

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
MONDAY, January 26th, 2026, at 7:00 PM

- I. Call To Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:01pm by mayor Lee Berenato.
- II. Roll Call:** Lee Berenato, Martin Gitlin, Randal McDonald, Mickey Frey, Tammy Frey, Mark Basham.
- III. Motion to Approve Agenda:** T. Frey motions to approve the agenda. M. Gitlin states that he has an addition to tonight that may be time consuming. He states he would like to speak as public comment and have this item be added to the agenda for discussion by the Board. T. Frey again makes the motion to approve the agenda. M. Basham seconds. Motion passes with all in favor.
- IV. Bills for Approval:** L. Berenato states he needs a moment to review the bills as he could not view them on his phone. T. Frey has an inquiry into the JKC Woodworks invoice, and R. McDonald informs her it is an invoice for work on the caboose. R. McDonald proceeds to update the Board that the Caboose is finally proceeding along. There were a number of dimensional issues that took some time to work out, but they have built brand new floors, put new windows in it, and they have the siding set to go on. M. Basham inquires if the cupola is in Town or not, and R. McDonald states that it is, but it is in pieces. He informs the Board that this is a lingering issue, as the Town paid approximately \$4000 to have the cupola restored. Chelsea provided R. McDonald with the invoice for the work so that he could dispute the charges, as the cupola came back with no work done still in pieces. Austin is going to communicate with the company in Cheyenne to get the cupola resolved. L. Berenato informs the Board that Georgetown has not invoiced the Town for Wastewater Treatment in over four months. The Town Clerk and L. Berenato have both reached out multiple times to request the invoices. M. Frey states that the Town Treasurer asked him for a week to get the invoices together. L. Berenato would be agreeable for the week; however, the Treasurer has asked for a week for a couple of weeks. Board is unanimously confused as to why the invoices would be complicated to provide. L. Berenato states that these charges should be approximately \$40,000. R. McDonald motions to approve the bills for payment. T. Frey seconds the motion. Motion passes with all in favor.
- V. Approval of Minutes; January 12th, 2026: NO MOTION TAKEN**
- VI. Public Comment:** M. Gitlin brings to the Boards attention that he feels strongly that the Board of Trustees, not the citizens of Silver Plume as M. Gitlin has not conducted a wide enough survey of citizen opinion to feel comfortable making a blanket statement, write a letter to the Mayor and Governor of Minnesota in support of them and their citizens in their fight against ICE, coming as a partner in governance of this nation. T. Frey states she feels this be put on the agenda for further discussion. L. Berenato states that he would be agreeable, with the support of the Board, to write such a letter without putting it on the agenda for further discussion. M. Gitlin requests that the National Guard receive a letter as well. L. Berenato states that Silver Plume is a Sanctuary City, and has been for some time. L. Berenato invites M. Gitlin to join him and the Town Clerk tomorrow morning to draft the letter. L. Berenato calls for a motion to approve the drafting and mailing of a letter of support to the Governor of Minnesota and the Mayor of Minneapolis. M. Basham motioned to approve this letter, T. Frey seconded the motion, motion carried with all in favor. Sarah

Walen has no further Public Comment, other than to state she supports the Boards decision to write said letter.

VII. Administrative Items:

- a. **Mayor Report:** L. Berenato has called and emailed the Auditor multiple times, but the auditor did not respond to L. Berenato's emails. He did contact Chelsea, and he had 5 or 6 minor requests and clarifications and told her he was almost done. L. Berenato left him a sternly worded message requesting and update. L. Berenato is looking for a new auditor to engage services with for the 2025 audit, as the was the 2024 audit is progressing is crazy. R. McDonald may have some contacts to explore. L. Berenato has been discussing the 2024 audit with the Town's accountant Eliot Gidan, who reconciles the books every month and gets the books ready for the auditor and the annual audits. Eliot has told L. Berenato that the first audit an auditor does for a municipality is often lengthy, as they have to build everything from scratch. There is a lot of data to familiarize themselves with. However, the lack of communication in this case is the concern. L. Berenato is concerned that folks that tend to not be very communicative with their clients tend not to be getting much work done.
- b. **Town Clerk Update:** N/A

VIII. New Business / Action Items

- a. **Discussion of ADA Ramp at Historic Methodist Church (M. Gitlin):** M. Gitlin thanks the volunteers that worked on this project but points out that there are several concerns with the design of the ramp and stairs. M. Basham states that the steps and the ramp is not done yet; the stairs were set temporarily in the fall for a wedding but then snow came and instead of finishing the ramp and redoing the stairs the Town tabled the project until the spring. M. Gitlin states his concerns have been addressed.
- b. **Discussion of ADA Ramp Necessity at Silver Plume Post Office (M. Gitlin):** M. Gitlin brings up the need to provide a ADA Ramp at the Post Office. The Town Clerk has expressed that there are logistical items that make this a challenging project. L. Berenato states that the Post Office is operating under a historical exemption and therefore they do not need to provide ADA Access. Secondly, L. Berenato states that the ramp couldn't come straight out of the building as it would end up in the street, so there needs to be a turn in the ramp as it enters the Post Office. This involves constructing a wall. M. Gitlin states one of the main reasons he is bringing this up is because there are elderly citizens that are falling entering the Post Office. L. Berenato states that the Board has discussed this issue multiple times over the years, and no one has been able to come up with a logical solution. The Board discusses redoing the sidewalk to accommodate a ramp on the east side of the Post Office door leading up to the doorway and a set of stairs to the west side of the Post Office doors to prevent wheelchair users from coming out of the Post Office, turning left and being taken away by the steep grade and ending up down Main Street. L. Berenato will talk to the sidewalk guy and see how much engineering it would take to construct this. R. McDonald states that if the Town's goal is to make entering the Post Office safer, but not necessarily ADA compliant, we

could start with proper handrails and proper stair spacing, which would be a bit easier and cheaper to accomplish in the short term. R. McDonald doesn't see a ramp working out in that space, but there are some improvements that could be done economically.

c. **2024 Audit Update (C. Nihiser):** N/A

IX. Updates:

a. **Road and Bridge Committee:** N/A

b. **Budget Committee:** N/A

c. **Personnel Management Committee:** N/A

d. **Cemetery Committee:** N/A

e. **Short Term Rental Committee:** N/A

f. **Silver Plume Mountain Park Commission:** L. Berenato shares that there has been an issue with the appraisal the Town originally had done. R. McDonald shares that GOCO has raised issues with the format of the original appraisal and is requesting another appraisal be carried out. They are not concerned about the figures, just the format. This has pushed closing back to the end of March. M. Frey updates the Board that the SPMP Commission is meeting tomorrow, January 27th, for their Q1 meeting. That meeting starts at 6pm.

g. **Miscellaneous Updates:** N/A

X. Adjournment: At 7:38pm M. Gitlin motioned to adjourn the meeting. M. Frey seconded the motion, motion passes with all in favor.