

Town of Collbran Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting 6 p.m -Tuesday May 21, 2024

I. Call to Order

Mayor Wilcox called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:01pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

PRESENT: Trustees Zentz, Evans, Winkleblack, Price, and Mayor Wilcox

ABSENT: NONE

IV. Persons not on the agenda

Ms. Lorrie Hammett asked for a status on her request for more information about the insinuation of potential corruption at Town Hall. She stated she was not asking for the outcome of investigatory efforts, but what is being investigated. Ms. Hammett recalled an event in which she stood on the porch of MHP with Trustee Price, before the election, when Trustee Price told her a number of disturbing things about Town Hall and staff. Trustee Price responded saying that she did not recall this interaction.

Mayor Wilcox stated that he hasn't heard of these allegations of corruption himself and told Ms. Hammett to ignore it and drop the issue, the allegations heard are gossip. Ms. Hammett then asked Trustee Price if she agreed that there was no issue, Trustee Price agreed.

V. Authorize Change Order for Contract with NeuComm Solutions for Final Equipment Amounts and Tower Painting

Staff presented the change order. The cost of the change order is within the current budget.

**MOTION: TRUSTEE EVANS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE CHANGE ORDER FOR THE CONTRACT WITH NEUCOM;
SECONDED BY MAYOR WILCOX.**

VOTE RESULTS:

TRUSTEE ZENTZ - YES
TRUSTEE EVANS - YES
TRUSTEE WINKLEBLACK - YES
TRUSTEE PRICE - YES
MAYOR WILCOX - YES

MOTION PASSED

VI. Authorize Change Order to Contract with Apeiron Utility Construction for Community Anchor Fiber Installation

Staff presented the change order to bring fiber to community anchor institutions as part of the Broadband Project.

There was discussion about the maintenance of the fiber line and staff was asked to plan to go out with a formal bid process for the project.

MOTION: TRUSTEE EVANS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 WITH APEIRON UTILITY CONSTRUCTION AS PRESENTED ; SECONDED BY TRUSTEE ZENTZ.

VOTE RESULTS:

TRUSTEE ZENTZ - YES
TRUSTEE EVANS - YES
TRUSTEE WINKLEBLACK - YES
TRUSTEE PRICE - YES
MAYOR WILCOX - YES

MOTION PASSED

VII. Authorize Town Manager to Submit and Sign a Pole Attachment Agreement with Grand Valley Power

As part of connecting the community anchor institutions a new Pole Attachment application and agreement with Grand Valley Power is needed .

MOTION: MAYOR WILCOX MOVED TO APPROVE THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT AND SIGN THE POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT WITH GRAND VALLEY POWER; SECONDED BY TRUSTEE EVANS.

VOTE RESULTS:

TRUSTEE ZENTZ - YES
TRUSTEE EVANS - YES
TRUSTEE WINKLEBLACK- YES
TRUSTEE PRICE - YES
MAYOR WILCOX - YES

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Attorney Discussion

Our Town Attorney, Jim Neu, of 17+ years has informed staff that he does not wish to be appointed as the Town Attorney going forward. Staff will bring the Request For Proposal to the Board for review at the June 4th meeting.

IX. Senior Shuttle Program Discussion

Currently, the Town of Collbran offers a shuttle service to Grand Junction for seniors on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month driven by Keith Todd, who is employed through the Town. Currently, costs for this service are reimbursed via a grant through the Area Agency on Aging (AAA). AAA is a public non-profit agency, designated by the state to address the needs and concerns of all older persons at the regional and local levels. Transdev, whom we worked with directly for this program, is not renewing their contract with AAA and because of this contract not being renewed, funding from Transdev will no longer be available after July 1st for the Senior Shuttle program here in Collbran.

Mayor Wilcox asked if Mr. Todd needed a CDL or a Chauffeur's License or another certification to shuttle individuals. Staff will research and report back. Mayor Wilcox also asked about who is responsible for insurance, Mr. Todd personally or the Town. Town Staff will research and report back..

