

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
PONCHA SPRINGS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**330 BURNETT AVE., PONCHA SPRINGS, COLORADO**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010 - 6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Thonhoff, who asked for a roll call.  
Those present:

Mayor:	Mark Thonhoff
Mayor Pro-tem:	Aaron Kroschel
Trustees:	Rick Roberts, Galen Angelo, Ruby Taylor, Ron Slaughter, Darrell Donahoo
Town Attorney:	Absent
Town Administrator:	Jerry L'Estrange
Public Works Director:	Greg Smith
Clerk/Treasurer:	Diana Heeney
Town Planner:	Absent
Visitors:	Christine Clark, Bill Clark, Tony Burns, Leo Gardino, Darryl Atherton, Bob Hahn, Larry Walrath, Connie Cole, Mike Forro, Alison Ramsey, Katy Grether, Ken MacNicol, Audrey Gilpin (Mtn. Mail)

**ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CORRECTION TO AGENDA:**

Mayor Thonhoff stated Neighbor to Neighbor/Chaffee Shuttle would be moved up on the agenda and Ms. Katy Grether will give an update on the Hutchinson Homestead project.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion: Trustee Taylor made a motion to approve February 8, 2010 Board minutes; seconded by Trustee Slaughter. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Neighbor to Neighbor Volunteers/Chaffee Shuttle Update**

Ms. Connie Cole, Neighbor to Neighbor Volunteers, reported the Chaffee Shuttle numbers continue to increase with a 203% increase over the total shuttle in the initial year of service. She went on to say the service benefits every member of the community (Chaffee County). Ms. Cole stated with the implementation of the bus service from Salida to Denver, Alamosa and Gunnison, provided seven days a week, NTNV has truly established a transit center in the community. She went on to say CDOT has provided needed funding for the RTA service, noting Alamosa has been added to the route. Trustee Taylor ask if Colorado Springs would be added to the route. Ms. Cole stated there are no plans at this time. Ms. Cole stated grant funding and donations made the NTNV, 54 Jones Avenue, Salida, office a reality.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Visitor Center Master Plan Presentation**

Christine Clark, UCD, Project Lead, provided copies of the master plan to Board members and informed the Board that the Visitor's Center Master Plan contains eight elements, Visitor Center(building), Interpretation, Veterans Memorial, RV Host Site, RV Dump Station, BMX, Dog Park, and Connection Trail. She stated the VC building will provide restrooms, indoor/outdoor interpretations, outdoor children's play facility, and a picnic area. She went on to say the VC building is proposed to be the first element developed with grant funding and donations. Ms. Clark noted the master plan phasing of the eight elements will allow the project to move forward through long range planning/funding. It was agreed that the master plan is a starting point for the overall development of the visitor center site. The veterans in attendance spoke in favor of the plan and stated they would be glad to participate in raising money for the project as well as being involved in the development of the Veterans Memorial site. Ms. Alison Ramsey, GARNA Executive Director, stated there is approximately \$108,000 in available funding for the VC project. Noting the hopes are that this will jump start the overall project. Mayor Thonhoff ask if Ms. Ramsey is satisfied with the proposed plan. Ms. Ramsey stated yes, noting the grant was written before the current plan, stating the project needs to move forward within grant funding guidelines. She went on to say the Visitor's Center project needs support from county entities to keep it viable. The Board thanked Ms. Clark, complimenting her on a job well done.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **Hutchinson Homestead Update**

Ms. Katy Grether informed the Board that exterior renovation to all the out buildings and the house has been completed. She went on to say she is writing another grant for interior renovation of the house, asking the Town for a letter of support for the grant application. The Board agreed to write a letter of support. Ms. Grether stated when the restoration portion of the project is completed a grant will be written for a visitor center, parking lot, and furnishings at the Hutchinson Homestead site.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Liquor License Renewal – High Valley Center Pub & Grub**

**MOTION: Trustee Slaughter made a motion to approve High Valley Center Pub & Grub liquor license renewal; seconded by Trustee Roberts. Motion carried, with Mayor Thonhoff abstaining due to a conflict of interest.**

### **Appointment of Ex-officio and Planning Commissioner to Planning Commission**

Mayor Thonhoff appointed Trustee Ron Slaughter as ex-officio, Steve Rust as commissioner, and Tim Walker as alternate commissioner to the Planning Commission.

