

PITKIN TOWN WORK SESSION June 26th 2019 at 7:00pm

Newcomb Community Center

MINUTES

Full and timely notice of this meeting was provided pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(2)(c).

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** Mayor Rachel New called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Trustees John Rowan, Cory Nasso, Brad Wick, and Lois Sharpton were present. Minutes taken by Clerk Sara Gibb.

2. **For Council Discussion:**

- Discuss snow plowing in the Town of Pitkin

Trustee Wick compiled a snow plowing cost analysis and provided copies to the Board and public. He presented the information contained therein and stated that the County's preference would be to plow Main, 3rd, 9th, and State. The cost analysis was generated based on no reduction of scope.

There was a discussion about the Town's relationship with the county.

Mayor New stated that plowing funding is one part of a larger conversation regarding the budget.

There was discussion about the various municipalities and districts within Gunnison County and how they cover the cost of snow plowing.

Mayor New would like the Board to present a positive financial model to the town that serves many purposes.

Trustee Brad Wick discussed tactics for negotiation with the county.

There was discussion about a mill levy increase.

There was discussion about the Town becoming self-sufficient with regard to plowing.

Trustee Lois Sharpton asked about the stretch of 76 between Ohio City and Pitkin.

Mayor New discussed the three primary means that Towns use to raise funds (sales tax, property tax, fees/fines/permits). She stated that Pitkin has room to improve in all three areas. Pitkin's three largest expenses are plowing, wages, and fire department support. The largest revenue sources are property tax and sales tax. She listed several

upcoming projects that will require funds. She would like the Board members to identify the services that can be provided to the residents. She would like to know what the property tax would need to be to cover these basic services. She suggested using sales tax revenue to fund special projects. She would like to see the Board organizing funds allocation in this way. There are things the Town could be doing to grow funds in addition to relying on a tax increase, such as requiring business licenses or a parking lot.

Trustee Wick stated that putting too many variables into a plan runs the risk of rejection from individuals who are opposed to one piece. This makes it very hard to sell. He suggested stating that the property taxes need to be increased to gain another \$40,000.00 in revenue to go to streets. Any surplus out of that revenue will be allocated to a reserve or capital fund, which would fund smaller projects.

Trustee Cory Nasso asked if the town is unable to provide snow plowing would cause some properties to be considered seasonal, and what are the ramifications of that change? He believes it is a benefit to maintain year-round use.

Trustees Brad Wick and Cory Nasso suggested doubling the operator budget and fuel cost and providing plowing for all properties in town.

Mayor New stated that when a service is provided by the Town, there are certain expectations as to how residents engage with that service in order to be a part of it (for example, having their name put on a list). IF you have someone who has chosen not to do that and calls requesting plowing at a certain time. That would be a separate thing because of the way that interaction took place. It does not seem like a good idea to plow people out who do not need that service. The plow route has been determined by those who need access. Trustee Cory Nasso stated that non-resident property owners should have their concerns heard. What would non-resident property owners receive from a property tax increase?

Mayor New stated that this is one reason why she proposed funding the basic services and the cost of running town should be funded by property taxes and not just snow plowing.

Mayor New and Trustee Brad Wick suggested looking at the budget and identifying where additional funds can be reallocated to cover plowing costs.

A conversation with the county about snow plowing (which year of three, scope) and a Board discussion about raising tax revenue is the plan going forward.

The Board is in agreement that the target snow plowing number for building the budget is \$40k.

Trustee Brad Wick volunteered to meet with the county public works director again. Board is in favor.

Trustee Nasso is against a sales tax increase to fund plowing due to the variable and unpredictable nature of sales tax.

Treasurer Sara Gibb will plug in initial numbers for a new budget format.

The Board is to spend time writing down the top educational points to provide to voters regarding a sales tax increase.

Trustee Brad Wick would like to get the RFP for snow plowing out in July.

Mayor New stated that the Board would discuss the unique situations in town with vacated alleys.

Clerk Sara Gibb will investigate insurance costs related to insuring a 30-hour/week snow plow driver

Public comments: Chris Nasso, Pete Olson, Marie Rossmiller, Mark Hughes, Linda Hughes,

3. Dismiss: Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

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**Public comment to the Board of Trustees is encouraged. Comments may be limited at the mayor's discretion*

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