

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Agenda

December 12, 2024 ~ 6:30 pm

Remote Meeting using the Zoom Platform Meeting ID:870 8030 9816 Passcode:292144

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87080309816?pwd=bG5tUGR1MU94a3JkUW9NTl0xb21hZz09>

We will have public comment on several agenda items. Please sign those public comment sheets so your comments on agenda items 6h, 7a, 7b, & 7c occur at the appropriate time. If you would like to address The Board of Trustees at this meeting, please place your name on the sign-up sheet for Public Comment or indicate that through the chat function on the online Meeting Platform. Please do not use the Direct Message function. You will be recognized to speak during the “Public Comment” portion of the agenda. Discussion is limited to 3 minutes; please state your name and address and direct your comments to the Board. Also, please silence your phones and do not use them during the meeting out of consideration for your Board Members and Staff who are presenting information during the meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Roll Call – The Empire Board of Trustees requires a simple majority of four trustees present at the meeting for a quorum.

3. Approval of Agenda - December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes -

a. Minutes November 19, 2024 Regular Meeting

5. Vote to appoint Trustee Denise Tennant to represent Empire in the Regional Resilience Team through Clear Creek Economic Development Cooperation (CCEDC).

6. Presentation of 2025 Budget by Town Administrator Piel

a. Overview of Budget Process and Timeline

b. Goals and Priorities

c. Multi-Year Projects and Grant Projects

d. Explanation of Budget Codes and Classes

e. Evaluating Proposed Budget

f. Discussion of fee increases, including the water & sewer bill increases - Resolution and Public Hearing in the January 21 Regular Meeting

g. Discussion from the Board of Trustees

h. Public Hearing: Questions/Discussion from the Public

i. Final Discussion from the Board of Trustees

j. End of Year Summary, Final Budget Report, and Audit Report in the January 21 Regular Meeting

7. Resolutions

a. Resolution 24-34: Summarizing Expenditures and Revenues and Adopting the Budget

i. Discussion by Board of Trustees

ii. Public Discussion

iii. Vote to Approve Resolution

b. Resolution 24-35: To Appropriate Sums of Money

i. Discussion by Board of Trustees

ii. Public Discussion

iii. Vote to Approve Resolution

c. Resolution 24-36: A Resolution to Set Mill Levy

i. Discussion by Board of Trustees

ii. Public Discussion

iii. Vote to Approve Resolution

8. Reports:

- a. Police Department
 - i. Monthly report and stats from Chief Lorenz
- b. Public Works - Water
 - i. Update on Water Main Replacement Project
 - ii. Lead and Copper Revision Rule: Possible Lead Service Line Letters
- c. Public Works - Parks
 - i. Christmas Lights are up!
- f. Upcoming Events
 - i. THIS SATURDAY: Empire's Christmas Celebration December 14th, 2024 from 5 to 7 PM in Town Hall. Bring your potluck dishes by 5 PM when the food line will start so Santa can entertain the kids around 5:30.
 - ii. Annual Triple Bypass Event - July 12th, 2025. Caprice Bass will zoom into the Board Work Session on January 7th to discuss the event.
- g. Planning Commission
 - i. The next Training/ Work Session for the Planning Commission will be held on Wednesday, January 15th, 2025, at 6:30 pm.
 - ii. The next Regular Planning Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 29th, 2025, at 6:30 pm.
- h. Answering Questions from the Previous Meeting
 - i. Michal Fagrelus Comment: (Her internet cut out and she did not hear the presentation) Concerned about the increase in water bills, not getting enough notice, why a large increase all at once, would like to see the data, wants to see communal billing and all residents paying the same rate.
Answer:
 - Have not had large increases in cost until late in 2023, with most large increases in 2024.
 - A chart of cost increases was presented during the meeting. An updated chart was presented to the Board at the December 3rd work session with the requested year by year breakdowns.
 - Every residential unit, whether it is a house, a cabin or a mobile home is charged \$100/month for water/sewer fees. The mobile home parks pay the same into the system as a single family home owner.
 - Board requested extra public input, but was not required.
 - ii. Rob Collins Comment: May need to increase estimates on the projects in the Budget, would like access to previous minutes.
Answer:
 - Staff did increase project cost estimates for the 2025 budget and thank Rob for reminding the town of ever increasing maintenance and materials costs.
 - Previous minutes are always available, after they are adopted by the governing body the following month, via request by emailing clerk@empirecolorado.us. As the town website goes under construction this next year due to Digital Accessibility laws, no documents may be posted that are not ADA compliant for digital accessibility. We understand this is frustrating until it is completed. As always, call the town during the 8 am to noon office hours Monday through Thursday if that is more convenient.

9. Board of Trustees Goal for the 2024 - 2026 Term: Ongoing

The Town of Empire will increase revenue within this Board of Trustee term by supporting the economic needs of current and future businesses by capitalizing on our unique location and the traffic it provides, without compromising the non-monetizable assets that gives Empire its' unique charm.

10. Public Comment: Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person. The Board does not respond to questions during this time. For operational questions, please email the clerk.

11. Moment of Appreciation

12. New Business from Board of Trustee Members

13. The Next Board of Trustees Work Session/Training is Tuesday, January 7th, 2025, at 6:30 pm. In person with remote access.

14. The Next Board of Trustees Regular Meeting is Tuesday, January 21st, 2025, at 6:30 pm. In person with remote access.

15. Adjourn Meeting

(Mayor Pro-Tem Jacob Belcher)

(Deputy Town Clerk Lisa Kunze)