

TOWN OF EMPIRE  
30 East Park Avenue –P.O. Box 100 Empire CO 80438-0100  
303/569-2978 – 303/569-2282 fax

**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
December 13, 2022

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 PM.  
The meeting was held in person and through Zoom.

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Mayor Wendy Koch, Mayor Pro-Tem Linda Robertson, Trustee Denise Tennant, Trustee Susan Owen, Trustee Shannon Hickman, Trustee Lorry Singmaster, Police Chief Andrew Lorenz, Attorney Colleen McCroskey, Town Clerk Jeannette Piel.  
**A quorum was present at the meeting.**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**TRUSTEE ROBERTSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 13, 2022, TRUSTEE TENNANT PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.**

**4. Presentation of the Proposed 2023 Budget for the Tow of Empire**

- a. 2023 Budget Message
- b. Certification of Tax Levies for Non-School Governments
- c. 2023 Proposed Budget Overview
- d. 2023 Proposed Budget Workbook

Clerk Piel reviewed the 2023 Proposed Budget in detail.

- Trustee Tennant asked for clarification concerning the move of the Generator Fund to the General Fund, as well as the Lease Obligation for the three police vehicles and when the Town start thinking about a different split in the Water/Sewer Fund to begin placing more funds for the sewer. The Town replied as soon as they have more information about the grant and funding position.
- Robin Raulf-Sager shared concerns on the number of police officers increasing, the times of day they are on duty verses high crime times, speed controls, flashing lights and to reevaluate the Traffic Taskforce idea. Robin asked the Town to hire the correct skills for each position and to make sure the Town does not overuse the water and sewer. Clerk Piel stated the Town is working on the meters to provide usage numbers, but the information needs to be evaluated for a year prior to going live.
- Margi Kaspari agreed with Robin Raulf-Sager's comments.
- Chief Lorenz reviewed the stats showing how many calls, times of calls, and reasons for calls, the Police Department has received from January 1, 2022, through November 30, 2022.
- Clerk Piel shared stats on the 38 times residence have requested more time from the police officers in previous meetings, as well as 73 letters from the Jeep Club and six letters or emails from business owners in support of the police department presence.

- Steve Mihalchick stated that this budget looks like a good plan moving forward. He agrees with the police discussions and shared that knowing your Chief and officers by name is a strong connection to the community. Steve also agrees with paying employees well, so that they will stay.
- Sally Rush stated the Town is taking ownership of our financial performance. Sally asked where the millings go to within the budget. Clerk Piel replied it is in the Sale of Assets.
- Rob Collins Law enforcement crime down the hill is coming up here, we need to continue a strong presence.
- Bob Wise read a letter of appreciation for the Town and Police Force.
- Trustee Owen questioned the Police Wages and adding two police officers as well as the expenses is \$100,000 more than our proposed income for 2023. Clerk Piel responded stating that the \$90,000 in Dispatch has to be in the budget, but most of it will not be used based on historical use and to remember the additional funds in the Contingency Funds.
- Dan Volpe, owner of Empire Sweet Shop, suggested the Town keep spending funds and continue to be responsible.
- Margi Kaspari all for a well-trained Police Department, please hire staff with a heart like Andrew (Chief Lorenz)
- Robin Raulf-Sager agrees with Margi and thank you for the in-depth explanations.

**5. Resolutions:**

- a. Resolution 22-20: A Resolution of The Town of Empire, Colorado to Appropriate Sums of Money.**

**TRUSTEE ROBERTSON MOTIONED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-20: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EMPIRE, COLORADO TO APPROPRIATE SUMS OF MONEY, TRUSTEE TENNANT PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.**

The Resolution is effective immediately.

- b. Resolution 22-21: A Resolution of The Town of Empire, Colorado Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues for Each Fund and Adopting the Budget for The Town of Empire, Colorado for the Calendar Year 2023.**

**TRUSTEE ROBERTSON MOTIONED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-21: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EMPIRE, COLORADO SUMMARIZING EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES FOR EACH FUND AND ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF EMPIRE, COLORADO FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023, TRUSTEE HICKMAN PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, FIVE WERE IN FAVOR, TRUSTEE OWEN VOTED AGAINST, MOTION PASSED.**

The Resolution is effective immediately.

- c. Resolution 22-22: A Resolution to Set Mill Levy**

**TRUSTEE TENNANT MOTIONED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-22: A RESOLUTION TO SET MILL LEVY, TRUSTEE OWEN PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.**

The Resolution is effective immediately.

**d. Resolution 22-23: A Resolution of the Town of Empire, Colorado Ratifying an Agreement with Right Way Roofing, Inc. For Emergency Services.**

**TRUSTEE OWEN MOTIONED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-23: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EMPIRE, COLORADO RATIFYING AN AGREEMENT WITH RIGHT WAY ROOFING, INC. FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, TRUSTEE ROBERTSON PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.**

The Resolution is effective immediately.

**6. Vote to approve the signing of the 2022 amended Clear Creek Fire Authority IGA. TRUSTEE OWEN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE 2022 AMENDED CLEAR CREEK FIRE AUTHORITY IGA, TRUSTEE ROBERTSON PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.**

The Clear Creek Fire Authority IGA is approved.

**7. Recommendation from Planning Commission Chair Sally Rush for the Harmony Domes Annexation Petition.**

Sally read the letter of recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

**8. Update on Zoning Change Request from Robert Croke**

Mayor Wendy stated that this will be reviewed at the January 17, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting, as it needs to be reviewed by our attorney.

**9. Public Comment:**

- Rob Collins – Shared his appreciation for all that the Town does, including staff, Board of Trustees and Planning Commission and the Town will have his continued support.

**10. Reports:**

No Reports

**11. New Business from Board of Trustee Members:**


Mayor Wendy received notification of intent that Idaho Springs is pulling out of Clear Creek County's Dispatch. The Town of Empire will also be sending a letter of intent to pull out as well, once reviewed by our attorney. Both will be moving dispatch to JeffCom. There will be a supplemental Board of Trustees Meeting to approve this action.


**12. The Next Board of Trustees Regular Meeting is January 17, 2023, at 6:30 pm. In-person with remote access.**

**13. Adjourn Meeting**

**TRUSTEE ROBERTSON MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, TRUSTEE TENNANT PROVIDED THE SECOND, CLERK PIEL CONDUCTED A ROLL CALL VOTE, ALL WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

  
(mayor)

  
(town clerk)