

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20TH, 2024 7:00 PM
REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM PLATFORM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Andy Ward calls the meeting to order at 7:06pm

Voting Members: Andy Ward, Kim Wheels, Ben Foster, Janice Gerona, John Gerona, Sue Hehir, Jacey Depriest, Eric Beerman, Cara Binkley, Daniel Foregrave, David Calicott, Phil Hayden, Mark Rosenthal

Non-Voting Members: John Wontrobski, Lance Waring, Starr Jamison, Wiley Freeman, Cindy Wyszynksi

**2. ADOPTION AND SIGNATURE OF JANUARY 16TH, 2024
MEETING MINUTES**

Ben Foster motions, Kim Wheels seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kim Wheels motions, Janice Gerona seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

a) Presentations by SMC - Lance Waring presents first. Policy has changed in the last year to more frequent bombing to prevent slides from hitting the road. New closures (gates) are in place on Ophir Road.

Starr Jamison presents second. She mentions the possibility of CAIC forecasting for Spring Gulch, and also possibly looking into the history of slides in that path.

B) Election of officers - Sue Hehir motions, Jacey Depriest seconds. All officers were elected unanimously.

C) Microgrid Discussion - Andy gives overview/update. Jacey clarifies New Dominion land is incorrect, we'd attempt to put solar on Forest Service land near but not on that property.

Kim clarifies that the finalized proposal is from SMPA and Ophir staff.

Kim asks if a vote is required to give SMPA a response from the town of ophir.

Eric Beerman asks how a microgrid would work.

Wiley responds that centralized battery would be charged by any available rooftop solar when in "island mode". The study would measure how much existing rooftop solar there is and how much more could potentially be produced. When the grid is down, solar does nothing. With battery backup this solar would still be captured and stored. Wiley notes SMPA wants clear direction from Ophir to go forward with the study.

John Gerona notes approval for study and asks if net metering will change.

Wiley clarifies that net metering for home solar would work the same during battery backup (aka "island mode")

Janice Gerona notes that the controversy was over solar array and the removal of that piece should address these concerns.

Cara Binkley notes that there is a lot of incentives available for homeowners to do rooftop solar, would the study include that?

Wiley responds that it is largely up to the homeowner to do research on incentives. The study is just a high-level view to research capacity.

Kim notes that this is a great move to use the funds available to SMPA to improve our resiliency especially as electricity becomes the dominant

power source in Ophir. This study would give us a bulk number for what is possible with rooftop solar.

D) 2023 Long Form Audit Approval - John Wontrobski asks what is the threshold for long form exemption.

Cindy responds it is income under \$750k and expenses under \$750k.

Cindy hopes a full audit can happen this year.

Jacey motions, Janice seconds.

Motion passes unanimously

E) Resolution 2024-1 SMETSA 2023 Amendment - Sue motions, David seconds

Eric Beerman notes the resolution was incorrectly marked as 2023 – it is changed to 2024-1.

Sue motions again, Eric seconds

Motion passes unanimously

5. STAFF REPORTS

A) Town Manager -

i) John has followed up with the water report, they promised it would be in by now, but it isn't. Water plant update: electric valves have been installed for about \$16k, chlorine meter for \$6k, and chlorine something something for \$500. The water quality is excellent.

ii) Peter Harrelson memorial - Andy proposes building a bench and placing it somewhere in Ophir. John Wontrobski notes that prayer flags have been hung at Town Hall in honor of Peter.

iii) Telluride Historic Museum hike into history should be sometime this summer

iv) Waller update: town has ID'd 3 consultants who could do the job of conducting a new avalanche study.

Kim notes speeding has increased on Ophir Road, wonders what could be done to mitigate? Cones? Radar?

Phil asks for update on charter review.

Mark responds that the process has just begun, and they are seeking expert legal advice before fully reviewing the charter. The chair of the committee has yet to be assigned.

Phil asks if they will spend any funds.

Andy notes town may provide some small funds to go towards expert advice if needed.

Kim notes committee could present at next GA what its objectives are.

OEC - Jacey updates that they met w/ Hardrock 100 and the aid station will be back in the meadow by swamp bridge this year.

No new info about mine cleanup at New Dominion by the pass road.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Phil would like to nominate Teri Steinberg for P&Z.

John responds it will be brought up at the March P&Z meeting.

Discussion ensues about the nomination process, ending in a decision it can be done now.

Phil nominates Teri Steinberg to be a member of P&Z. Janice seconds.

Teri is elected with unanimous approval.

7. ADJOURN

Andy Ward motions to adjourn @ 8:39pm

*Minutes prepared by Ben Foster, Town Clerk
Audio and video recordings of all General Assembly Meetings are available to the public. Please contact the Town Clerk if you would like a copy of this month's audio of the meeting minutes.*