

**Regular Meeting Minutes of
The Board of Trustees
Town of Gilcrest, Colorado
304 8th Street – Town Hall
August 1, 2022
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Roll Call – Mayor Pro -Tem Nothem, Trustees, Esquivel, Fulton, Tapia, Lester
Absent: Mayor Chavez, Trustee Castro
- c. Town Staff Present: Larry Lorentzen, Town Administrator; Brenda Joseph, Town Clerk/Treasurer

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR AGENDA:

Motion – Trustee Lester, Motion to approve the Regular Agenda, **2nd – Trustee Tapia**. All voted Aye. **Motion carried** (4-0). Trustee Esquivel was not present for this vote.

3. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Gabe Evans, 14410 County Road 10, Ft. Lupton, CO. pointed out that he is a Colorado native. He explained that he was at the meeting tonight to introduce himself, briefly explain his background, and provide his contact information to the Board. He further explained that he is a Candidate running for the Colorado House District 48 and he provided his contact information to the Board stating he can be reached any time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Board of Trustee Minutes for July 18, 2022
- b. Bills for Approval

Motion – Trustee Lester, Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, **2nd – Trustee Fulton**. All voted Aye. **Motion carried** (5-0).

Trustee Esquivel arrived at the meeting at 7:05 pm and was present to vote on this Agenda item.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Ordinance 2022-03 Amending Chapter 16, Clarifying Role of Planning Commission – 2nd Reading

Motion – Trustee Lester, Motion to accept the Financial Statements for the 2020 Audit, 2nd – **Trustee Tapia**. All voted Aye. **Motion carried (5-0)**.

b. Ballot Question Language for Allowing Chickens

Town Administrator Lorentzen pointed out that the Board has discussed their intent to place a ballot question allowing chickens in the Gilcrest Town Limits on the November 8, 2022 Election Ballot. He explained that provided the Board finds a consensus on the ballot language for the Chick question, he will bring a Resolution to the August 15, 2022, meeting setting the ballot language. Final ballot language must be certified to the County Clerk by September 9, 2022. In addition, Town Administrator Lorentzen explained that they will also want to consider permits, fees, setbacks from property lines, minimum size of coop and run, penalties etc. He suggested two versions of ballot language for discussion.

The Board discussed both options suggested along with what they would like to have included in the ballot question such as how many chickens a household could have while taking into consideration the number of residents per household. They also considered that 4-6 chickens are typically allowed in other near by Towns that allow chickens. They suggested that they would like to see no more than eight chickens be allowed per household. The Board explained that they would like Town Administrator to bring a Resolution on this to the next Board meeting on August 15, 2022.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion - Ballot Question on Term Limits

Town Administrator Lorentzen explained that at the last Board Meeting, July 18, 2022, the Board requested an agenda item to discuss putting a term limit question on the November 8, 2022, Election. He presented that if the Colorado Constitutional language allowing a municipality to eliminate term limits for local officials is: (2) The voters of any such political subdivision may lengthen, shorten, or eliminate the limitations on terms of office imposed by this Section 11. Typical ballot language to eliminate term limits is:

Shall the term limits imposed by Article XVIII, Section 11 of the Colorado Constitution be eliminated in the Town of Gilcrest, so that the present and future elected Mayor and Trustees of the Town of Gilcrest will be authorized to serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms of office?

Town Administrator Lorentzen pointed out that of course the Board could decide to lengthen term limits instead of eliminating them all together or could have a different term restriction on Trustees vs. the Mayor. He restated that the Town has until September 9, 2022 to get the Ballot questions to Weld County. In addition, he stated that the Nomination Packets for the Board of Trustee Election can be picked up in the Town Hall on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, and are due back to the Town Clerk by Tuesday, August 29, 2022.

Town Clerk Joseph added that this year the Ballots now need to be sent to Weld County in both English and Spanish.

The Board discussed waiting until after August 9, 2022 to see how many Nomination Petition Packets are picked up from the Town Hall to determine how much interest there is by the Town residents to fill the three Board of Trustee Seats and then they will discuss this further at either the Board Meeting on August 29, 2022 or September 5, 2022

7. REPORTS:

a. Town Administrator Report

Town Administrator Lorentzen provided the Board with a status report regarding the liner for Sewer Lagoon one. He stated that Element Engineering is working with Public Works Supervisor Meisner on seeing if Lagoon three can be baffled to turn into two ponds with enough capacity to adequately treat the wastewater while Lagoon one is drained in order to assess the liner situation and determine the best course of action for repairs.

Also, he pointed out that at the last Board Meeting Mayor Chavez asked about the status of a vehicle stolen off of Stockton Street. He reported that Chief Dwyer responded with the following when he asked about it: "That vehicle was involved in a crash on June 18th in Greeley. The suspect ran from the scene on foot. It involved a 2021 GMC Sierra Truck."

In addition, he reported that the Town just received a letter from Central Weld Water District advising that the water rates are going up substantially. In 2019, they had talked about it going up 4% every year. Central Weld Water District has put in a new tier system which will cause the rate to go up approximately 17%. The Town currently gets a flat rate of 1.92 per 1,000 gallons. Gilcrest will most likely be in Tier 2 of the new system which will be \$2.50, per 1,000 gallons. For the 2023 Budget work-sessions, he will come back to the Board anticipating a fee schedule and will suggest going to a couple tiers along with possibly lowering the base rate, with a corresponding lesser amount of water received under the base rate, to allow for a single person or someone on a fixed income who chooses to conserve water to have a lower the Town Utility bill each month.

d. Board of Trustees

Trustee Lester asked if the Town has heard anything from Bob Lembke regarding the annexation for the gravel pit. Town Administrator Lorentzen explained that the Town had a meeting with his surveyor. Lembke's team is revising some of the plans. Lembke did explain to them that he is working with the Berthoud Water District and asking for information on the ground water, so he has sent him additional information as requested.

Trustee Esquivel asked what ever came of the idea that a past Board Member, Ralph, suggested of putting signs up on along Highway 85 that say, "Welcome to Gilcrest". Town Administrator Lorentzen explained that they do have the money in the Budget for this. He will visit with Public Works Supervisor Meisner about this and see if they can move forward with this. He explained that on the side going North they will more than likely need to go through the whole CDOT process. On the side going South, they have already talked to the property owner near the sewer lagoons who has said he has no problem with them putting a sign up. There have been some things that have been put on hold this summer mainly due to staff shortage. Mayor Pro-Tem Nothem mentioned that Staff shortage along with the Budget has also been why the Beautification Committee has not really brought anything up.

Trustee Fulton asked what the status is regarding the street sweeping. She explained that she has had multiple residents ask her when it is going to be done. She has also shared with the residents that have asked her that if they are interested, they are welcome at the Board meetings to inquire about this. Town Administrator Lorentzen reported that Public Works Supervisor Meisner has been working on this but has not had any other company interested in doing this. Trustee Lester said he will reach out to one of his contacts and ask him to contact the Town.

Trustee Tapia asked the status of hiring a Public Works Foreman. He explained the Town has not yet received any submittals from applicants for the job posting. There really has not been any interest from anyone who has the proper qualifications. The Town has employed a Valley High School student who has done a great job but is a temporary employee and will be returning to school next week. The Town has also hired another temporary employee and she will be working part-time starting the week of August 14, 2022. Discussion took place regarding contacting an Employment Service to get help recruiting a Public Works Foreman.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion – Trustee Esquivel, Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 P.M. on August 1, 2022, **2nd – Trustee Tapia**. All voted Aye. **Motion carried** (5-0).



ATTEST:

Brenda Joseph
Brenda Joseph, Town Clerk

TOWN OF GILCREST

Tyson Chavez

Tyson Chavez, Mayor

Steve Nothem, Mayor Pro Tem