Trustee Evans suggested we continue the program through the end of the year but to bring the discussion back during the budget process.

X. Trustee Informational and/or Items for Future Agenda

Trustee Price would like to address the senior shuttle issue and Mr. Todd's qualifications to continue to drive the shuttle on the next agenda. She suggested maybe a medical examination be needed to confirm that he is physically able to drive and shuttle people.

Trustee Price requested that a Marshal's office update be on every agenda until we find a new Marshal or other solution.

Mayor Wilcox asked for clarification regarding the budget for the broadband project. Trustee Price asked for clarification regarding the payment structure with Region 10. Staff will bring the Project scope and budget forward at a board work session to be scheduled.

Trustee Price asked about Mr. McGowan being on the agenda for June 4th's meeting. Town Administrator Matarozzo explained that the Town Attorney suggested that the Board not discuss the issues Mr. McGowan presented because of potential litigation. The Town Attorney is currently seeking aid from an attorney that specializes in telecommunications. Trustee Price asked the Town to write Mr. McGowan a letter explaining why he would not be on the next agenda. Mayor Wilcox asked if Mr. McGowan was made aware of the efforts to bring fiber to the anchor institutions prior? Town Administrator Matarozzo stated that yes, Mr. McGowan was informed of the fiber being brought to the CNL and anchor institutions.

Trustee Price asked the Town Attorney to make a resolution or ordinance for the next agenda that would allow hiring and firing of staff be approved through the Board instead of just the Town Administrator. Trustee Evans stated that Board involvement in personnel could lead to potential litigation. She explained that the only staff that the Board oversees is the Town Administrator and the Town Administrator oversees Town employees as a part of her job description. Public comment was made.

Trustee Evans stated that employees have the option to come before the Board if there is an issue with the Town Administrator, but other than that, the Board should have no involvement with Town staff.

Trustee Winkleblack disagreed. He recounted his time working for the school district and how their practices involved the principal or superintendent making a recommendation of the hiring and/or dismissal of personnel and then the Board had ultimate authority for hiring and/or firing. Trustee Evans explained that the

role of elected board members is to provide policies for the Town and to give direction to the Town Administrator, not to hire and fire employees. Town Administrator Matarozzo said that she would seek advice from the attorney regarding this issue.

Trustee Price asked about appointments for Town Administrator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Attorney. Town Manager Matarozzo explained that the Town Attorney suggested to staff to wait for our new attorney to make appointments. Town Manager Matarozzo stated she will bring the appointments on the next agenda while holding off on appointing a new town attorney.

Trustee Price asked to have the positions of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer be moved to be determined by special election instead of by appointment. Staff will seek Attorney advice and report back.

Trustee Winkleblack commented as to the hiring and firing of employees. He believes dismissal should be reflected in employee evaluations and asked about Board access to annual employee evaluations. Staff will clarify with the attorney regarding employee personnel files and what is open record.

Ms. Lorrie Hammett asked the Board to confirm on record that the rumors of corruption at Town Hall have been and are purely gossip and that there is nothing to be investigated or addressed. The Mayor acknowledged Ms. Hammett, stating that he personally never heard of any allegations of corruption at Town Hall.

XI. Upcoming meetings

- A. June 4, 2024 – regular board meeting, 6:00 pm, worksession to follow**
- B. June 11, 2024 – worksession**
- C. June 18, 2024 – special board meeting with worksession to follow**
- D. July 9, 2024 - regular board meeting – CANCELED**
- E. July 16, 2024 - special board meeting with worksession to follow**

XII. Adjournment


**MOTION: TRUSTEE EVANS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING;
SECONDED BY TRUSTEE PRICE.**

VOTE RESULTS:

TRUSTEE ZENTZ - YES
TRUSTEE EVANS - YES
TRUSTEE WINKLEBLACK- YES
TRUSTEE PRICE - YES
MAYOR WILCOX - YES

MOTION PASSED

Meeting adjourned at 7:25



Approved



Attest