### **Request for Letter of Support – Chaffee County Fairgrounds GOCO Planning Grant**

The Board approved a letter of support from the town for the Chaffee County Fairgrounds GOCO planning grant application. Trustee Roberts noted an economic development study was done by the county, suggesting this document could be reviewed in conjunction with the proposed planning at this time. Administrator L'Estrange will follow up on this with Mr. Christianson, Chaffee County.

### **Chaffee County Renewable Energy Plan**

The board agreed to have Ms. Kathryn Wadsworth report to the Board on this proposal at the March 8, 2010 meeting. PW Director Smith will follow up with Ms. Wadsworth.

### **ADMINISTRATOR' S REPORT:**

#### **Friend Ranch Quit Claim Deed**

Administrator L'Estrange stated a copy of the quit claim deed for Lot Y was included in the packets. Trustees Roberts and Slaughter ask for clarification on the town only receiving quit claim deed to one lot, noting the plat has two lots. Trustee Roberts stated Lot Z was redone to fit the current plan. PW Director Smith stated he cannot find the trigger in the ADA for the quit claim deed for the Lot Z, noting he will follow up with Mr. Richard Chick for a determination on Lot Z.

#### **Chaffee County Building Permit Update**

Administrator L'Estrange stated the County has postponed a decision on this until March, noting the Board can revisit the item after the County makes their decision. The board agreed.

#### **Attendance at Buena Vista Board Meeting**

Administrator L'Estrange informed the Board that the County will present information on the proposed county wide sales tax to the BV Board, noting a request for Poncha Springs Board attendance was requested. Trustee Roberts and Administrator L'Estrange will attend the 5:30 p.m. meeting in Buena Vista.

#### **Chaffee County & Town of Poncha Springs Lease/IGA Re: Fairgrounds**

Administrator L'Estrange stated the County has requested renewal of the Fairgrounds Lease/IGA. The Board briefly discussed the proposed lease, noting there is no language in the lease if the parties were to end the agreement and the Board also wanted language addressing event vendors collecting sales tax. Administrator L'Estrange stated Town Attorney Redmiles has not reviewed the lease, noting he will follow up with the attorney and Chaffee County. The board tabled the item. The Board agreed that the Town is favorable toward the lease in regards to the proposed planning grant and future upgrades of the fairgrounds, noting the town will benefit from this.

## **CCCMA Conference Update**

Administrator L'Estrange stated he had attended the CCCMA conference in Glenwood, noting the sessions were beneficial. He went on to say the session on medical marijuana was well attended with a lot of discussion, noting there is a lot of uncertainty/questions at this time.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Attorney Redmiles was not present, but will be available by phone if needed.

### **PLANNING & ZONING:**

#### **February 1, 2010 Minutes**

February 1, 2010 minutes included in the packets.

### **FINANCE:**

#### **February 17, 2010 Meeting**

February 17, 2010 finance committee meeting was held.

**MOTION: Trustee Roberts made a motion to pay January bills; seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Kroschel. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Mayor Thonhoff made a motion to adjourn to executive session for a conference with the Town Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advise on specific legal questions under C.R.S. §24-6-402 (4) (b); and for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, under C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e) regarding:**

**1. Friend Ranch**

**2. Salida Sewer Agreement**

**to include Mayor, Mayor Pro-tem and Trustees, Town Administrator, and PW Director; seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Kroschel. Motion carried unanimously.**

The regular Board meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The Executive Session convened at 8:29 p.m.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:27 p.m.

The Board agreed to hold a Special Meeting/Executive Session on February 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

With no further business the regular board meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Diana K. Heeney, CMC  
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved As To Form and Content:

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark F. Thonhoff, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry L'Estrange  
Town Administrator