

Collbran Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 6, 2016
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM Collbran Town Hall

Mayor Sturm called the Regular Meeting of December 6, 2016 of the Collbran Board of Trustees to order at 7:03pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

ABSENT: Trustees P. Sturm, and Shrope

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator Farrar, Town Clerk/Treasurer Phillips, Marshal Appelhanz, Tammy Clark, Dave Edwards, Todd Farrington, and Margaret Eversole.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Trustee Evans moved to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 1, 2016 and the Special Meeting of November 22, 2016; seconded by Trustee Schowalter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes votes – Schowalter, Evans, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON AGENDA

No one spoke for this item.

WATERSHED PERMIT FOR LARAMIE ENERGY

Admin. Farrar mentioned that after speaking with Town Atty. Jim Neu, that the watershed permit transfer is an administrative action, but he wanted to bring this to the Board's attention. He said that Laramie Energy purchased Axia Energy's assets in the Town's watershed and Laramie request that the watershed permit be transferred to their name. There were no questions from the Trustees. The Board was fine with Admin. Farrar proceeding.

PROPOSED ARENA UPGRADES – Tammy Clark (Arena Advisory Committee)

Admin. Farrar explained that the AAC proposed Arena modifications are in the Trustees packet material. Tammy Clark, representing the AAC, said that they are using donated pipe to make improvements. She said they propose changes which include additional pens and an alleyway. She asked if the Board had any questions. Mayor V. Sturm asked Ms. Clark about the timing for the improvements. She said that work would be completed in the spring. Mayor V. Sturm wanted to allow enough time to hear from other arena users about concerns. Ms. Clark noted that the proposed upgrades have been available at Town Hall for the public to view for thirty days. She also said that no concerns were identified by user groups at recent AAC meetings. Admin. Farrar mentioned that the Board has an email from Roping Club member Eric Bevan dated Monday, December 5 stating that the proposed upgrades are neither a benefit nor a hindrance to the Arena; they have no issue with the upgrades, but do not believe that they are necessary. The email also stated that the Roping Club believes that the current pens are sufficient. Ms. Clark said that the pipe was donated for the improvements and should be used. She mentioned that the construction would be completed by volunteers, and the cost for the improvements would be minimal. Admin. Farrar asked about the proposed shade structure they plan to use for the stock at the Arena. Ms.



Clark said that Keith Encke of the Town Public Works wanted the proposed alleyway completed and measured before installing the metal shade structures (donated by the City of Grand Junction). Roping Club member Todd Farrington said that they wanted to be sure that no parking spaces are lost. Mayor V. Sturm asked if the Board had any comments. The consensus of the Board was to proceed with the improvements that they function well for the Arena and there is minimal cost to the Town. Admin. Farrar said that the only cost would be construction of the shade shelter.

MOTION: Trustee Evans moved to approve the proposed upgrades to the Collbran Arena as presented; seconded by Trustee Schowalter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes votes – Evans, Schowalter, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

ARENA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Schowalter (liaison of the AAC) noted that the Arena improvements were proposed to be started March 1 and concluded in June. She said that the AAC will not meet in December or January. She said that the next meeting will be in February and she will make sure that the meeting is posted.

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST – TOWN OF COLLBRAN – MAIN STREET – December 17, 2016

Admin. Farrar explained that the street closure request is for Cowboy Christmas and that the closure includes Main Street from High Street to Hwy 330 E. The closure is scheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2016 from 5:50pm to 6:30pm to facilitate the parade.

