



Town of Empire  
30 East Park Avenue  
PO Box 100  
Empire, CO 80438



**LOCAL POSTAL  
CUSTOMER**

**PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S.POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail**

**Office Hours:**

Monday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Tuesday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Wednesday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Thursday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Friday CLOSED except by appointment  
Saturday & Sunday CLOSED

Empire Town Hall Office: Clerk@EmpireColorado.us 303-569-2978  
Empire Mayor: Mayor@EmpireColorado.us 303-994-7682  
Empire Police Chief: Chief@EmpireColorado.us 303-995-2135  
Empire Police Department Office: 303-569-2281  
Non-Emergency Dispatch: 303-679-2394  
Website: [EmpireColorado.us](http://EmpireColorado.us)

# EMPIRE MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Stay connected with your Empire community on Facebook:

\* Town of Empire \* Empire Police Department \*

**Empire Board of Trustees** hold their regularly scheduled Board of Trustee meetings on the **Third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at Town Hall**  
**Empire Planning Commission** hold their regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meetings on the **Last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm at Town Hall**

## UPCOMING TOWN MEETINGS:

The Town of Empire is holding hybrid meetings where the Board of Trustees and the public can be present at Town Hall but can also attend and make comments remotely. Everyone is welcome to tune in.

\* Board of Trustees Regular Meeting ~ Tuesday **Mar 21, 2023 6:30 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87996180511?pwd=OTNWT2JZcGcvMHd0SXRUVUpLSkgvdz09>

Meeting ID: 879 9618 0511 Passcode: 479200

*The AGENDA will be posted on the website, the door of Town Hall, and the Post Office Bulletin Board 24 hours prior to the meeting*

\* Planning Commission Regular Meeting ~ Wednesday **Mar 29, 2023 6:30 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81093727231?pwd=WFkxSjdCcDVybHdXUEdLZ25EYS9OZz09>

Meeting ID: 810 9372 7231 Passcode: 631106

*The AGENDA will be posted on the website, the door of Town Hall, and the Post Office Bulletin Board 24 hours prior to the meeting*

## SAVE THE DATE:

Apr. 8 Saturday Empire Easter Egg Hunt in Theobald Park 2-3 pm.

## HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS:

The Town is looking for volunteers to join our hospitality team! If you would enjoy being involved in our Town events, set up, clean up, supplies and greeting our Town residents, please email us at [clerk@empirecolorado.us](mailto:clerk@empirecolorado.us). We would love to hear from you.

## CURRENT OFFICE HOURS:

The administrative office will be open from 8 am until 12 pm, Monday through Thursday, and closed Friday through Sunday.  
Please email the Clerk if you need an appointment during the weekday when the office is closed, and we will make arrangements for you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The following information is from the Empire Meet & Greet Public Meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, questions and comments:

**“WAYS THE COMMUNITY CAN HELP:”** If you see something that you would like to complain about or address with the Police Department, you need to fill out a “Voluntary Statement” form so that we have an official complaint to respond to. That is the best, most efficient way to communicate your concerns to the Police Department. Mentioning it in passing to a staff member or in Public Comment in the Board Meeting is not an official complaint. We always welcome your Public Comments at Board Meetings, however, the Police Department needs a “Statement” to take action. You can find the “Voluntary Statement” form on the Town website, or you can pick one up at Town Hall.

**Drop-Off Slot:** You are welcome to use the mail drop-off slot in the front door of Town Hall for any communications with the Police Department. Simply write PD, Police Department, or the Officer’s name, and the envelope will go directly to them.

**Police Vehicles:** We recognize that our street parking and parking lot are very limited, so we look for alternative places to park our Police Vehicles when they are not in use. Each Officer takes a vehicle home, and Town employees frequently park them at their home as well to keep our public parking available to visitors. Periodically we may position a vehicle along the street as a deterrent, but that must be weighed against the risk of the vehicle being hit or vandalized while unattended.

**Prioritizing PD Tasks:** We currently have two active officers, with an additional officer in training. The Police Department follows standard guidelines for time spent on calls, investigations, processing evidence, filling out reports in a timely manner, and delivering case files to the District Attorney’s Office. These tasks, along with many others, have strict timeframes and legal requirements, and may be a high priority because of the involvement of other agencies. Therefore, large or complicated cases may require the attention of all officers until the case has been delivered to the DA.

## PROJECT UPDATES:

**Ball Placer Project:** The Town is working with Diane Kielty of the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership (CCWFHP, The Partnership), in the hopes of securing a grant for an updated feasibility study for the Bard Creek Water Rights that are associated with the Ball Placer Property. We have previous feasibility and engineering studies from over twenty years ago when Clear Creek County owned the water rights and was investigating a possible project. Water volumes have changed and may have an impact on our ability to access water. Phase one of this long-term project was to show community interest and do our Due Diligence in filing an application in 2021 to hold conditional water rights. “Conditional” means that we have legal requirements to keep these water rights while they are not actively being used. Phase two will be to obtain updated studies to evaluate what is possible as far as water rights, water storage, a water pipeline to transport the water, and an engineering report on whether the land could support a reservoir or water storage of any kind. These issues all need to be addressed before any infrastructure work can be completed in the Ball Placer and before any development projects can be considered. We are hopeful that we can find grant funding available for each of these items over the next several years, and CCWFHP is committed to helping Empire look for these opportunities.

**US 40 Resurfacing and Improvement Project set for 2024:** CDOT, Michael Baker Intl., & Pinyon Environmental Inc., along with the Town of Empire, will have our 3rd planning team meeting next week to continue refining the design for crosswalks, parking, access points, ADA curb ramps, and other design improvements throughout the Town as part of the resurfacing project. Of note, the current plans include conduit to be installed under the highway to allow the Town to run water lines and electricity to the two Traffic Calming Medians on each end of Town. This will facilitate brighter street lighting and the ability to install license plate readers as well as more attractive landscaping that can be better maintained.

Board of Trustees: Mayor Wendy Koch, Mayor Pro-Tem Linda Robertson, Denise Tennant, Susan Owen, Shannon Hickman, Lorrain Singmaster

Planning Commission: Chair Sally Rush, Wendy Koch, Denise Tennant, Tony Robertson, Eileen Wheelock

Administration Department: Town Clerk Jeannette Piel, Jennifer Boswell, Lisa Kunze, Bob Wise

Public Works Department: Supervisor Kevin Luce, Bob Wise

Police Department: Chief Andrew Lorenz, Deputy Chief Keith Sandford, Officer Paul Whillock, Evidence Clerk Cassandra Luce