



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Saratoga Town Hall, 110 E Spring Ave, Saratoga, WY 82331

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at 06:00 pm

- 1) Opening Ceremony

- 2) Roll Call: __Mayor Chuck Davis __Councilman Cooley __Councilwoman Beck
__Councilman Jerry Fluty __Councilman Jacob Fluty
All members of council were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilman Jerry Fluty to approve agenda for January 16, 2024, second by Councilman Mike Cooley. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 3) Minutes from Council Meeting January 2, 2024
Motion to approve minutes from Council Meeting on January 2, 2024, by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilman Mike Cooley. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Motion to approve financials for January 16, 2024, was made by Councilman Jerry Fluty second by Councilwoman Kathy Beck. Motion carried.

- 4) Deposits - \$507,931.11
- 5) Accounts Payable - \$122,421.40
- 6) Transmittals - \$51,722.70
- 7) Payroll - \$39,372.85

CORRESPONDENCE

- 8) Valley Village Open House

Valley Village Childcare Center will be hosting an open house on January 19, 2024, from 6pm - 8pm.

9) Wyoming Community Gas Representative Selection

As a member of the Wyoming Community Gas Joint Powers Board, we are responsible for designating at least 2 people to serve as voting Board members of the Wyoming Community Gas. These board members will be expected to attend the quarterly board meetings either in person, or by phone. Councilwoman Kathy Beck volunteered to be a WCGJPB member for the Town of Saratoga.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

10) Special Event Application - Low Water Winter Jam

McCall Bureau presented a Special Events Application for the Low Water Winter Jam to be held on February 24th at 110 W Bridge Ave. The event will be held at the Old Theater space next to Union Telephone and consist of a Family Friendly evening of music and dancing. Ms. Bureau also submitted an application for a 24 Hr. Alcoholic Beverage Permit for the event. A motion was made to approve the application and get advertising going by Councilwoman Kathy Beck second my Councilman Mike Cooley. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

Town Hall

11) Designate Official Newspaper

Mayor Davis designated the Saratoga Sun as the official newspaper for the Town of Saratoga. Motion was made by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilman Mike Cooley. Motion carried.

12) Designate Official Depository and RNB State bank as the official depository for the Town of Saratoga. Motion was made by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilman Mike Cooley. Motion carried.

13) Appointment of Legal Counsel

Mayor Davis will reappoint Kylie Waldrip as legal counsel. Motion made by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilman Jacob Fluty. Motion carried.

14) Term of Appointment for Municipal Judge per Ordinance 2.08.031

Mayor Davis appointed Dan Massey as Municipal Judge for the remainder of his term. Motion made by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilwoman Kathy Beck. Motion carried.

15) Term of Appointment for Chief of Police per Ordinance 2.08.031. Mayor Davis appointed Chief Mike Morris for the remainder of his term. Motion made by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilwoman Kathy Beck. Motion carried.

16) Appointment of Town Treasurer. Mayor Davis appointed Corina Daley as Town Treasurer for the remainder of his term. Motion made by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilwoman Kathy Beck. Motion carried.

17) Appointment of Town Clerk. Mayor Davis appointed Jennifer Anderson as Town Clerk for the remainder of his term. Motion made by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilwoman Kathy Beck. Motion carried.

18) Wy Tribune Eagle Invoice 122357112 - Never Forget Park

Motion pay invoice in the amount of \$2,074.71 out of the Never Forget Park fund for advertising in the Rawlins Daily Times by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilwoman Kathy Beck. Motion carried.

19) Treasurer Report

Treasurer Corina Daley stated we are looking good; we are getting more deposits coming in from impact funds than we projected. Interest in WYOSTAR is paying good, we are getting 4.25% in interest right now. Balances of each Wyostar account were stated. Each department's budget projections, revenues and expenditures were presented. There were no questions or concerns.

Police Department

Chief Mike Morris stated there have been 131 calls of service since the last meeting. It has been a very busy time. Morris would like to acknowledge the staff of the police department for their time and dedication in keeping the public safe.

20) Powerphone Agreement with CCSO 1/3 \$34,971.75

Chief Morris tabled Powerphone until a later date.

21) Dispatch Discussion

Chief Morris stated the Communication Center is at a crossroads. Going forward there are tough decisions to be made. It will take about \$500,000 to \$700,000 to update all equipment, and staffing is an issue. The department is down one fulltime dispatcher, we have 6 parttime dispatchers. The decision that needs to be made, buy new equipment and 5-7 years when it is outdated, buy again, or combine resources with CCSO. Short term we will be able to continue, long term it will not work. No matter what we choose, it needs to be sustainable. Chief Morris met with members from the county, they gathered to discuss combining dispatch services. Chief Morris has invited members of the county to come discuss and answers questions. Sheriff Alex Bakken, County Commissioner Sue Jones, Encampment Fire Chief Corey Nuhn, Saratoga Fire Chief Pat Waliser, Encampment Chief of Police Kevin Shue. Commissioner Sue Jones stated by statute County Commissioners have no say in what happens, they are strictly moral support and financial to the Carbon County Sheriff office. This decision will be between the Town of Saratoga and CCSO. Commissioner Jones recapped her time in dispatch, "It is a difficult job". The more we work together as a group, the better it is. This is a tough decision; she commends Chief Mike Morris for his hard work and courage in taking the steps to keep the community safe.

