

**MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426
SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH 4:00 PM
TOWN OF OPHIR ZOOM REMOTE MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

(Corinne calls the meeting to order @ 4:05 PM)(via Zoom Video: Janice Gerona, Dick Unruh, Sydney Roop, Andy Martin, Amy Ward, Peter Harrelson, Monica Carey, Melanie Kent, Natalie Fijalkowski, Todd Rutledge, Joseph Schults, Corinne Platt, Coach Miller, Rhonda Claridge, Sue Hehir, Tyler Schultz) (Via Zoom Phone Call: Phil Hayden, Leigh Sullivan) (Non Voting: Cindy Wyszynski, Ken Haynes, Nathan Schroepfer)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ken motions to add sandwich street signs to the agenda items. Motion to Approve the Agenda, Sydney Roop motions to approve. Second- Phil Hayden seconds.

In favor: 13- Sydney Roop, Andy Martin, Janice Gerona ,Amy Ward, Coach Miller, Monica Carey, Melanie Kent, Natalie Fijalkowski, Corinne Platt, Todd Rutledge, Joseph Tompkins.(Phone: Phil Hayden, Leigh Sullivan)

Not in Favor: 0

Abstain: 1 abstain

BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Resolution 2020-1 Approving an Exemption from Audit for Fiscal Year, 2019- This is something that the Town of Ophir does every year, a normal yearly resolution. Since the Town of Ophir doesn't make or spend an under certain amount of money, this makes the Town of Ophir eligible for an exemption from audit. Needs to be sent to the state by end of month. Phil motions to

approve Resolution 2020-1, Approving an Exemption from Audit for Fiscal Year, 2019. Corinne seconds.

In Favor: (15) Sydney Roop, Andy Martin, Janice Gerona, Amy Ward, Peter Harrelson, Coach Miller, Monica Carey, Melanie Kent, Natalie Fijalkowski, Corinne Platt, Todd Rutledge, Joseph Tompkins, Joseph Shults (Phone: Phil Hayden & Leigh Sullivan)

Not in Favor: 0

Abstain: 0

B. Town of Ophir, Colorado Declaration of State of Disaster Emergency Due to Corona Virus and Providing for Electronic Signatures by Town Officials and Authorizing the Town Manager to Enter into No-Bid Contracts Including Contracts Over \$5,000.00-

Resolution 2020-2. A few reasons for creating the emergency resolution, Municipalities around us have passed similar State of Disaster Emergency resolutions. Passing this Resolution will allow the Town of Ophir to apply for FEMA funding due to expenses to cover COVID19. Town of Ophir had a Mayoral State of Disaster Emergency Declaration first- Must have General Assembly approval of this State of Disaster Emergency Declaration. How is this emergency scenario ended? Stated in Resolution, when County ends Public Health orders, the Emergency Declaration is ended. The Town of Ophir will follow any Public Health Orders issued by San Miguel County and State of Colorado while at the same time, Corinne & Ken will work together to make decisions in response to COVID-19 as it affects the Town of Ophir if stricter orders are needed for the town. Monica Carey motions to approve, Peter Harrelson seconds.

In Favor: Sydney Roop, Andy Martin, Janice Gerona, Amy Ward, Peter Harrelson, Coach Miller , Monica Carey, Melanie Kent, Natalie Fijalkowski, Corinne Platt, Todd Rutledge, Joseph Tompkins, Rhonda Claridge (Phone: Phil Hayden & Leigh Sullivan)

Not in Favor:

Abstain: Corinne Platt

C. General Discussion for- Sandwich Boards for the Roads- “Soft Closure of Backcountry Skiing in Public Land”. Town staff was noticing a lot of people were coming to Ophir to ski once the ski resort closed. Town staff was first concerned about people adhering to social distancing while preparing to get into the backcountry, then a few avalanches were skier triggered in the Ophir area. Town staff brought their concerns of backcountry use in Ophir to the Board of County Commissioners. After a meeting of Board of County Commissioners with Sydney, Corinne, and Ken, the intention to put signs up is to ask people to reconsider going into the backcountry due to spring avalanche conditions, an already taxed medical system, and putting Search & Rescue in risk of contracting COVID-19 in the case of a rescue. Town of Ophir does not have any intention to stop people from recreating in the backcountry and cannot close public land. We just want to limit people backcountry skiing during this pandemic and remind people to tone it down in the backcountry, and to stay 6 ft apart. It is important to remind people there is a First Responder System that could be stressed with having to perform rescues in the backcountry. There is discussion amongst the GA as to what is defined as “essential outdoor recreation” during the Colorado Shelter in Place Order. Ophir has no authority to close the forest. The signs are supported by SAR, Telluride Mountain Club, and San Miguel County. The sign is similar to a “Fire Ban” sign warning people of fire danger. Do other communities (Rico, San Bernardo?) have signs in regard to backcountry closure? Not sure, Ophir seems like only local town. No signs at the ski area. San Juan County passed a backcountry access resolution, limiting backcountry access. There is no vote on the sign, just an overall discussion amongst GA thoughts on the sign. Overall, the GA is in favor of the sign.

