

PITKIN TOWN WORK SESSION

August 3rd 2020, 7pm

Newcomb Community Center

SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THIS MEETING

MASKS ARE REQUIRED

15 present, 15 masked

8 call-in participants

MINUTES

Full and timely notice of this meeting was provided pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(2)(c).

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Mayor Eddy Balch called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Trustees Chris Nasso, Lucinda Lull, Jerra Garetson, and Tom Gibb were present. Minutes taken by Clerk Sara Gibb.
2. **Update** - Update on OWTS systems in the Town of Pitkin - Environmental Health Agent Cyndi Wick reported via telephone. She reported that all 2019 delinquent systems were inspected except 2 (both properties owned by same owner). They are past the due date. No communication to EHA from delinquent property (Danny Sherrod - 622 and 632 Aspen Lane). One additional property is late from 2019 but the owners were initially not notified properly (1009 State St.) They have since been notified and have been in communication with Cyndi. Mayor Eddy Balch wanted to confirm that the Sherrod property was the only one delinquent from 2019 and prior. EHA Cyndi Wick confirmed that this was to the best of her knowledge, correct.

Regarding 217 State (Philips) – owner stated to EHA via phone or email that the fiberglass tank would be replaced by Phil Duetsch. No time frame for the replacement was given. Mayor Balch asked that Cyndi remind Phil and/or Mr. Philips that a permit is required for a tank replacement. The application can be requested from the Town Clerk. EHA will relay this to Mr. Philips.

Regarding 312 2nd Street (Huffer) – tank was pumped and inspected in 2019. This was confirmed with Valerie at Schmalz (confirmed pumped and inspected Aug 5, 2019). Valerie read the report to Cyndi and there didn't appear to be any problems per the report. Cyndi has received a copy of the inspection report and pumping bill. Per the paperwork received, that property does not appear to be a problem.

24 paid OWTS admin fee

27 inspected (2 needed pumping per report, 1 was pumped) – 1 remains needing pumped (815 State St., Schellenberg)

Mayor Eddy Balch asked about, 212 Main Street (Bill Jabas), which was a property that was reportedly delinquent per the 2/2020 EHA report – Cyndi reported that the computer states

the next inspection is due in 2021, however, it was not inspected in 2018 or 2019. No copy of 2018 inspection is on file.

53 letters for inspection were sent out for 2020, 27 have been inspected Y-T-D. Of the delinquent inspections, all except 3 were completed (622/632 Aspen, 1009 State).

3. For Council Discussion*:

- Discuss OWTS management in the Town of Pitkin (discussion may include response to EHA report)

Mayor Balch asked the Board to review Ord 2018-2 and send comments to Clerk. He wants to Board to consider moving from a 3-year cycle to a 5-year cycle.

Trustee Chris Nasso asked if the Board planned to discuss alternative systems. Mayor Eddy Balch stated that the current ordinance does not exclude alternative systems. Mayor Balch reported that he spoke with an engineer who stated that the same criteria is used for all systems – that is the standard.

Public comments: Jesse Garetson, Lois Sharpton, Gayla Gibb

- Budget discussion and planning (may include discussion of reserve policy and results of recent budget survey)

Trustee Tom Gibb reported that the budget survey results were mostly uniform – Street Maintenance and Plowing were typically the first and second priorities for all respondents.

Mayor Balch asked if the survey results were online – Clerk Sara Gibb confirmed that they were.

Trustee Jerra Garetson reported that when she filled out the survey, she was confused as to the request and filled it out thinking that because the mill levy did not pass, snow plowing was not important so she put snow plowing at the end. She was shocked that the same people who didn't want the mill levy to pass wanted snow plowing.

Mayor Balch stated that the Board wants to be open, the Board encourages comments, and he encourages everyone who wants to comment to please forward those comments to the Clerk and the comments will be distributed to the Board.

He asked if it people understood that when they voted no, they were voting no to street maintenance, which includes snow removal. He would like anyone who is interested in a mill levy increase, which would include snow removal, to reach out to the Town Board.

Trustee Tom Gibb stated, regarding the mill levy vote, that there were in his opinion several different thought processes that influenced how people voted including: no more taxes, live on streets already maintained by county plowing so additional taxes did not benefit them personally, those who think that we [Pitkin] have money already. The Town has conserved this money for years. The Town has not had a Board come in and spend down the money. This Board needs to continue to be conservative. In regard to budget shortfall, the Town cannot finish out the year without dipping into the reserves. He also wants to try and bridge the gap between the different thought processes if a mill levy is to come up for a vote again. Trustee Gibb does not see a way to replace any funds that are spent out of reserves. Mayor Balch agrees, specifically regarding another mill levy increase – he would like to build a consensus before the question even goes on the ballot. He would like to put together a reserve policy as soon as possible. He does not want to use reserve funds for operations and maintenance.

Trustee Jerra Garetson concurs with the comments made by Trustee Gibb and Mayor Balch. She asked if the Board needs to speak with the county ASAP and see where we stand in regard to plowing.

Mayor Balch stated that during the July mayor/manager meeting (which included Marlene Crosby and Roland Mason) he brought up that some people in Pitkin believed that it would be in Pitkin's best interest to unincorporate. There was a resounding "no" to that idea from Marlene, Roland, and everyone else at the meeting. If the Town should unincorporated, the level of snow removal would not change from what the county is supplying currently. No one in the group thought that unincorporation was a good idea. He stated that he and the Streets Commissioner will meet with QCC for the upcoming snow year.

Mayor Balch further stated that the idea of throwing away a part of Pitkin's history as an incorporated Town is disconcerting. Regarding the idea of unincorporating to solve problems that citizens have with each other, he does not believe this will fix those issues and will possibly make them worse. Trustee Lucinda Lull thanked Mayor Balch for speaking to this issue. Trustee Jerra Garetson has also spoken with county commissioners and she has never found any of them who felt that this [unincorporation] would help Pitkin with any problems it has. The historical residents if Pitkin have never given up. With the resources available and the young families moving to Town, Trustee Garetson is very excited about the future of Pitkin and does not believe it's in the best interest of the Town to give up.

Mayor Balch stated that the Board will focus on a reserve policy at upcoming meetings.

Public comments: Pete Olson, Ramon Reed, Suzy Metzler, Jesse Garetson, Gayla Gibb, Suzy Metzler, Rodger Lull, Alicia Archuleta, Sara Gibb

Mayor Balch thanked all participants who participated at the ditch headgate repair yesterday.

4. **Dismiss: Motion to adjourned made by Trustee Chris Nasso. Seconded by Trustee Lucinda Lull. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm**

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**Public comment to the Board of Trustees is encouraged. Comments may be limited at the mayor's discretion*

If special accommodation for alternative access is required, please contact the Town Clerk at thetownofpitkin@gmail.com or (970)787-0031 at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting