

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

**TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426**

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 7:00 PM**

**REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM PLATFORM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

(TIME 7:24)

Voting Members: Leigh Sullivan, Allyn Hart, Janice Gerona, John Gerona, Fiona Drew, Kelton Wright, Eric Beerman, Sue Hehir, Mark Rosenthal, Travers Mitchell, Elias Bahou, Todd Rutledge, Lisa Rutledge, Raven Cashen, Sonja Allen, Tyler Simmons, Kylie Mosher, Dan Hehir, Mark Ridders, Corinne Platt, Alison Palmer, Amy Ward, Rhonda Claridge, Andy Ward, Joe Shults, Judah Kuper, Jacey DuPriest, Miles Heiner, Ben Foster, Kim Wheels, Dave Chew, Chris Drew, Catherine Gockley, Dayna Baer, Peter Harrelson, Shoshanna Pollack, Lucas Leighton, Holly McCarthy, Bob Kingsley, Allison Kingsley, Heather Rosen, Teri Steinberg, Mark Campbell, Scarlet Bahou, Nan Darkis, Daniel Forgrave, Jerry Oyama, Parke Ehlers, Jesse Rose, Natalie Fijalkowski, Cara Binkley, Phil Hayden, Joni Barnes, Randy Barnes, Larry Rosen, Ryan Ehlers

Non Voting Members: John Griser, Nicole Bowling, Michael Bowling, Brad Zaporski, John Wontrobski, Terry Schyler, Ken Page, Cindy Wyszynski

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Andy Ward motions to approve, Jacey DuPriest seconds

Voice vote: Unanimous

## BUSINESS ITEMS

Microgrid Access Agreement presentations and GA comments, questions and discussion.

Brad Zaporski, SMPA CEO gives a short presentation outlining what SMPA is, how it generally operates and what its goals are.

Jacey DuPriest, OEC Chair gives a quick presentation regarding brown site locations around the town of Ophir that she's been looking into for potential solar microgrid locations.

John Griser gives a presentation on potential feasibility study including site selection, funding and scope of work. He also broke down how microgrids work with the greater electrical grid.

Kim Wheels presents on climate action. She overviews climate change patterns and threats, as well as energy use and supply. She highlights some of Ophir's Master Plan sustainability and preservation goals.

The GA members ask questions and make comments. Robust discussion ensues for roughly an hour.

Andy motions to approve a vote on Resolution 2023-01, Judah seconds.  
(A RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN OF OPHIR TO AUTHORIZE A SOLAR FACILITIES FEASIBILITY STUDY SITE ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR SOLAR FACILITIES ON TOWN PROPERTY)

A GA member asks if the vote can be private and everyone agrees.

The vote is tallied 28 yes, 26 no, 2 abstain. Because there must be a majority of yes's in order to pass the motion fails.

**WORK SESSION:** First Draft of 2024 Ophir Budget is reviewed and discussed by the GA.

## STAFF REPORTS

Town Manager John Wontrobski: is talking to DOLA about setting up a capital budget. San Miguel Board of County Commissioners wrote an open letter regarding tax increases, asking taxing districts to restrict increases to 19%. Town staff agrees we should take the full increase and put it towards capital projects. CDPHE conducted a sanitary survey on our water system, we did fairly poorly based on record keeping and maintenance. Water quality is very good, but we had two Tier 2 violations: our water tank interiors were not inspected on time - they were done late and the inspection was fine, and there were lacking records taken over the last 5-10 years. Our water plant membranes were recently replaced after failing prematurely at a cost of \$18,000. Due to irregular maintenance on the compressor system we have to switch to electric valves at a cost of \$25,000 or so. There are ongoing maintenance issues that John is trying to get on top of. Thanks to Ken Page for getting SMPA to move the transformer that was damaged in one of the avalanches last year.

Jacey Dupriest OEC Chair: New Dominion mine cleanup has been deferred to next year. The beaver activity is saturating the tailings pile and will complicate the cleanup, and they are recommending trapping and moving the beavers.

## NEW BUSINESS

Joe Shultz gives an update/background on the new East End Master Plan. There is some concern that this new plan could put high density housing in currently low density zones. The GA discussed writing a letter to the San Miguel County Commissioners but no consensus was reached.

## 7. ADJOURN

Andy Ward motions to adjourn @ 10:23

*Minutes prepared by Ben Foster, Town Clerk*

*Audio 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.*