

# TOWN OF PITKIN SPECIAL MEETING

Newcomb Community Center

September 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 6:30pm

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## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

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**1. Call to Order:** Mayor pro tem Tom Gibb called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Trustees Ed Pianalto and Ramon Reed were present. Trustee Jerra Garetson was present via Zoom.

**2. For Council Action:**

- Discuss with possible action: Posting an RFP for snow plowing services

Mayor pro tem Tom Gibb received a lot of negative feedback on this subject which ranged from “unethical” to “worried.” The Town has had very good service and we didn’t need to do this. How many dollars would it take to switch our service provider? There is a contingency that has been happy with the service that has been provided and is worried and fearful that a change may not be everything we hoped it would be. He stated that with regard to snow removal, the county comes around and creates a berm. Last year, the Town approved a policy that said that berms are created and individuals are in charge of clearing your own driveway. If you run a business and have a parking lot to be cleared, that will be your responsibility also.

Trustee Ed Pianalto said that he has talked to a number of constituents and they said the RFP should be done since we are using taxpayer money and there are taxpaying citizens in town who would like to bid.

Mayor pro tem Tom Gibb stated that on the last page of the RFP, there is the option of splitting up the responsibility of various streets to various individuals. That seems like it could get sticky. He is more inclined to award the entire bid to one contractor.

Trustee Ramon Reed stated that this lays it out clearly enough for the contractors to submit a proposal. We can deal with anything that may be missing or more than we want at the time we review the proposals. He doesn’t see any problem with publishing what we have.

Trustee Ed Pianalto asked about multiple award. Mayor pro tem Tom Gibb stated that the Town hasn’t done this in the past but he could see that there are pros/cons to doing it either way. The Board asked if the plow list had been posted. Clerk Sara Gibb stated that it had not.

Trustee Jerra Garetson asked if the County plowed River to the downstream Town boundary. She also wanted to be sure that Cory Nasso was plowed past his driveway. She wasn’t sure if this needed to be addressed now or if they could be addressed when the bids come in. She also stated that on Armstrong, that it needs to go past more than first house. It needs to go past the Guigley home. Trustee Ramon reed stated that the Town does not need to worry about these issues at this time.

Trustee Jerra Garetson stated that she has a problem with where it shows that the successful recipient must show professional snow removal experience. She doesn't know that any of the two or three people that she can think of would actually qualify as having professional snow removal experience.

Mayor pro tem Tom Gibb stated that the RFP says people will be scored on this criteria. It may cause someone to be included or excluded. Mayor pro tem Tom Gibb stated that it's one of the criteria. That would be up to the Board.

Trustee Ed Pinalto thinks those are things to look at. He wants to know the scoring mechanism. Trustee Ramon Reed stated that the Board should use the word "evaluate."

**Motion to publish the RFP as modified made by Trustee Ramon Reed. Seconded by Trustee Ed Pinalto. Motion carried 4-0.**

Public comments: Chris Nasso, Pete Olson, Jake Schellenberg

- Discuss with possible action: Approving an easement agreement with Centurylink/Lumen

Trustee Ed Pinalto asked if Centurylink stated they didn't need to easement agreement, that they would work with the property owner to fix the line where it was at. He isn't sure why the Town would be offering this if they didn't need it.

Trustee Reed stated that he believes the Town should proceed with the easement agreement. Whether Centurylink wants to work with the property owner, he doesn't care. He just wants the phone line to be taken care of. Our phone service is tenuous at best. There are not only phone lines but also electrical lines on private property all over town. This isn't going to change any of that. It's simply what Centurylink was requesting. Allowing this easement in State Street for the block and a half that is required won't make any difference to what we are doing as a Town or to the traffic. He doesn't see any problem with approving the easement. He doesn't want to do anything to hold up [the repair]. People in Town, and especially those at the end of Town where these lines are, need to depend on the service.

Trustee Ed Pinalto is confused. If Centurylink has said they don't need the easement agreement and they want to withdraw it he doesn't understand why the Town should do this. He would like to let them work with the homeowner and if they need the agreement they can come back later and get it. Trustee Ramon Reed stated that if they don't want it, it doesn't matter. He wants to just do this so it can get done. Putting it off another month or until some agreement is or isn't worked out with the private property owner isn't his concern. He wants to get it done. Mayor pro tem Tom Gibb agrees with Trustee Ramon Reed. This gives them double options and either way it works out.

Trustee Jerra Garetson doesn't have any problem with the easement. [unintelligible].

There was something last meeting that was important that Trustee Ramon Reed was going to share.

Trustee Ramon Reed stated that he did share at the last meeting that at least one property owner in Town who uses Centurylink ground line service but also DSL service has been notified that the DSL service will be discontinued as of October 31<sup>st</sup>. He doesn't care about that. He does care about the phone service because that includes 911. It's a matter of convenience and safety to the residents of this Town. He doesn't want the unapproved easement to be something that could be used by Centurylink to cause them to drop service to Pitkin. There's no reason to put any obstruction in the way.

Trustee Ed Pianalto stated that he doesn't want to give Centurylink something they don't want. Trustee Ramon Reed stated that there is no guarantee that it's going to get done on the private property owner. If they can work it out on the private property, then nothing will be done on State Street.

Mayor pro tem Tom Gibb stated that years ago lines went in and now you have to be careful where you dig. That's why you call first. He has phone lines running across his property. He is not opposed to the easement agreement as it reads.

Motion to accept the easement agreement from Centurylink/Lumen made by Trustee Jerra Garetson. Seconded by Trustee Ramon Reed. Motion carried 3-1. Trustee Ed Pianalto cast a "no" vote.

Public comments: Chad Varnell

- 3. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Ramon Reed. Seconded by Trustee Ed Pianalto. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm**