

Minutes
Town Board Work Session
Town of Paonia, Colorado
May 30, 2018

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Work Session of the Town Board of Trustees held Wednesday, May 30, 2018 was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Charles Stewart, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees present were as follows:

Charles Stewart
Mary Bachran
Bill Bear
Chelsea Bookout
Karen Budinger
Sam Hart
Barry Pennell

Town Staff present were as follows:

Administrator Ken Knight
Clerk Corinne Ferguson

A quorum was present and Mayor Stewart proceeded with the meeting.

New Business

Preliminary Environmental Assessment for the North Fork Mancos Master Development Plan

Mayor Stewart provided an overview of the necessity for the special meeting, to discuss and decide if the Town should provide a written response to the Bureau of Land Management North Fork Mancos Master Development Plan. The deadline for response is June 9, 2018.

Mayor Stewart explained the proceeding, including length of time for public comment.

Citizens for a Healthy Community – Andrew Forkes-Gundmunson – submitted a letter and discussed key points including:

- Necessary to respond to BLM request
- Request an Environmental Impact Statement
- The Environmental Assessment is not a complete picture of possible impact
- Questioned the positive economic development for the long-term

Western Slope Conservation Center – Alex Johnson – submitted a letter and discussed key points including:

- Also supports Environmental Impact Statement adding the Environmental Assessment is not enough to accurately assess the impact of cumulative impact
- Concerns regarding surface water potential impacts
- The suggestions fit within the North Fork Alternative Plan, supported and adopted by the Board of Trustees
- Does not quantify the air quality impact and have not incorporated good data
- Concern noted of impact on wildlife
- Ground water protection not included

Mayor Stewart opened discussion to the public. Fourteen (14) people spoke in favor of a Town response to the NFMMDP, with one (1) stating the Town should respond in a positive manner, noting development has been on-going for many years in the area without incident. Other topics

discussed were:

- Impact of loss of coal mining
- Short-term vs. long-term economic gain
- Fracking impact on other communities
- Potential for illness
- Organics and health of the valley

On follow-up from CHC & WSCC:

- Road impact
- Pipelines
- Closed-loop water systems
- E.A. & E.I.S. process
- Other ways to provide energy

Review and discussion ensued.

Trustee Bear believes the Board should remain neutral in regard to the plan. Trustees Bookout, Hart, Bachran and Pennell spoke in favor of writing a letter for further impact analysis.

Motion by Trustee Bookout, supported by Trustee Hart to provide a written response to the BLM NFMMDP. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) nay.

Motion by Trustee Bookout, supported by Trustee Budinger to demand an environmental impact statement.

Motion to amend by Trustee Budinger, supported by Trustee Hart to include all drilling locations in Delta and Gunnison County. Motion to amend carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) nay.

Main amended motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) nay.

Motion by Trustee Budinger, supported by Trustee Hart to model the Town response to the Western Slope Conservation Center and Citizens for a Healthy Community letter, including potential health impact.

Motion to amend by Trustee Bachran, supported by Trustee Bookout to include salient impacts outlined in the WSCC & CHC letters. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) nay.

Main amended motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) nay.

Motion by Trustee Bachran, supported by Trustee Hart to set follow-up special meeting to review draft letter. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Trustee Hart, supported by Trustee Bachran to set special meeting for June 6, 2018 at 6pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Bachran, supported by Trustee Hart to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

s/s

J. Corinne Ferguson, Town Clerk

s/s

Charles Stewart, Mayor