

Town of Paonia
214 Grand Avenue
Tuesday, December 9, 2025
Town Board Minutes

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Mayor Smith calls the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

A) Roll Call

Present:

Mayor Smith

Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter

Trustee Czech

Trustee Heck

Trustee Hunter

Absent:

Trustee Tarnow

B) Approval of Agenda

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Heck.

The motion carries unanimously.

C) Announcements

Clerk Vetter: Applications are being accepted for an open seat on the Zoning Board of Adjustment (three-year term). And notice of upcoming candidate petition period for April municipal elections.

Town Administrator Wynn: Introduction of new front office staff: Ashley Rodarte (Accounting & Payroll Specialist) and Daoine Bachran (Utility Billing & Building Permits Coordinator). And a Special Meeting scheduled for December 30, 2025, at 4:00 PM for FY25 budget amendments.

Trustee Heck: Appreciation expressed to the Fire Department, Police Department, and EMS for their response to a neighboring house fire.

D) Public Comment

No public comment was offered, either in person or via Zoom.

E) Consent Agenda

- 1) November 25, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2) December 9, 2025 Disbursements
- December 23, 2025 Disbursements

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to remove the second round of disbursements (December 23, 2025, Disbursements) from the consent agenda for tonight and add those to the December 30th Special Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Czech

The motion carries unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter makes a motion to approve the amended consent agenda. Seconded by Trustee Hunter.

The motion carries unanimously.

F) Staff Reports

- 1) Town Administrator/Treasurer

Town Administrator Wynn did not provide a separate staff report, as his report was incorporated into and delivered during the budget presentation later in the meeting, under Actions & Presentations.

- 2) **Police Chief**
Police Chief Laiminger reports completed a county-required Spillman system upgrade, enabling mobile reporting capabilities, and conducted all mandated POST training. Officers focused on education rather than enforcement regarding snow removal requirements, reported no citations issued, and announced one current officer vacancy with interviews underway. The department also began early dog registrations for 2026, noting strong community response.
- 3) **Public Works Director**
Public Works Director Poulos reported progress on major infrastructure projects including water tank relining, Western Loop waterline easements, lead and copper service line identification, and preparation for the Stewart Ditch culvert replacement. Routine operations included wastewater site cleanup, leaf pickup, pothole patching, curb painting, tree trimming, and storm-related debris removal, along with updates on the Delta Compost Project at Twin Lakes. Staffing changes, new equipment, and recent employee training were also noted.

G) Actions & Presentations

- 1) **Consideration of Appointing an Applicant to the Board of Trustees**
Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter makes a motion to approve the application of Hector Mejorado to be appointed to the vacant seat on the Board of Trustees until the term expires in April and new members are seated on April 28, 2026. Seconded by Trustee Heck.

Clerk Vetter swears in Hector Mejorado and, as a newly appointed trustee, is seated at the dais.

- 2) **Consideration of Membership on Board of Trustee Committees**
The Board confirmed that Trustee Czech and Mayor Smith would serve on the Finance Committee, the Personnel Committee would remain unfilled pending completion of the new Employee Handbook, and the Parks Committee would continue with Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter, with Trustee Tarnow having previously expressed interest in filling the vacant seat. The Public Safety Committee consists of Trustee Czech and Trustee Hunter, while the Short-Term Rental Ad Hoc Committee includes Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter and Trustee Mejorado, with the committee chair to be re-established at a future meeting. Board representation on the Planning Commission remains Mayor Smith, Trustee Hunter, and Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter, and Trustee Heck continues to represent the Board on the Tree Board.
- 3) **Consideration of Resolution 28-2025 Cancelling the Second Meeting of December**
Clerk Vetter explained that the late-December meeting is customarily canceled due to its timing near Christmas and because a Special Meeting had already been scheduled for December 30, 2025, to address required year-end budget amendments, making the additional regular meeting unnecessary.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to cancel the December 23rd meeting. Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter.

The motion carries unanimously.