Sheriff Alex Bakken stated he has spent hours with Chief Mike Morris trying to figure out a resolution to this matter. What Saratoga is experiencing is not unique to Saratoga. Both CCSO and Rawlins Police Dept are down dispatchers. He does not see this as a failure, this is what he believes is the natural progression of dispatch facilities. We need to look not only at the present but 5-10 years down the road. Right now we are basically tripling cost to taxpayers by sustaining 3 dispatch centers. Bakken states he would rather combine now when they have the time, rather than it be under emergency circumstances. CCSO has the capability to dispatch for Saratoga tomorrow, it would not be perfect, but we could make it work. Mayor Chuck Davis stated he would like to see a firm number and see what it will be yearly to maintain. Davis stated that the Town of Saratoga needs to see why we are looking into this and be heard, this is not something that is going to be decided in the next couple council meetings.

Chief Mike Morris states right now thinking this through, the best solution is to combine. Councilman Mike Cooley stated it is our job to do the best for our community. Mayor Davis asked for the opinions from members of the surrounding emergency agencies. Chief Pat

Waliser, hard to give up the center, if we don't have the updated equipment, or staff you don't have a dispatch center. Chief Kevin Shue just received equipment to be able to communicate with CCSO. Hate to see it go to Rawlins, but it seems to be what is best. Dispatchers in Saratoga are worn out.

Commissioner Sue Jones, wanted to make it clear "This is Carbon County not Rawlins. We need to come together as Carbon County residents. Chief Morris agreed this is entities coming together for the good of the people, not a takeover. This is not something that he has taken lightly, just believes this is the thing to do.

Fire Department

Chief Pat Waliser reports Engine 13 will cost about \$12,000 to get truck fixed, we need to get the truck fixed and back in town. AC unit is in, there is no rush in getting it installed right now.

Elections of Officers

Chief Pat Waliser

Assistant Chief - Tom Westring

Captain - Nick Carey

Lieutenants - Creed James and Rusty Arnold

Training Officers - Marcos Zaragoza and Ryan Wells

22) Curtis Invoice INV775559 \$4,454.66

Motion was made to pay Curtis invoice in the amount of \$4,454.66 by Councilman Jerry, second by Councilman Jacob Fluty. Motion carried.

23) Platte Valley Heating & Air LLC Invoice 1311 \$4,040.00

Councilman Jerry Fluty made a motion to pay the Platte Valley Heating and Air Invoice in the amount of \$4,040.00, second by Councilwoman Kathy Beck. Motion carried.

Recreation Department

Next meeting is February 05, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall Council Chambers

Director Kim Hemenway stated Pond Hockey was a success, 31 players showed up to play, and are already talking about next year's event.

24) Mountain Film on Tour Invoice 030824-1 \$1300.00

Motion was made to pay invoice from Mountain Film Company in the amount of \$1300.00 by Councilwoman Kathy Beck, second by Councilman Mike Cooley. Motion carried.

Department of Public Works

Director Emery Penner wanted to acknowledge Streets Department, they are doing great and working hard. Our streets look GREAT. Just a reminder, we clear the travel ways. There is an ordinance about parking on the street. If you can at all possible do not park on the street.

- 25) Dump Truck Proposal
Motion to approve bid for Dump Truck in the amount of \$159,077.00 by Councilwoman Kathy Beck, second by Councilman Jerry Fluty. Motion carried.
- 26) Engineering Associates Invoice 4312071 \$12,802.18
Motion to pay invoice to Engineering Associates in the amount of \$12,802.18 and \$278.25 by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilman Mike Cooley. Motion carried.
- 27) Engineering Associates Invoice 43123063 \$278.25

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Water and Sewer Joint Power Board

Next meeting is February 14, 2024, at 5:30 PM at the PVCC

- 28) Carbon County Impact JPB Reimbursement Invoice #01-10-2024 \$9,989.81
Councilwoman Kathy Beck made a motion to pay Reimbursement Invoice in the amount of \$9,989.81 for the River Street Project, second by Councilman Jerry Fluty. Motion carried.
- 29) Watson Well Service Invoice 9395 \$70,515.95
The wells look great, working with Watson was great . Motion to pay invoice \$70,515.95 to Watson Well Service by Councilwoman Kathy Beck, second by Councilman Jerry Fluty. Motion carried.

Planning Commission

Next meeting is February 13, 2024, at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall Council Chambers

- 30) Kevin Rangel, OV Consulting Saratoga Transportation Alternatives Master Plan
Kevin Rangel with OV Consulting presented a power point update on the Transportation Alternative Plan. There will be a public meeting tomorrow night with results from surveys, maps, and discussions regarding the Transportation Alternative Plan. Rangle and his associates will be there to answer questions and get feedback from the community.

Community Center Joint Powers Board

Next meeting is February 12, 2024, at 4:30 PM at the PVCC

- 31) PVCC Quarterly Invoice #1511 \$15,000.00
Motion to pay Quarterly Invoice in the amount of \$15,000.00 by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilman Mike Cooley. Motion carried.

Recreation Commission

Next meeting is February 5, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall Council Chambers

Saratoga Airport Advisory Board

Next meeting is February 12, 2024, at 3:30 PM at the Town Hall Council Chambers

South Central Wyoming Emergency Medical Services Board

Next meeting is February 19, 2024, at 6:00 PM in Hanna

- 32) FY 2024 3rd Qtr Ambulance Service Payment \$14,467.00
Motion to pay quarterly invoice in the amount of \$14,467.00 by Councilman Jerry Fluty,
second by Councilman Jacob Fluty. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

FURTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:49 by Councilman Jerry Fluty, second by Councilman Mike Cooley.
Motion carried.

**THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024, AT 6:00 PM.**

Mayor Chuck Davis

Jenn Anderson, Town Clerk