

PITKIN TOWN MEETING
Newcomb Community Center

December 11th 2023 at 7:00pm

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Eddy Balch called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Trustee Tom Gibb was present. Trustees Lucinda Lull and Jerra Garetson were present via Zoom.

2. **Public comments*:** Ramon Reed

3. **Town Attorney Report**:** No report

4. **For Council Action**:**

12-1 Approve meeting minutes: October 9th regular meeting; November 13th regular meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 9th Regular Meeting and the November 13th Regular Meeting made by Trustee Lucinda Lull. Seconded by Trustee Tom Gibb. Motion carried 3-0.

12-2 Review treasurer's report

Treasurer Sara Gibb made updates to the Treasurer's report

Motion to approve December 2023 disbursements as revised made by Trustee Tom Gibb. Seconded by Trustee Lucinda Lull. Motion carried 3-0.

5. **Updates/Planning/Discussion**:**

- Presentation – Jake Schellenberg to present on consolidating properties below the Lodge.

Jake Schellenberg presented with regard to the property on which the Lodge sits and the property downstream from the Lodge with no address. The surveys on both of those properties show that Main Street runs through the properties. The Lodge was given part of Armstrong to compensate for that easement and the other property was given part of the originally platted Main Street to compensate. The property downstream has the majority of real estate on the creek side of Main Street but it's only functional for parking. Mr. Schellenberg is requesting that the property on the Lodge side be connected to the Lodge property to "clean it up."

Trustee Tom Gibb stated that this is a good idea. County Road 76 runs through lots 17-26 of Block 48 and splits it leaving a small area just downstream from the soil treatment area of the Lodge. The Town needs to give permission because subdividing a property and making it too small to use is not allowed per the Zoning Code. This needs to be done in the right order.

Mayor Eddy Balch asked if a survey would be done. Mr. Schellenberg would like the Board's approval before paying for a survey.

Trustee Tom Gibb stated that this is a matter of Mr. Schellenberg obtaining a survey and getting it deeded to himself.

Mayor Balch clarified that Mr. Schellenberg is not asking for any property, he already owns the property. He just wants it realigned. Mr. Schellenberg confirmed. He would like to clean it up. Trustee Tom Gibb clarified that this "clean-up" would keep all the property on the Lodge side separate from the property on the creek side. Mr. Schellenberg confirmed. Trustee Lucinda Lull wanted to make sure that this wouldn't affect anyone else, which it doesn't appear to.

The Board supports Mr. Schellenberg's request.

Public comments: Jesse Garetson

6. Special Additions to the Agenda**

- 2024 Budget – Review Draft 3

Clerk/Treasurer Sara Gibb reported about updates to this year's budget deadlines
Proposed added line for NEU funds for AV equipment (speaker, monitor, etc.)
Discussion about clerk compensation and adjustment to the budget for planned compensation increase (to begin in 2024)

7. Reports:**

- Town Mayor – Eddy Balch – No report
- Town Clerk – Sara Gibb – 2024 is an election year – Clerk will be keeping regular hours to allow for statutory deadlines. Hours will be posted. Clerk reviewed the CIRSA audit and the Board responded to various issues including: playground repairs and upgrades needed and Town Hall repairs/maintenance. Thanks to those who have completed yearly training for CIRSA. Please see written report for the following:
 - Building Inspector – Tom Gibb
 - Zoning Board – Jesse James Garetson
 - Cemetery – Mark Rossmiller
 - Environmental Health – Gayla Gibb
 - Streets – Jesse James Garetson
 - Ditches – Vacant
 - Town Hall – Ramon Reed
 - Parks and Rec – Vacant

9. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Tom Gibb. Seconded by Trustee Lucinda Lull.

Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held **Monday, January 8th** at 7:00PM. Council meetings are scheduled to adjourn at 9:00PM. At the council's discretion agenda item(s) not addressed by this time will be tabled until the next regular meeting. Approved minutes, ordinances, resolutions, agendas, and other Town of Pitkin public notices can be found at <https://townofpitkin.colorado.gov>

Reports

Commissioner and Community

- **Building Inspector** –Tom Gibb – One new permit issued for a detached, single-car garage
- **Zoning Board** – Jesse James Garetson – In light of our 11/27/23 ZBA meeting and because of the length of public comments and length of discussion on the Schellenberg petition to vacate streets and alleys, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm. The ZBA on a 5-0 vote requested the petitioner to provide additional information to be presented for further review by the ZBA. The unaddressed new business concerning Zoning Code revisions along with the old business of the building permit and OWTS spreadsheet status will be moved to the December 18, 2023 ZBA meeting.
- **Environmental Health** – Gayla Gibb – The Environmental Health Board requested and received verbal affirmation of compliance from Mr. Schellenberg that he would provide regular flow meter reports for the Stumbling Moose Lodge. He has received written and verbal reminders on multiple occasions, but as of this writing, no flow meter reports have been submitted.
- **Streets** – Jesse James Garetson – Winter is here. The County snow plow truck has been on Main Street 6 times. Their road grader has made 3 days in a row on side streets. Gunnison Valley Excavation has also been here the same 3 days (12/2, 3, 4)
- **Ditches** – Vacant – Report provided by Jesse Garetson – When spring 2024 arrives we have at least 2 culverts to install and an estimated 6 blocks of ditches to clean out with a mini excavator. Debris will need to be hauled away.
- **Cemetery** – Mark Rossmiller – No stated in an earlier report that it was likely the last report of the year unless an unforeseen , pressing issue arose. Well, the unforeseen issue came along and a meeting of the Cemetery Board was held in early October. I wanted to have this report filed for the November Trustee meeting, but nonfunctioning email prevented that , so I am presenting it now. The meeting took place on October 9, 2023. All members were present except Rachel New who was traveling and unable to attend. In addition to the pressing issue that necessitated the meeting, some other less pressing issues were also discussed. One issue is the subject of natural or "green " burials. The State of Colorado has passed legislation into law that natural burial procedures are legal in the State. The Board decided at an earlier meeting that we should become knowledgeable about this. Lois Sharpton has been researching the subject and presented a preliminary report. Natural burials differ from traditional procedure in that no casket or vault is used and traditional embalming chemicals are either very limited or not used at all. The body is placed in a degradable wrapping such as a natural fabric or something similar to a large, corrugated cardboard box and then buried very deep, more than the traditional 6 foot. No markers or stones are used and either the entire cemetery facility or a specially dedicated area is used. Growth of native grasses, wildflowers and shrub is encouraged in place of a formal tailored landscaping. Because no markers are used, records of burial location must be very carefully kept to ensure new burials do not encroach or disturb previous sites. The legislation does not mandate, but only makes it a legal option in

Colorado. The Board has some skepticism of the process and decided more research and discussion are needed. It has not taken any position or adopted any policies at this time.

During the fall season, 31 lots or grave sites have been sold and 15 plaques for the Memorial Wall have been sold and made. These plaques will be added to the Wall for display early next season.

Although there is currently a sign located on County Road 76 that marks the location of the cemetery, the Board feels that a new sign might be appropriate. The current sign is rather small and mounted low to the ground. It is easily obscured by tall growing grass or other vegetation and is not always highly noticeable. Board members are looking into a new sign more like a traditional highway sign that would be located along County Road 76. Items such as county or state requirements, size, shape and cost are being researched. We will also be looking to see what, if any help might be available from county or state sources. Further action next season.

Finally, the issue which prompted the meeting. Quartz Creek Property Owners is planning some road improvements and their contractor needs a place to temporarily store materials. An unused and undeveloped corner of the land owned by the Cemetery has been determined to be a good choice for this. The Cemetery Board received a request from Quartz Property Owners board President Dave Dennison for permission to do that. In exchange for granting them permission to use our property, they will include grading and placing new gravel surfacing on the road which passes through the center of the cemetery as part of their road improvements project at no cost to the Cemetery or Town of Pitkin. The arrangement is for only a short, one time use and work is to be done this fall and next spring. After some discussion, the Cemetery Board voted unanimously to accept Quartz Owners proposal. Meeting was then adjourned

- **Town Hall** – Ramon Reed – No report this month
- **Parks and Rec** – Vacant – No report