yet.

Parks Report: Trustee Kleinman indicated there would be another meeting with the Teen Center group the first week in April. Trustee Goold reported attending the Paonia High School Facilities Committee meetings and will continue to attend and follow up.

Public Safety Report: Trustees Ayers reported meeting with Chief Leon and will continue to do so on a regular basis.

Street Report: Trustee King reported waiting for the railroad reports. Trustee Kleinman reported speaking with the contractor, but no report has been received as yet.

Water/Sewer Report: Trustee Ferguson reported continuing to work on the same infrastructure planning projects. Trustee King confirmed that the pre-application meeting is still being held on Thursday, March 28, 2013.

Personnel Report: Trustee Ferguson had nothing to report.

Minutes:

Corrections noted. Trustee Goold moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2013 as amended. Trustee Ayers seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Trustee King moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2013 as presented. Trustee Ferguson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Disbursements:

Trustee Wissbeck moved to pay the bills ending March 26, 2013. Trustee Ferguson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8:12 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Town Clerk, Barbara Peterson

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Mayor, Neal Schwieterman