

Minutes
Town Board Work Session
Town of Paonia, Colorado
July 16, 2018

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The Work Session of the Town Board of Trustees held Monday, July 16, 2018 was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Charles Stewart, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees present were as follows:

Charles Stewart
Mary Bachran
Bill Bear
Chelsea Bookout – arrived at 6:10pm
Karen Budinger
Sam Hart
Barry Pennell

Town Staff present were as follows:

Ken Knight – Town Administrator
Corinne Ferguson – Town Clerk

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Trustee Bachran, supported by Trustee Pennell to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Proposed 4th Quarter BLM Lease Sale

Mayor Stewart provided an overview of the special meeting, including previous discussion of the proposed lease sales at the previous Board meeting July 10, 2018. The Board of Trustees request for an extension to the comment submittal deadline of fifteen (15) days was denied without feedback or explanation. Citizens for a Healthy Community representative Andrew Forkes-Gudmundson was present to provided information and answer questions regarding the proposed BLM lease sale.

A fifty-three (53) page packet of information was provided to the Board. The 4th quarter lease sale includes over 250,000 acres, of which approximately 7,000 acres within Gunnison and Delta County. The CHC is requesting the Uncompaghre area be removed from the proposed lease sales while the plan is under revision. Concerns that the lease sale can include work outside the scope of proposed use was also noted.

Comment was opened for the Board. Topics noted were:

- Revision deadlines
- Length of appeal process
- Scoping period objectives
- Presentation of concerns
- Presentation of objections

Discussion ensued regarding both the proposed and existing leases.

Comment period was opened for the public. Eight (8) people spoke against the BLM 4th quarter proposed lease sale. One (1) letter was received, also in opposition of the proposed lease sale.

Topics noted were:

- Water contamination
- Ground contamination
- Air quality
- pollution
- Organic designation
- Unique community
- Untested chemicals
- Health impacts
- Methane gas
- Alternative energy options
- Long-term well-being of Paonia

Trustee Bear noted his association with Bowie Mine and stated he would abstain from all conversation, deliberation, and motions made.

Discussion ensued regarding a list of concerns provided by Trustee Bachran, seismic impacts, the 15-day window for comments being problematic for government responses, water contamination and mitigation, and the evidence that the community does not support oil and gas development.

Motion by Trustee Bookout, supported by Trustee Hart to authorize the Town Administrator complete a scoping letter to the BLM. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

Motion by Trustee Bookout, supported by Trustee Budinger to include the removal of the land parcels specified in the CHC scoping letter. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

Motion by Trustee Bookout, supported by Trustee Hart to include the specific concern with shortened commenting period and extension request denial without explanation. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

Motion by Trustee Bachran, supported by Trustee Hart that the scoping letter be written on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

list in the scoping letter. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

Motion to amend main motion by Trustee Bookout, supported by Trustee Hart to include the Bowie Mine #2 methane capture as described in the CHC letter. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

Main motion as amended. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

Motion by Trustee Bachran, supported by Trustee Pennell to approve the final proof of the letter by Trustee Bachran. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

Public comments added several more bullet topics such as:

- Wildlife
- Agra-tourism
- Agriculture
- The North Fork brands
- Arts designation
- Organics designation

Motion by Trustee Bookout, supported by Trustee Bachran to include bullet points discussed. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

Motion by Trustee Bookout, supported by Trustee Budinger to include a statement regarding the

youth and families who moved to the North Fork Valley for a way of living threatened by the proposed lease sales. Motion carried with five (5) ayes and one (1) abstention.

Adjournment

Motion by Trustee Hart, supported by Trustee Pennell to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

s/s

J. Corinne Ferguson, Town Clerk

s/s

Charles Stewart, Mayor