MOTION: Trustee Schowalter moved to approve the street closure permit for December 17, 2016 from 5:50pm to 6:30pm; seconded by Trustee Evans.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes votes – Schowalter, Evans, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 8, SERIES 2016 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF COLLBRAN, COLORADO IDENTIFYING THE COLLBRAN AUDITORIUM AS A LANDMARK HISTORIC STRUCTURE

Admin. Farrar explained that Auditorium must be listed as historic; nationally, statewide, or locally to pursue a State Historical Structural Assessment Grant. He said that Mesa County has a local legacy program which does not bind the Town. He said that the County application process requires review by the Planning Commission and the Mesa County Commissioners. He said that the resolution is the first step in the process. Kaye Simonson, the County staff member that administers the legacy program, proposed a minor change in the resolution, saying that the Town of Collbran requests that the Commissioners make this designation. The Board asked if the Town was locked in to anything by adopting the resolution. Admin. Farrar said that the resolution does not restrict the Town. He explained that the resolution identifies that the Auditorium meets the County requirements to be considered historic.

MOTION: Trustee Evans moved to approve Resolution No. 8, Series 2016 identifying the Collbran auditorium as a landmark historic structure; seconded by Trustee Schowalter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes votes – Evans, Schowalter, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING: PRESENTATION OF 2017 BUDGET



Admin. Farrar explained that resolutions become effective immediately, which would allow the Town to start the new year in a timely fashion, assuming the budget is adopted.

Mayor V. Sturm opened the public hearing of the Town of Collbran 2017 Fiscal Year Budget.

Admin. Farrar said that earlier this evening there was a budget work session where the Board reviewed community requests for fiscal year 2017. He noted that the amount of community requests recommended for inclusion in the budget by the Trustees totaled \$5,750. He said that General Fund revenues are anticipated for fiscal year 2017 to be \$714,743; and expenditures are expected to be \$706,994; which gives the Town a small surplus for the year of \$7,749. He said that Water Fund revenues are projected to be \$203,849; and expenses are expected to be \$203,849. He said that Sewer Fund revenues are anticipated to be \$136,124; and expenses are expected to be \$136,124. Admin. Farrar explained that the proprietary fund revenues (water & sewer) are predicated on a 3% utility rate increase in 2017. He said that the revenues for the Conservation Trust Fund (lottery dollars) are projected to be \$7,000; and expenditures are expected to be \$7,000 and these funds are earmarked to go toward the electrical upgrade at the Collbran Arena. He added that \$23,000 in expenditures are budgeted in the General Fund toward the electrical upgrades. He said that light poles were donated to the Town from MRB General Contracting for the Arena. Admin. Farrar suggested that the Town hire an electrical engineer to do some design work on the Arena; he mentioned that this is included in the budget. Todd Farrington of the P.V. Roping Club said that he would like to see the electrical improvements engineered before the upgrades are completed.

Mayor V. Sturm asked for public input or questions about the budget; there were none.

Admin. Farrar said that the Notice of Budget was published and posted nearly two months ago, and the budget has been available for review at Town Hall. He said that Resolution No. 9, Series 2016 mentions Exhibit A, which is the budget.

Mayor V. Sturm closed the public input portion of the public hearing.

- a) **RESOLUTION NO. 9, SERIES 2016 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF COLLBRAN, COLORADO, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017**

MOTION: Trustee Evans moved to approve Resolution No. 9, Series 2016, adopting the annual budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017; seconded by Trustee Schowalter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes votes – Schowalter, Evans, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

- b) **RESOLUTION NO. 10, SERIES 2016 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOWN OF COLLBRAN, COLORADO, LEVYING GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2017 TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE TOWN OF COLLBRAN, COLORADO FOR THE 2017 BUDGET YEAR**

Admin. Farrar explain that Resolution No. 10 is a resolution that is levying general property taxes for 2017. He said it sets the mill levy and that there is no change from last year. He said the revenues are down slightly from last year because the valuations are lower compared to last year.



MOTION: Trustee Schowalter moved to approve Resolution No. 10, Series 2016, levying general property taxes for the year 2017 to help defray the cost of government for the Town of Collbran, Colorado for the 2017 budget year; seconded by Trustee Evans.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes votes – Evans, Schowalter, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

c) ORDINANCE NO. 9, SERIES 2016 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF COLLBRAN, COLORADO, REGARDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

Admin. Farrar mentioned that Ordinance No. 9 appropriates the money for the 2017 budget year so it can be spent, and being an ordinance it will not take effect for thirty days.

