

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
TOWN OF OPHIR, CO 81426  
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19TH, 2024 7:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Andy Ward calls the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Voting Members: Mark Rosenthal, Sue Hehir, Andy Ward, Allyn Hart, John Humphries, Larry Rosen, Eric Beerman, Natalie Fijalkowski, Tyler Schultz, Annabelle O'Neill, Chris Drew, Joan May, Leigh Sullivavan, Kim Wheels, Valerie Sloan, Mark Bellanger

Non-Voting Members: John Wontrobski, Cindy Wyszynski

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Sue Hehir motions, Mark Rosenthal seconds.

Approved via unanimous vote.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

A) Town of Ophir Water Monitoring Program Report – 2024 (Sullivan)

**4. BUSINESS ITEMS**

A) 2025 Draft Budget – First Reading (Wyszynski)

Eric Beerman asks if any additional funds will be allocated to the budget for water maintenance due to recent experiences with the water plant and system.

John Wontrobski notes that the addition of the public works position on staff will represent some of that increase. John also notes that some costs for water have been higher than they would be had preventative maintenance been done.

Tyler agrees that adding funds for water would be a good idea.

John Humphries notes that the Impact Fee that is collected on new builds which has been collected since around 2015-2016 should be allocated to the Capital Projects fund, not the General Fund.

Tyler proposes putting in \$25k on top of the current water budget for ongoing maintenance, for a total of \$45k. Some of that would go to replacing broken valves that will help diagnose where any leaks in the system are should they arise.

Road maintenance had gone overbudget, John will talk to Ground Pounders for an estimate to calculate what a budget increase would need to look like.

John Wontrobski mentions the potential purchase of a new backhoe. He proposes to talk about it as an individual item with the GA and not part of the budget.

Sue motions to approve the draft budget. Valerie seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

~~B) Approval/acceptance of 2023 Town of Ophir Financial Audit (if available) (Wyszynski)~~

## **5. STAFF REPORTS**

### **A) Town Manager**

San Miguel County is contracting with CAIC to have avalanche forecasting for Ophir Road. You can sign up for notifications via the county website.

John will be renewing his contract for employment with the town at the December GA at the same salary as 2024.

December 21<sup>st</sup> will be the Solstice burn on the Waller property. Any future burns will need to be on Ophir property.

### **B) Mayor**

The mayor thanks Tyler Shultz, John Wontrobski, Pat and Chris Drew and Ben Foster for their help getting through the water issues last month. John adds Stan and Randy were very helpful and Mike Kimball from Ground Pounders and their operator Toby, and Mark Bellanger who was very patient while being without water.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

Sue Hehir asks if there's anything that can be done about the very long and ugly reflective gate installed by the county for avalanche road closures. She proposes changing it to a swinging or pivoting gate.

Andy proposes looking into solutions without having to contact the county.

Tyler notes that he'd appreciate the county communicating with the town about their plans, and emphasizing that the community really cares about the aesthetics of the valley.

Andy notes that he and John will be in a meeting with the county soon and will have a cordial conversation about these and other concerns.

## **7. ADJOURN**

Andy Ward motions to adjourn @ 8:53pm

*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.*