

Collbran Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 30, 2018
Special Meeting
5:30 PM Collbran Town Hall

Mayor V. Sturm called the Special Meeting of January 30, 2018 of the Collbran Board of Trustees to order at 5:34pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT ON ROLL CALL: Trustees Schowalter, P. Sturm, Evans, and Mayor V. Sturm.

ABSENT: Trustee Pell.

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator Farrar, and Town Clerk/Treasurer Phillips.

Admin. Farrar explained that there are two basic options for the Board of Trustees to consider. Option 1 is to place the two ballot questions (building materials use tax, and opting out of SB 152) on the April 3 Regular Municipal Election. If this is the Board's preference, they can approve Ordinances No. 2 and 3, Series 2018. Discussion took place about whether the electorate would understand both issues and whether they had an opportunity to become educated about the pros and cons of each. If not, there is a good probability that the ballot questions would fail. In addition, there are only two individuals running unopposed (one for Trustee and one for Mayor) and there is still a vacant trustee opening. Because of the situation, the election could be cancelled in the Town which would save close to \$5,000 on the election. Town Clerk/Treasurer Phillips said that if the Board is considering cancelling the election, a resolution must be placed on the February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting agenda for that purpose. He noted that the oath of office for the Board members would be at the April 10, 2018 Regular Meeting.

Admin. Farrar said that there is still time for the citizens to become informed about the use tax and broadband topics. He explained that TABOR requires that a tax question include specific wording asking whether the taxpayers would support an increase in taxes even though this ordinance would most likely result in less taxes on purchases of building materials. In addition, a favorable decision on building materials use tax would result in these dollars staying in Collbran instead of other jurisdictions where the materials were purchased. Trustees questioned whether the questions as written and the voters' understanding of the issues were sufficient for a favorable vote.

Similarly, the Board was concerned about voters understanding the nuances of opting out of Senate Bill 152 and the resulting additional flexibility for the Town to address broadband and telecommunication services. He said it is up to the Board if they want the questions on the ballot, and if not, they could cancel the election.

Further discussion took place with the Board of Trustees about whether this was a good time to put these questions on the ballot. The general consensus of the Board was that there was a good probability the questions would fail because many folks in Town were not educated about the pros and cons of the questions. Mayor V. Sturm said that people have mentioned to him that if a mailer was sent to the electors explaining the use tax and broadband topics, it could have given them a better chance to understand the issues. Trustee Schowalter said that she would not mind cancelling the election and save the time and money. Trustee P. Sturm supported cancelling the election for similar reasons. Trustee Evans said that the required TABOR ballot question wording would likely result in a negative vote. Administrator Farrar said that these two questions could be considered in the future when an election was necessary. He noted that much of the work has been done on the use tax and broadband topics, so if it gets addressed in the future, the Town will have the material it needs to revisit them.

Admin. Farrar mentioned that presently there is legislation proposed and a second bill about to be introduced to the legislature that would address future broadband funding.

The Board agreed not to move forward with Ordinance Nos. 2 and 3, Series 2018, and place on the agenda for the February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting a resolution to cancel the April 3, 2018 Regular Municipal Election and declare the candidates elected.

Admin. Farrar said that he recommends a work session before the February 6 Regular Meeting at 6pm regarding the employee personnel handbook. He said that this topic has been in the works for a number of years. He said that he recently spent time with the Town attorney making revisions for the staff and Trustees review. He said he also proposes placing on the agenda for the meeting on the same evening a continued discussion on the handbook and possible action.

Admin. Farrar said that he has had a discussion with Marshal Appelhanz regarding the substantial extra work hours he has accumulated. He said that he supports compensating the Marshal for the extra work with the caveat that the Marshal avoids this situation in the future. He explained that the Marshal's office is down a deputy and this adds to the workload. Some discussion took place about the issue among the Trustees. Admin. Farrar recommended that it is always best to have a budgetary appropriation if comp/overtime is cashed-out.

The Board agreed to call a work session at 6pm on the personnel handbook before their February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Trustee Evans moved to adjourn the Town of Collbran Board of Trustees Special Meeting of January 30, 2018; seconded by Trustee P. Sturm.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 4 Yes votes – P. Sturm, Evans, Schowalter, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

The Special Meeting of January 30, 2018 adjourned at 5:45pm.

Approved

Attest