

**Town of Pierce
Regular Meeting
January 8th, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Pierce, County of Weld, State of Colorado, met in regular session in the Pierce Town Hall, 144 Main, Pierce Colorado at the hour of 7:00 PM, January 8th, 2024.

Mayor Cathy Ortiz called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Based on the roll call, the following Trustees comprising a quorum attended:

Mayor Cathy Ortiz

Trustees	Others Present:
Steve Guest	Heather Rospierski, Deputy Town Clerk II
Todd Blehm	
Donna O Connor	
Doug Herrick	
Geoffery Broughton	
Kenny Dill	

1. Approval of Minutes from December 7th, 2023 Work Session and December 11th, 2023

Board Meeting: Motion made by Trustee Broughton to approve the minutes from December 7th, 2023. Second by Blehm. All “AYES”, motion passed. Motion made by Trustee Guest to approve the minutes from December 11th, 2023. Second by Herrick. All “AYES”, motion passed.

2. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Trustee Broughton to approve agenda. Second by Dill. All “AYES”, motion passed.

3. Public Invited to be Heard: Ralph Sauter said about a month ago he had a car out front of his house on Main Ave that was hit. During the investigation, the party had expired plates and no front license plates. He understands that the Town of Pierce has told the Ault Police Department not to write for expired plates or missing front plates. He is asking the board to look at that. Code Enforcement Ryan Shippy was present he said there is a bit of a misunderstanding. He believes that person was written for expired plates along with careless driving. Shippy said that it is up to the office whether to write a ticket for no front plates. He does not believe that came from the board. Ralph also had some concerns about a semi parked on 3rd Street. Shippy said they got a warning, and it is now moved. He also wanted to know about Grubby’z food truck. Shippy said we would have to look at that. It is a business, and the Town cannot restrict them from doing their business. Phillis Heilman stated on December 29th, she confronted the mayor congratulated her and asked her what she was going to change in the town. She said nothing until she got rid of board members. Phillis is concerned about that. She also said the mayor said she does not matter. She said the rest of the conversation got ugly, but she is not going to bring that up. Mayor Ortiz jumped in and said she has a private life; she should repeat it like Cathy said. Ortiz said nothing is going to change when 5 of the Board members will not talk to her. Nick Muller said there was a rumor about raising the dog tag fee. Trustee Broughton said this is an agenda item and we

will talk about this then.

4. Adopt 2024 Budget Resolution:

- A. Resolution to Adopt Budget:** Motion made by Trustee Broughton to adopt the budget. Second by Dill. Roll call vote was taken. All “AYES”, motion passed.
- B. Resolution to Appropriate Sums of Money:** Motion made by Broughton to appropriate Sums of Money. Second by Dill. Roll call vote was taken. All “AYES”, motion passed.
- C. Resolution to Set Mill Levies for Budget Year 2024:** Motion made by Broughton to Set Mill Levies for Budget Year 2024. Second by Guest. Roll call vote was taken. All “AYES”, motion passed.
- D. Resolution for Supplemental Budget and Appropriation for the Budget Year 2024:** Motion made by Broughton to Supplemental Budget and Appropriation for the Budget Year 2024. Second by Guest. Roll call vote was taken. All “AYES”, motion passed.

5. Code Enforcement: Trustee Dill is not happy with what has been going on. A lot of residents have been asking Trustee Dill what Code Enforcement even does. He thinks there needs to be some kind of resolution here and have someone that is going to reside in this town, especially when it comes to the dog's issues. He stated can't wait 1 hour or 4 hours or the next day for someone to come up here. Someone needs to be here now and take care of the dogs. Trustee Dill thinks we need someone here in town who is going to give a warning or ticket. Trustee Broughton asked if this is something we can talk about next month in the working session. Trustee Dill said no. Trustee Dill thinks we need someone in Town who would work 3 hours a day and be on call to address these issues right away. Mayor Ortiz asked, “are you saying just a citizen of the town”. Trustee Dill said “yes”. Shippy said this is a personal issue and it probably needs to go into executive session. Dill said you work for the Board, and we are the Board. Shippy said this is a personnel issue and should be an executive session.

6. Open Office Position: Motion made by Trustee Herrick to post for the open office position. Second by Broughton. The Board would like this posted on Indeed, the Town's legal posting locations, and the North Weld Herald, and to let the Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Mayor, and Public Works Director do the interviewing and hiring. Roll call vote was taken. All “AYES”, motion passed.

7. Cleaning of Town Hall: The Board reviewed the submitted bids. Motion made by Trustee Broughton to retain the current cleaning company with the new proposed fee. Second by Guest. All “AYES”, motion passed.

8. Board Meeting Time Change: Motion made by Trustee Herrick to keep the same meeting time. Second by Guest. All “AYES”, motion passed.