MOTION: Trustee Evans moved to approve Ordinance No. 9, Series 2016, regarding the annual appropriation for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017; seconded by Trustee Schowalter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes votes – Schowalter, Evans, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Evans said that he has learned a lot this year since he was first appointed to the Board and then elected. He said that there were many workings of town government that he was not aware of before becoming a Trustee. He said he has enjoyed this experience and it is rewarding when the Town comes together in the public process. Admin. Farrar said that serving as a trustee is a continuous learning experience. He also said that local government is the government that is closest to the people, and that diversity of opinion is a good thing.

STAFF REPORTS

Town Administrator

Admin. Farrar mentioned that the Town was awarded a \$150,000 DOLA grant for downtown improvements and this is a little less than the \$200,000 originally requested. He reviewed the components of the project to be completed with these funds. Trustees asked if there was going to be a committee to discuss the improvements. Admin. Farrar explained that the master plan from which this project is derived was developed through an extensive public process and the Town will be proceeding to implement the identified improvements in the plan. Input may be solicited from community members about placement of benches, trash receptacles, and other elements, but the overall project was already set. He asked about who would be available to serve cocoa at Cowboy Christmas on December 17; he said that a Hummer driver was needed for the parade. He mentioned that the quarterly municipalities dinner was last week; he said the topic was the sustainability of the Grand Junction 911 Regional Communications Center. He mentioned that the mayor of Grand Junction spoke of a sales tax to help fund the Communications Center, but the Mesa County Commissioners were not in favor of a tax. Admin. Farrar said that the consensus at the municipalities dinner was to pursue a county-wide sales tax. He mentioned that a booklet about the Communications Center was provided, so he will get the Board a copy. He said that Garfield County funds their communications center with a sales tax and fees. He emphasized the importance of the Grand Junction 911 Regional Communications Center. Marshal Appelhanz mentioned that the monthly fee that the Town pays to help fund the Communications Center is based on a five-year average. He said this year has been busy with many calls for service, so the fee



amounts will keep going up. He mentioned that the Town had to start paying a few years ago when Mesa County was making cuts in their budget. Admin. Farrar said that individual local governments having their own communications center is not cost effective. He said that a sales tax is the most palatable way to pay for a communications center, and that it is important to get the word out and explain the need.

Town Marshal

Marshal Appelhanz mentioned that calls for service were down, but some other things have been eating up time. He said he swore in a reserve officer (John Hildebrand) last month. He mentioned that he was very qualified and is a former police officer. Mr. Hildebrand is also bilingual. Marshal Appelhanz mentioned a chance at more grants coming up. He said he did firearms training with Palisade officers today. Dave Edwards, Mayor Pro-Tem of Palisade, mentioned that Collbran Marshals can use their gun range. Mr. Edwards had a question about opiates; Marshal Appelhanz spoke briefly on the topic. Marshal Appelhanz read a section from a P.V. Times article from November 19. He said that the article incorrectly stated that he witnessed people fall out of a bar. Margaret Eversole, the author of the article, apologized to Marshal Appelhanz. He mentioned that the article has stirred up a hornets' nest in Town. Ms. Eversole said that she tries to be accurate based on her notes during the meeting. Admin. Farrar mentioned that the article should have said that he was the person that witnessed the event. Mr. Edwards asked if a retraction could be printed; Ms. Eversole agreed with the idea. Marshal Appelhanz said that there have been some other false stories that have been going on around Town lately.

APPROVE EXPENDITURES

MOTION: Trustee Schowalter moved to approve the expenditures for the Town of Collbran from November 2, 2016 through December 6, 2016; seconded by Trustee Evans.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes votes – Evans, Schowalter, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Trustee Evans moved to adjourn the Town of Collbran Board of Trustees Regular Meeting of December 6, 2016; seconded by Trustee Schowalter.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 3 Yes votes – Schowalter, Evans, and V. Sturm. 0 No votes. Motion passed.

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.



Approved



Attest

