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**Town of Flagler, Colorado**  
**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

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**April 14, 2025**

The Board of Trustees for the Town of Flagler, Colorado met Monday, April 14, 2025, for the REGULAR MEETING at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Town Hall 311 Main Ave. Those present at the meeting were Mayor Randy Fagerlund, Trustees Troy Kindley, Wyatt Taylor, Jake Allacher, Chuck Crisp, Marlys Kossman, Town Manager Bob Rush, Town Accountant Tim Fulmer and Town Clerk Kendra Eberle. Absent board members: Trustee Cody Martin. At 6:00 PM the mayor called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE:**

- The public audience in attendance included Cheryl Witt, Erika Saffer, Greg Etl, and Carol von Michaelis.
- **Erica Saffer** gave an update on Lincoln Community Hospital.
  - Announcement of bringing on a PA with over 20 years of experience to assist in the Western market and to expand services (including shoulders and fracture repair) in the OR.
  - Orthopedics update: Mention of Niels' recent cases in Colorado (Coletta County, Denver Health, Pueblo) and vaccination information regarding an airborne disease.
  - Addiction clinic and Alcohol Learners Month report: Highlighting both inpatient and outpatient substance abuse services, and the new partnership with Hard Beauty to provide a peer support specialist.
  - Nursing facility update: Transition from a nursing home to an extended Medicaid swing bed effective April 1st, with unchanged clinical operations but significant financial improvements (shift from non-cost-reimbursable to cost-reimbursable, and Dr. McGilvery taking over rounds).
  - Sexual Assault Awareness report: Update on initiatives for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, with Casey Thompson (SANE nurse) planning training for additional nurses.
- **Greg Etl of DOLA** presented Wastewater Grant Discussion.
  - An overview of the grant application process for the wastewater project was given detailing issues related to CDPHE violations, current water (\$59.19) and sewer (\$41.23) rate comparisons against statewide averages, and the anticipated decision for the Tier 1 grant (up to \$200,000) expected by mid-June. The need to adjust water and sewer rates to meet the statewide average. He detailed current shortages relative to tier one and tier two grant cycles, suggesting a \$10 increase this year and a \$2.50 increment annually thereafter. The final figures remain pending until further hearings scheduled for May 20, 2025 and possibly 2026, with the understanding that even a five-year rate plan may still lag state averages.
- **Carol von Michaels** gave a presentation on a proposal for the Free Land.
  - 80 Acres Livestock Stopover proposed by Carol: Utilize 80 acres to create a designated rest stop for travelers with livestock along I-70, which will progressively develop into a venue for equestrian and livestock events. The proposal aims to support local economic growth while preserving the town's small-town charm, safety, and community feel. The initial phase may include RV hookups and communal bathroom/shower facilities, with future expansions to arenas, stalls, and trails. Proposal to initially set up simple pens with temporary shelter for horses during inclement weather and eventually upgrade to barns as demand grows.

**REPORTS**

- **Town Manager, Bob Rush**
  - Bob detailed several ongoing projects including pothole filling and branch cleanup for an upcoming Easter egg hunt, well certifications and water system updates, a fixed loadout post conference with FlowPoint, scheduled meetings with Census to address water meter issues, and planning for maintenance of the SCADA system with Red Lion. He also mentioned reviewing trash route mileage and various equipment challenges.
  - Purchase of a small bumper pull trailer proposed: This proposal would allow for cost-efficient hauling of dumpsters and other equipment, reducing the need to run the trash truck empty and lowering fuel and maintenance costs.
  - Proposed putting all our water and sewer line maps on a digital platform instead of pieces of paper and notebooks. Diamond maps run it and they have a monthly or a yearly fee of about \$370. He stated you can put all the maps, all the streets' bowels, everything into this database. It stays with the town and it's accessible by anybody, in case a staff member leaves the town you will still have the water line, fire hydrants and just about any information you want to add: Discussion covered concerns of cost and consensus was to wait until more is known about where we are at financially with the upgrades the town needs to do.
  - Auction of the old red water truck proposed: The funds from the auction would be used to buy a 2,000 gallon plastic tank to be installed on the existing tandem truck, thereby improving efficiency and reducing maintenance issues related to outdated equipment.
- **Town Accountant, Tim Fulmer**
  - Financial and Billing Report presented by Accountant Fulmer: Discussion covered the handling of past due water bills, procedures for disconnecting service on delinquent accounts, and administrative challenges regarding rental accounts and payment tracking.
- **Town Clerk, Kendra Eberle**
  - The clerk reported that the office will be closed on Thursdays from now through July to facilitate website updates, codifier information completion, licensing classes, and overall office setup.
  - Fireworks Report: Tri-State Fireworks informed that the town spent \$8,000 on fireworks last year and mentioned challenges regarding venue approval due to insurance and fire hazard issues at the golf course.
- **Town Recreation Director, Trisha Fritzler**
  - Sports and Community Events Report was presented by the Clerk via message by Trish: Updates included baseball practice schedules, a t-ball tournament set for June 20-22, plans for Flagler Days on August 2, and various grant proposals (including for dugout covers, playground equipment, and free kids' golf training).
  - Homecoming Entertainment Funding Proposal proposed by Jana Ewing and Jared Allacher: Request the town rec department to donate or secure a down payment (noted as \$1,650 or a similar figure) for Dueling Pianos entertainment for homecoming, with plans for subsequent fundraising to cover additional costs.

