
Town of Flagler, Colorado
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR SESSION

October 20, 2025

The Board of Trustees for the Town of Flagler, Colorado met Monday, October 20, 2025, for the REGULAR MEETING at 6:08 p.m. The meeting was held at Town Hall 311 Main Avenue. Present at the meeting were Mayor Randy Fagerlund, Trustees Jake Allacher, Chuck Crisp, Brevity Langley, Cody Martin and Marlys Kossman. Town Clerk Kendra Eberle, Accountant Tim Fulmer, Town Manager Bob Rush and Assistant Town Manager JD Beyers. Absent board members: Trustee Brevity Langley

At 6:08 PM Mayor Fagerlund called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Audience

- Erika Saffer
- Dana Keech addressed the board, asking two questions to be considered:
 - What do you feel is the most important idea or accomplishment you've made since you became mayor, trustee, or employee of the town of Flagler?
 - What improvement or improvements would you like to see made concerning the town?
 - The board provided initial responses, which were discussed further under New Business.
- Kip and Mary Backlund
- Cheryl Witt

Reports

Erika Saffer, Lincoln Health

- Erika reported on an update from the rural hospital association.
- **Awards:** Kevin, the CEO, received the John Gardner Award for Rural Health Leadership.
- **Staff Housing:** The former Heritage Living assisted living facility is being repurposed for staff housing. The ten-room facility will house lab staff, nursing staff, and rotating physicians, which will help reduce the town's rental costs.
- **Advocacy:** On the federal level, efforts continue to secure fair reimbursement structures for rural areas and to ensure funds from the rural hospital transformation program are directed to "true rural facilities."
- **Rural Health Initiatives:** The Farley Health Policy Center is funding the "Colorado World" group to address rural health challenges, including workforce shortages, capital needs, and access to care.
- **Community Meeting:** A community meeting is scheduled for the upcoming Sunday at 2:00 PM. The meeting will provide updates on clinic services, financials, and billing, and will offer an opportunity for residents to ask questions about Medicare and Medicare Advantage during the open enrollment period.

Town Manager, Bob Rush

- **Water Meter System Upgrade:** Bob explained the need to create a plan for updating the town's water meters, as many are failing due to dead batteries.
- **Trash Department Operations and Vehicle Acquisition:** Bob gave a quote for a new truck.
- **Snow Removal Equipment:** Bob reported that acquiring a heavy-duty snowplow for the loader is proving difficult because the loader lacks a required hydraulic quick coupler. He proposed an

alternative to purchase a plow for the orange picket truck at an estimated cost of \$4,000 to \$5,000, which is well-suited for narrower side streets.

- **Shop Improvements:** Bob gave a proposal to install a new walk-in door in the brick wall of the shop. There are concerns about the structural integrity of the wall, and Trustee Martin volunteered to inspect the site.
- **Siren:** A price quote for a new siren was \$25,000. A new quote is pending for a smaller unit, with the total cost estimated at between \$10,000 and \$19,000.
- **Wells:** The "Otteman well" is awaiting parts for repair. The "Briggs well" is tripping its breaker and may have a failing pump. Well houses will be better insulated for the winter.
- **Seasonal Preparations:** Mosquito spraying will end for the season; Christmas lights will be hung starting the second week of November; and sprinklers and bathrooms will be winterized at the end of the month.
- **Equipment & Maintenance:** The trash truck is running again after electrical repairs. The sander's floor chain will be inspected. The department is looking for a source and storage for sand. The blade needs steering work before roads can be graded.
- **Infrastructure Projects:** Lead and copper study corrections have been submitted. More cold patch street repairs are planned before winter. Risers have been ordered to raise meter pits to ground level.
- **Equipment Removal:** An individual's large equipment is obstructing a work area.

Accountant, Tim Fulmer

- **2026 Budget** Tim presented the 2026 Budget to the Board.
- Tim Proposed the Board to consider closing the water tower savings account and transferring the balance into a three-month CD to earn a higher interest rate.
- The town's overall property valuation has increased by 30%. If the current mill levy is maintained, it will result in an estimated \$56,000 increase in property tax revenue.
- The Cassell software conversion has been delayed, with training from February 16th-20th and a new go-live date between March 9th-13th of the upcoming year.

Town Clerk, Kendra Eberle

- **Notary Public:** Kendra reported she has received her certification and is now a Notary Public.
- **Grantsmanship Class:** Kendra is attending an online grantsmanship class from 10/20-10/24.
- **Proposition 123 (Affordable Housing):** Kendra discovered that a commitment was already submitted for the town on July 6, 2023, to create, preserve, or convert 10 affordable housing units by December 31, 2026. She is researching how other small towns have secured grants for similar projects.
- **Building Permit** Kendra presented a building permit to the board.
 - **Project Title:** Garage Addition
 - **Project Address:** Ron Weiser Residence
 - A building permit application from Ron Weiser to add a 10-foot addition to his garage was reviewed. The proposed structure is within all property line setbacks.

Parks and Recreation, Kendra reported for Trisha Fritzler as she could not attend the meeting:

- Parade of Lights and Christmas on Main will be held on December 5th.
- The school will host a Trunk or Treat on October 31st. The contact person is Treva Smith.

Trustee Martin

- **Ruffner Project:** Trustee Martin reported the Ruffner street project has been delayed. The contractor, Bettis, cannot begin until late March of next year at the earliest. The project's price is locked in. The town's total share is approximately \$225,000 - \$227,000. The plan is to pay

\$110,000 upfront, with the county agreeing to carry the remaining balance for one to two years. The county also provides all material hauling and transportation free of charge.