D. General Community Discussion: Corinne Platt opens up discussion for questions. Question in regard to vulnerable community members- does the Town have a list of vulnerable community members? Yes, Town of Ophir reached out to residents who would like to be on a list of vulnerable residents, residents who would like to be checked in on, and

created secondary contacts for those individuals. There is also a list of medical professionals who are residents of Ophir that have volunteered to be on a medical emergency personnel team, in case we need to get medical help to Ophir residents. Plan for loss of electrical power? There is a plan- developed many years ago. Town of Ophir has created an Emergency Personnel Management Team consisting of town staff and community members. The Emergency Personnel Team met with County officials a few months ago about Town of Ophir Emergency Plans.(Before COVID-19 hit the world) The current emergency plan for Ophir does not mention pandemic, we are using the County's emergency plan. What if internet goes down? Has anyone reached out to Visionary Broadband? Yes, Ken has reached out. If someone is having trouble with their internet, call the company. Funding is out there to help people who have lost their jobs etc. Town will put out email that residents can utilize for funding options in the coming week.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Ken Haynes- Town Manager: No staff report.

Corinne Platt- Mayor: No staff report.

Sydney Roop- Clerk: **1. Tri County Health.** I hope everyone is well. There are a few things I would like to say. If you are experiencing mental health issues during this wild time, please reach out, you are not alone. The Tri County Health Network is available to help you with emotional support, Financial support, Housing, Food, Transportation, Pet care, Childcare, Errands, etc during this time. The phone number to reach TCH is 970-708-7096. The TCH website is <https://tchnetwork.org/>. You can apply for assistance there, sign up to volunteer, or offer any resources you may have available to Tri County Health at this time. **2. San Miguel County Resource Center.** During the County and Statewide, Shelter in Place Order we find ourselves at home more than not. During this time, self isolation raises concerns for women, children, and men who may be experiencing domestic abuse at home. If you or someone you know, are experiencing domestic abuse, San Miguel Resource Center is the local source that can help. The phone number to the 24 hour hotline to the San Miguel County Resource

Center is:1.844.816.3915. Office 970-728-5660. The Resource Center, due to COVID19, is now seeing people by appointment only. The website to the resource center is smrcco.org. **3. Census 2020-** The Census is still happening! It is encouraged to fill out your census questionnaire online. Town staff needs to reach out to Paul Reich to confirm, but I believe that people going door to door will not be happening with the social distancing Order in place. The website to go fill out your Census questionnaire is <https://my2020census.gov/>. The Census benefits our community the most when the census counts everyone, federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race, and other factors.

Thank you all neighbors and fellow Ophirian's who are on the frontlines of this pandemic; the test site volunteers, all medical staff, the nurses, the doctors, the EMT's, government workers, and SAR. Thank you to everyone who is taking this shelter in place seriously and taking care of your's and your neighbors health. I'd also like to give a shoutout to everyone who was involved in bringing Broadband to Ophir, it has proven to be a necessary utility in this time. Again, I hope everyone is well.

Monica Carey- OEC Chair: No staff report.

Valerie Sloan: P&Z Chair: Not present.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Tyler Schultz has new business- Abandoned Mine Cleanup - Division of Mining and Reclamation- new adits- culverts. Three mines in Ophir- Tyler located the mines- (Tyler audio is really broken up- can't understand everything he is saying) 1. Banker Mine- San Miguel Conservation Mine. 2. No roads to these places, equipment couldn't get in to these places. 3. Nevada Gulch- the other one is in the woods. It's below the Opus Trail. Swamp Canyon A-bit Mine Closure- Going to access from East Ophir Road. This will be taken on at the OEC Meeting.

7. ADJOURN

Melanie Kent motions to adjourn, Joseph Tompkins seconds, All in favor of adjourning- Sydney Roop, Andy Martin, Joseph Tompkins, Melanie Kent, Corrine Platt, Rhonda Claridge, Todd Rutledge, Natalie Fijalkowski, Tyler Schultz, Sue Hehir (Phone: Phil & Leigh in favor.) Meeting ends @ 5:19PM



Town Clerk, Sydney Roop

6/11/2020

Date

Mayor, Corinne Platt

Date

Minutes prepared by Sydney Roop, Town Clerk