9. Quotes for Tablets: Cost Analysis and Quotes were presented. Trustee Herrick said we do have tablets that are 2 years old, but they are not user-friendly. Deputy Clerk Rospierski said

the Board has spent a lot of the taxpayer's money and we are only 8 days into the new year. Rospierski said she is not even sure we would have the funds in the budget for this year. Motion made by Broughton to table this until August. Second by Dill. All "AYES", motion passed.

10. Deputy Clerk Rospierski Emotional Support Animal: This was added to the agenda by Trustee Herrick. In July 2023, the Board voted to have Deputy Clerk Rospierski pay for basic training to keep her emotional support dog at work. Deputy Clerk Rospierski stated that she had Ruby enrolled in October, but she only completed 1 class due to Rospierski having emergency surgery and being on light duty for a few weeks. Due to missing 3 weeks of class, they lost their spot. She was asked why she did not enroll her in sooner than October and Rospierski said she had to save up the funds to be able to afford the classes. Rospierski said she has a trainer lined up to start on January 24th. The class is 8 weeks long. The problem is they want to do the training during work hours. She said the trainer would come to Town Hall 1 day a week for an hour to train Ruby if the board would be ok with that. She would just need to take a long lunch 1 day a week for 8 weeks to complete this. Rospierski asked the Board if she could have an extension to complete the training for Ruby. Motion made by Broughton to approve the extension and allow Rospierski to have the trainer come up to Town Hall. Second by Dill. 6 "AYES", 1 "Naye" by Trustee O Conner. Motion passed.

11. Business License Fees for 2025: Business licenses are \$25.00. Trustee O'Connor thinks they should go up to \$30.00.

12. Dog Tag License Fees for 2025: Dog tag fees are \$5.00 if spayed or neutered and \$15.00 if they are not. The board thinks this should be increased to \$10.00 for spayed or neutered and \$20.00 if not. Motion made by Trustee Broughton to table this for now. Second by Dill. All "AYES", motion passed.

13. Delinquent Account Process: Deputy Clerk Rospierski explained how the delinquent process works. Late notices are mailed out on the day of the Board Meeting every month when a resident is 3 months behind on their water bill. They then have 20 days from the date on the notice to pay the past due amount showing on their notice. Then a final notice is delivered by public works to the resident's home on the 20th day if payment still has not been received. They are given until the next day to pay. If payment still has not been made, then Rospierski makes a courtesy call before printing a work order and sending public works to shut off their water. Public works will also knock on the door before shutting the water off.

14. Old Business: None.

15. Staff Report:

- A. **Mayor Report:** Last month there was a vote taken and a Board member was trying to go behind everyone's back to try and change things that had already been voted on. Maybe the Board needs a refresher on what their role is. Also, residents are entitled to privacy and Board members cannot ask for personal information. O'Connor said they didn't run to be put on the board to be told that we need a refresher course and what our job is. She stated they are doing things for the best of the town. Ortiz said not really. Everyone has a

personal agenda. O'Connor said there are rules put out that we don't comply with. Mayor Ortiz said that O'Connor asked for a list of all residents who are delinquent on their water bill. That is private information. O'Connor said that is what she was told. She didn't want private information, she wanted x amount of households. Ortiz said you can get the total amount of what is delinquent but not who.

B. **Public Works:** Report was provided.

C. **Planning Commission:** There was no meeting in December, Trustee Blehm asked why the process for the planning commission works the way it does. Deputy Clerk Rospierski explained that it has always been the same process. Plans are submitted to the Town they go to the Planning Commission for approval, then if approved they get submitted to Safebuilt.

D. **Town Attorney:** None.

E. **Town Engineer:** Report was provided.

F. **Town Clerk**

1. Request to Pay Bills: Motion made by Trustee Dill to pay the bills. Second by Trustee Guest. All "AYES", motion passed.

2. **Comment Box:** None.

16. Department Reports:

A. **Water/Sewer - Trustee Blehm:** Has been helping Doug make some phone calls about a potential retention pond at 88&33.

B. **Streets & Drainage - Trustee Herrick:** Has concerns that the material on 3rd Street is disappearing. He will talk to Public Works Director Lester about this. At one time we talked about cleaning the ditches.

C. **Utilities & Energy - Trustee Broughton:** We just had 2 nasty recalls. Let's work for the people.

D. **Building – Trustee Guest:** The gutters have been installed, and public works built ½ a doghouse to go over the old coal shoot.

E. **Parks - Trustee Dill:** None.

F. **Growth & Revenue - Trustee O Conner:** None.

17. Board Communications: Nomination Petition Packets are in the office for anyone who wants to run. Everyone is up except Mayor Ortiz and Trustee Blehm. They must be turned in by January 22nd at 4:30.

Adjournment: 9:05 P.M.

Heather Rospierski, Deputy Town Clerk II