1. **New Business:**

○ **Public Comment Follow-up**

1. The board discussed the questions posed during by Dana Keech.
2. **Accomplishments:** Board members cited restoring stability as their most significant accomplishment. They noted that the town is "back on the right track" with good employees and that finances are back in order, allowing for a clear understanding of the budget and wiser decision-making.
3. **Desired Improvements:** The board identified several areas for future improvement, including street repairs, maintaining control of expenses, and updating equipment for the trash department to better serve customers.

○ **Trash Department Operations and Vehicle Acquisition**

- An extensive discussion was held regarding the operational and financial challenges of the town's trash department.
- **Equipment Issues:** Significant concerns were raised about the aging and unreliable trash trucks, which have incurred high repair costs. Inadequate driving, lack of proper maintenance, and the high volume of stops (e.g., 107 in Flagler on Mondays) were cited as potential contributing factors to equipment failures.
- **Vehicle Options:** The board discussed three main options: continue the expensive lease, terminate the lease and rely on existing unreliable trucks, or purchase a new truck. Outsourcing the entire service was also mentioned as an alternative.
- **Route Analysis and Restructuring:** A review of trash routes identified inefficiencies.
 1. **Action Item:** Bob and Tim will prepare maps and scenarios for restructured routes to be reviewed at a future meeting. A cost analysis was also proposed to determine the financial breakeven point for purchasing a new truck with modified routes.

○ **Water Meter Replacement Project**

- A discussion was held regarding a proposal to replace the town's approximately 400 water meters, as the current touch-read system is becoming obsolete. The upgrade would be to a new radio-read system, which is compatible with the existing Cassell billing software.
- **Logistical Challenges:** It was noted that while some meters are in basements, a large portion are in meter pits that will require excavation, street repair, and curb/gutter work. Many older installations lack proper meter setters or curb shutoff valves, adding complexity and cost. The work is considered seasonal (May-September).

1. **Action Item:** Bob was tasked with determining a more precise number of meters that will require excavation versus those located inside homes to formulate a concrete budget and plan.
- **Street Projects, Maintenance, and Budget**
 1. **Street Budget and Funding:** For 2026, approximately \$244,000 should be available for street projects. Significant carryover funds are also available from COVID funds, the unspent Ruffner allocation, and the previous year's budget. To secure more funding, the board considered raising the mill levy or reallocating surplus revenue from profitable enterprise funds (like the water department) into the general fund. Caution was raised regarding the water fund due to new federal lead and copper rules effective in 2027 that may require costly replacements.
 2. **Maintenance Plan and Contractors:** A need for a one, three, and five-year street maintenance plan was identified. There are concerns about the limited availability of local contractors. A resident also raised concern about the lack of weed spraying this year, which has led to weeds damaging pavement. This was attributed to a mandatory sewer study and equipment breakdown.
 3. **Equipment removal:** The board will consult with the attorney regarding the proper legal steps to have a third party's equipment removed from town property. The attorney will advise on the content of a certified letter and the appropriate timeline.
 - **Sewer Department Finances**
 - The sewer department is currently operating at a deficit, potentially at as much as \$26,000. The confusion stems from a large sewer project with a total cost of around \$120,000, funded in part by a DOLA grant of approximately \$59,000.
 - It was clarified that a recent \$30,000 payment for sewer cleaning was paid for with \$15,000 from the annual budget and \$15,000 from the town's own matching funds for the grant, not leftover grant money. The project manager, GMS, is paid directly by DOLA from the grant fund.
 1. **Action Item:** Due to the high total project cost, a request was made for a detailed breakdown of all work performed and expenses incurred.
 - **Snow Removal Equipment**
 - Acquiring a heavy-duty snowplow for the loader is proving difficult because the loader lacks the required hydraulic quick coupler.
 - An alternative was proposed to purchase a plow for the orange pickup truck at an estimated cost of \$4,000 to \$5,000, which is well-suited for narrower side streets.
 - The board decided to research options for a pickup truck plow.
 - **General Maintenance and Infrastructure**
 - **Tree Pile:** The current tree pile is overflowing. A proposal was made to dig a new pit for burning, but caution is needed as the area is part of the old town landfill. The board also discussed whether to charge commercial tree trimmers a higher fee or restrict public access to certain times of the year. The issue will be revisited.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve September 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes was made by Trustee Allacher and seconded by Trustee Crisp.

- **Voting Results**

- **Motion** passed unanimously.

Motions

1. **Motion** was made by Trustee Kossman and seconded by Trustee Allacher to close the water tower savings account (approx. \$83,000) and transfer the balance into a three-month CD to earn a higher interest rate. The water tower fund was later noted as having a balance of \$82,000.

- **Voting Results**

- **Motion** Passed unanimously

2. **Motion** was made by Trustee Crisp to approve the building permit for Ron Weiser's garage addition and seconded by Trustee Allacher.

- **Voting Results**

- **Motion** Passed unanimously

3. **Motion** was made by Trustee Martin and seconded by Trustee Taylor to increase JD's wage by \$2.00 per hour retroactive to when he obtained his CDL.

- **Voting Results**

- **Motion** Passed unanimously

Financial Report

Motion to approve the bills was made by Trustee Kossman and seconded by Trustee Taylor.

Voting Results

Unanimously passed

Adjournment

Mayor Randy Fagerlund adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Randy A. Fagerlund MAYOR

Kendra M. Elle CLERK

November 10, 2025 DATE APPROVED

{seal}

