

NORWOOD TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Regular Session started at: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting at: 1670 Naturita Street, Norwood CO 81423 at Norwood Town Hall and Zoom option.

MINUTES

OTHER ATTENDANCE: Multiple community members via Zoom. Those in person are asked to sign in on the sign in sheet.

Call Regular Meeting To Order

- Mayor Candy Meeting called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm.
 - Trustees Present: Shawn Fallon, Niven Drybrough, Michael Grady, Morgan Rummell and Candy Meehan
 - Staff Present: Randy Harris,
 - IT Contractor: Jason LaFlamme

Amendment to Agenda

- Mayor Candy Meehan requested to move staff reports to the top of the agenda to accommodate SMSD Sargent Donnellan's schedule. The board agreed to move staff reports to the top of the agenda.
 - Shawn Fallon made the motion to move staff reports to the top of the agenda to accommodate SMSD Sargent Donnellan. Niven Drybrough Seconded. Motion carried 5 / 0.

SMSD Report

- San Miguel Sheriff's Office Calls for Service:
SMSD Sargent Donnellan reported on extra patrols, stop sign violations, and plans to increase enforcement, especially around the library and park areas, discussed the continuation of the School Resource Officer program despite low staffing levels, provided statistics on call volumes and mentioned a new system to create a heat map for better analysis. Increased patrols and enforcement for stop sign violations will be implemented. The SRO program will continue with positive feedback.

Public Comment For Items Not On The Agenda

Statement made to public that there would be no discussions of personnel as per direction from legal council and the town insurance company.

- Statements of concerns about the operations and staff workload of the Water and Sanitation Districts
- Statement of concerns regarding various economic development programs and expressed concerns about their continuation due to recent staff changes.
- Statement of concerns of issues about the Mayor's and Trustee's conduct, misuse of funds, and called for their removal.
- Statements expressed opposition to the firing of the Town Clerk and requested transparency regarding the reasons.
- Statement that highlighted the significant grant contributions made by the fired Town Clerk.

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Special District and Stakeholder Reports, Announcements and Information

- The Water Commission decided to hire an interim employee to handle payroll and ensure that essential services like streets, sewer, and water are maintained. Amanda Pierce was proposed for the role due to her access to payroll. There were concerns about the current employee being overwhelmed and scared when left alone. The need for additional staff support was emphasized.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes of May 8, 2024
 - Niven Drybrough made the motion to approve minutes of May 8, 2024. Michael Grady seconded. Motion carried 5 / 0.
- Minutes of June 12, 2024
 - Michael Grady made the motion to approve minutes of June 12, 2024. Niven Drybrough seconded. Motion carried 5 / 0.
- June Financials
 - Niven Drybrough made the motion to approve minutes of June 12, 2024. Shawn Fallon seconded. Motion carried 5 / 0.
- Community Gardens Lease Agreement 2024
 - Shawn Fallon made the motion to approve Community Garden Lease. Michael Grady Seconded. Motion carried 5 / 0.

Board Business Agenda

- Music on the Mesa Update, Daiva Chesonis
The board attempted to get an update on the Music on the Mesa event from Diva, but she was not present.
No specific conclusion was provided.
- Anna Stout Consulting Contract
The board discussed the consulting contract, which was intended for training and support for the former town manager. There was a debate about the necessity and the process of selecting a consultant. The need for board training was discussed, including the difficulties in scheduling and finding appropriate trainers. Previous attempts to secure training from SIRSA, DOLA, and a Montrose County Commissioner were mentioned. The board decided to set the consulting contract aside for the time being. No specific conclusion was provided.
- The Board of Trustees is now responsible for the management of the town. There was a discussion about the need for all board members to have access to the town attorney.

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- Board discussion about the process of setting the agenda and the difficulties faced due to the lack of staff. The agenda was set on Thursday, and there were issues with adding items to it. Concerns were raised about the immediate plan for day-to-day operations of the town, especially in the absence of staff. The need for a work session to address these issues was proposed.
 - Discussion on handling personnel issues and the need for mediation to resolve conflicts. Discussion on seeking temporary assistance from other towns and organizations to manage workload. There was a discussion about ensuring that staff are paid on time. Becky Hannigan offered to come in and handle payroll under certain conditions that were acceptable to the board. There were multiple instances of poor communication, including a water break that went unreported. The need for a better communication system was highlighted.

Staff Reports

- Public Works Director, Randy Harris
The board discussed the possession and safekeeping of town documents and items left by the former town manager. There was an agreement to surrender these items to Randy for safekeeping. Proposal to give Randy Harris autonomy to make decisions regarding public works on behalf of the town on an interim basis.
 - Candy Meehan made the motion give Randy Harris autonomy to make decisions regarding public works on behalf of the town on an interim basis. Morgan Rummel Seconded. 5 / 0
- IT Contractor, Jason LaFlamme
Discussion on how calls are currently handled by Shawnee and the need to set up an internet line for voicemail to manage calls more effectively. Discussion on how calls are currently handled by Shawnee and the need to set up an internet line for voicemail to manage calls more effectively. Discussion on setting up a generalized email inbox and auto-responder to handle incoming emails and calls efficiently.
- Jason is directed to set up an auto-attendant response and a generalized email box within 24 to 48 hours.
 - Candy Meehan made the motion give Jason LaFlamme directed to set up an auto-attendant response, modification to the website and a generalized email box within 24 to 48 hours. Michael Grady seconded. 5 / 0

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Mayor and Trustee Reports and Announcements

- Mayors Report – Provided
- Trustee Reports:
Morgan Rummel
Concerns about leadership and the negative impact on the town's progress. Discussion about the firing of staff, with concerns raised about the board and mayor's lack of intervention. Expresses concerns about the unexpected firing, the working relationship between Dina and Amanda, and the overall negative impact on the town. Discusses the negative impact of recent actions on various individuals and the town's progress, mentioning specific incidents and concerns about leadership. Discusses the lack of progress in the town since joining the board, mentioning that public works and town staff have done great things, but the board has not accomplished anything significant. Suggests that resigning might be the best move for the town to get back on track, emphasizing the importance of town staff over board members. Statement about potential future leadership and the need for new leadership to allow town staff to continue their work effectively.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Niven Drybrough at 08:27pm, seconded by Candy Meehan. Motion carried 5 / 0.

Minutes taken by Candy Meehan, Board approved with corrections at Board of Trustees meeting September 11, 2024.

NOTE: This agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items up to 24 hours in advance or the deletion of items at any time. The staff reports may include administrative items not listed. Regular meetings, Public Hearings, and Special Meetings are recorded, and ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY ITEM. Formal Action cannot be taken at Work Sessions.

For further information, contact Town Hall at 970-327-4288. If special accommodation is necessary per ADA, contact 970-327-4288 or via email pierce@norwoodtown.com prior to the meeting.