- 4) **Ordinance 25-10 Publishing Disbursements on the Town Website**
Clerk Vetter explained that the ordinance to publish disbursements on the Town website was required to implement a ballot measure previously approved by Paonia voters. Staff explained that the measure passed by a wide margin and that adoption of the ordinance was necessary to formally place the voter-approved requirement into effect and allow disbursement information to be posted online for public access.

Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter makes a motion to approve Ordinance Number 10-2025. Seconded by Trustee Czech

The motion carries unanimously.

- 5) **Consideration of Approval of Town's Comments Regarding the BLM Colorado**

March 2026 Oil & Gas Lease Sale Draft Environmental Analysis, specifically pertaining to parcels CO-2026-03-6157 and CO-2026-03-6169 within the Uncompahgre Field Office

The Board considered a draft comment letter regarding the BLM Colorado March 2026 Oil and Gas Lease Sale, specifically addressing two lease parcels located northeast of Paonia. Staff explained that the environmental analysis did not include prior municipal scoping comments, prompting the Town to restate its concerns, request clarification from BLM, and attach its previously approved scoping letter to the record.

Public Comment:

J. Carlson, in-town resident, spoke to encouraging individuals to also write their own letters.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to approve the letter with the addition of Trustee Mejorado. Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter.

The motion carries unanimously.

H) **Public Hearing**

- 1) Public Hearing to Set the Mill Levy for 2026
- 2) Public Hearing to Adopt the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

Mayor Smith opens the public hearing at 7:22 PM.

After verification of proper notification and no disclosures presented, Town Administrator Wynn presented an extensive overview of the Town's financial plan, including total appropriations across all funds, projected revenues, beginning and ending fund balances, debt service obligations, and major capital investments. The presentation highlighted that the mill levy would remain at 8.322 mills, that the budget was balanced in accordance with Colorado law, and that significant infrastructure projects—particularly in water, streets, and public safety would be funded primarily through grants and low-interest loans, alongside the adoption of a five-year capital improvement plan to guide future investments.

Public Comment:

E. Short, an in-town resident, commented that the level of budget detail and long-range planning presented was unprecedented for Paonia, noting that it appeared significantly more detailed than budgets prepared in prior years.

R. Corona, a local business owner operating extended hours, raised concerns about the lack of publicly accessible restrooms outside normal business hours, explaining the impact on visitors and downtown businesses and suggesting the Town consider non-traditional or modular public restroom solutions in future budgets.

Trustee Hunter identified a correction in Section Four of the budget resolution, noting that the year was incorrectly listed as 2065 and should be corrected to 2026.

Mayor Smith closes the public hearing at 9:12 PM.

Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter makes a motion to adopt Resolution 29-2025 adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 budget, appropriating funds for all components of the municipal operation, and levying the 2026 Mill Levy as set at 8.322 mills. Seconded by Trustee Mejorado.

Voting Aye:

Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter
Trustee Heck
Trustee Hunter
Trustee Czech
Trustee Mejorado

Voting Nay:

None

The motion carries.

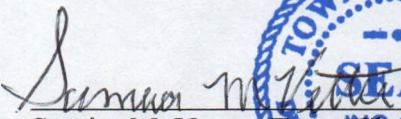
I) **Mayor & Trustee Reports**

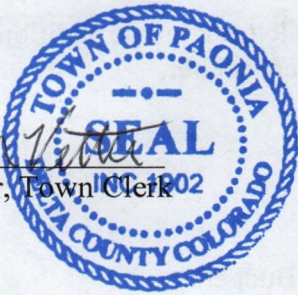
1) **Ad Hoc Short-Term Rentals Committee**

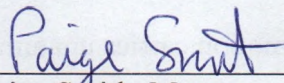
It was noted only that there was nothing to report at that time, as the committee had not met and was awaiting reconstitution following recent Board changes.

J) **Adjournment**

Mayor Smith adjourns the meeting at 9:15 PM.


Samira M. Vetter, Town Clerk




Paige Smith, Mayor