## **Main Motions**

1. **Final Motion** Trustee Kindley proposed and seconded by Trustee Allacher that if accounts remain delinquent after a specified notice period, the service should be disconnected. Property owners would be notified and required to sign a payment agreement outlining the due amount and timeline, ensuring prompt recovery of unpaid bills

8. **Final Motion** to not approve the Freeland Proposal given by Hyre Energy due to water consumption and safety concerns to the school and town from the proposed high-pressure tanks was made by Trustee Crisp and seconded by Trustee Kindley.

1. **Discussion**

- After brief discussion, all members in attendance consented to the motion, which was then put to a vote and approved.

2. **Voting Results**

- 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

## **Unfinished Business**

1. Water and Sewer Rate Increase Discussion (Greg)

- Discussion focused on addressing pending issues regarding rate increases to meet the statewide average. Greg explained that while past rate increases were implemented in a phased manner (water one year, sewer the next), the current figures are lagging the state averages. Detailed considerations include upcoming grant cycles, a hearing scheduled for May 20, pending legislative impacts, and calculations to bridge a gap (e.g., suggesting a \$10 rate increase this year followed by \$2.50 incremental increases). Final determinations remain unsettled until further hearings and funding clarifications are completed.

2. Fireworks and Drone Show Event (Flagler Golf Club & Fireworks Order)

- Joe Diaz's call regarding the previous year's fireworks order prompted discussion on whether to continue the fireworks event given current constraints with the golf course and insurance issues.
- An alternative proposal for a drone show was mentioned as a less hazardous option.

3. Summer Help Staffing

- The need for summer help was discussed, including splitting hours between two employees (one potentially up to 30 hours per week and another around 20 hours per week).
- Concerns included the availability of high school students due to sports camps, with a suggestion to start with previous-hour allotments and adjust as needed.
- There was also discussion about whether an advertisement should be placed to hire summer help, with the understanding that if candidate(s) are found, a separate hiring motion would be made.

## **Approval of minutes**

The March 10th meeting minutes were approved on a motion made by Trustee Chuck Crisp, seconded by Trustee Troy Kindley.

**Voting Results** Motion passed 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

## **Approval of Bills**

Approval of the bills was approved on a motion made by Trustee Allacher, seconded by Trustee Kindley, this motion called for signing off on the bills as presented.

3. **Voting Results**

- 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

**Voting Results** Motion passed 6 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

1. **Conclusion** The discussion concluded that immediate disconnection of water/trash service for delinquent accounts is necessary to enforce payment, despite concerns about flexibility in payment plans.
2. **Discussion**
  - Members discussed the challenges of collecting past due amounts from rental properties and raised the idea of notifying both renters and property owners before disconnection.
  - There was a debate over whether to allow payment plans versus enforcing immediate disconnection as a firm leverage, with concerns about fairness to regular paying customers.
3. **Voting Results**
  - 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention
2. **Final Motion** to renew Flagler Golf Club Liquor License was made by Trustee Crisp and seconded by Trustee Allacher.
  1. **Voting Results**
    - 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention
3. **Final Motion** to approve Amanda Funderburk's Permit for 6 chickens was made by Trustee Kossman and seconded by Troy Kindley.
  1. **Discussion**
    - All neighbors contacted the Town Clerk stating they had no issues.
  2. **Voting Results**
    - 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention
4. **Final Motion** made by Trustee Kossman, seconded by Trustee Allacher to hire J.D. Byers as the Maintenance Assistant with a 90-day review period.
  1. **Voting Results**
    - 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention
5. **Final Motion** made by Trustee Kossman and seconded by Trustee Kindley to hire Sharon Waggoner as part-time librarian for 15 hours per week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.).
  1. **Discussion**
    - Discussion highlighted her background, enthusiasm for books, and plans for mentorship (including shadowing at Hugo's library and partnering with Trish) to ensure a smooth transition. Her schedule was designed to cover peak times and allow for project work.
  2. **Voting Results**
    - 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention
6. **Final Motion** made by Trustee Allacher and seconded by Trustee Taylor to approve Resolution 153.
  1. **Discussion**
    - Discussion involved clarification that the utility rate raises was already voted upon and approved November of 2024. That this was the Resolution detailing the utility rate raise.
  2. **Voting Results**
    - 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention
7. **Final Motion** Trash agreement with Kit Carson County for \$775 per month over a three-year period was approved. Moved by Trustee Kindley and seconded by Trustee Crisp during the meeting, this motion standardizes the billing process for transfer sites.
  1. **Discussion**
    - Members discussed the billing history, noting that previous charges varied (e.g., \$178 per week) depending on billing frequency, and agreed that a consistent monthly cost is needed going forward.
  2. **Voting Results**
    - 5 in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention

- Mayor Randy Fagerlund adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.



Randy C Fagerlund MAYOR

Heather M. Elce CLERK

May 15, 2025 DATE APPROVED