



Town of Paonia
214 Grand Avenue
Monday, March 30, 2026 6:30 PM
Town Board Agenda

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004628509>

Meeting ID: 820 0462 8509

Public Participation: Please raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the Mayor, come to the podium and state your name and whether you live in town or out of town. Time limit is 3 minutes, one time per item, there are instructions at the podium for the timer light. Please direct all comments to the Mayor. No responses will be made by staff or Board during the meeting.

Please be respectful and help to maintain decorum by not engaging in derogatory and/or demeaning statements or public displays.

A) Roll Call

B) Approval of Agenda

C) Actions & Presentations

Public comments must be related to the agenda item, 3-minute time limit.

- 1) Trustee Approval of a Statement of Fact Clarifying Approved Budgets, Purchases and Purchasing Policy to be Distributed Publicly.

D) Adjournment

As Adopted by:
Town of Paonia, Colorado
Resolution No. 2017-10 – Amended May 22, 2018

I. Rules of Procedure

Section 1. Schedule of Meetings. Regular Board of Trustees meetings shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, except on legal holidays, or as re-scheduled or amended and posted on the agenda prior to the scheduled meeting.

Section 2. Officiating Officer. The meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be conducted by the Mayor or, in the Mayor's absence, the Mayor Pro-Tem. The Town Clerk or a designee of the Board shall record the minutes of the meetings.

Section 3. Time of Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall begin at 6:30 p.m. or as scheduled and posted on the agenda. Board Members shall be called to order by the Mayor. The meetings shall open with the presiding officer leading the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk shall then proceed to call the roll, note the absences and announce whether a quorum is present. Regular Meetings are scheduled for three hours, and shall be adjourned at 9:30 p.m., unless a majority of the Board votes in the affirmative to extend the meeting, by a specific amount of time.

Section 4. Schedule of Business. If a quorum is present, the Board of Trustees shall proceed with the business before it, which shall be conducted in the following manner. Note that all provided times are estimated:

- (a) Roll Call - (5 minutes)
- (b) Approval of Agenda - (5 minutes)
- (c) Announcements (5 minutes)
- (d) Recognition of Visitors and Guests (10 minutes)
- (e) Consent Agenda including Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (10 minutes)
- (f) Mayor's Report (10 minutes)
- (g) Staff Reports: (15 minutes)
 - (1) Town Administrator's Report
 - (2) Public Works Reports
 - (3) Police Report
 - (4) Treasurer Report
- (h) Unfinished Business (45 minutes)
- (i) New Business (45 minutes)
- (j) Disbursements (15 minutes)
- (k) Committee Reports (15 minutes)
- (l) Adjournment

* This schedule of business is subject to change and amendment.

Section 5. Priority and Order of Business. Questions relative to the priority of business and order shall be decided by the Mayor without debate, subject in all cases to an appeal to the Board of Trustees.

Section 6. Conduct of Board Members. Town Board Members shall treat other Board Members and the public in a civil and polite manner and shall comply with the Standards of Conduct for Elected Officials of the Town. Board Members shall address Town Staff and the Mayor by his/her title, other Board Members by the title of Trustee or the appropriate honorific (i.e.: Mr., Mrs. or Ms.), and members of the public by the appropriate honorific. Subject to the Mayor's discretion, Board Members shall be

limited to speaking two times when debating an item on the agenda. Making a motion, asking a question or making a suggestion are not counted as speaking in a debate.

Section 7. Presentations to the Board. Items on the agenda presented by individuals, businesses or other organizations shall be given up to 5 minutes to make a presentation. On certain issues, presenters may be given more time, as determined by the Mayor and Town Staff. After the presentation, Trustees shall be given the opportunity to ask questions.

Section 8. Public Comment. After discussion of an agenda item by the Board of Trustees has concluded, the Mayor shall open the floor for comment from members of the public, who shall be allowed the opportunity to comment or ask questions on the agenda item. Each member of the public wishing to address the Town Board shall be recognized by the presiding officer before speaking. Members of the public shall speak from the podium, stating their name, the address of their residence and any group they are representing prior to making comment or asking a question. Comments shall be directed to the Mayor or presiding officer, not to an individual Trustee or Town employee. Comments or questions should be confined to the agenda item or issue(s) under discussion. The speaker should offer factual information and refrain from obscene language and personal attacks.

Section 9. Unacceptable Behavior. Disruptive behavior shall result in expulsion from the meeting.

Section 10. Posting of Rules of Procedure for Paonia Board of Trustees Meetings. These rules of procedure shall be provided in the Town Hall meeting room for each Board of Trustees meeting so that all attendees know how the meeting will be conducted.

II. Consent Agenda

Section 1. Use of Consent Agenda. The Mayor, working with Town Staff, shall place items on the Consent Agenda. By using a Consent Agenda, the Board has consented to the consideration of certain items as a group under one motion. Should a Consent Agenda be used at a meeting, an appropriate amount of discussion time will be allowed to review any item upon request.

Section 2. General Guidelines. Items for consent are those which usually do not require discussion or explanation prior to action by the Board, are non-controversial and/or similar in content, or are those items which have already been discussed or explained and do not require further discussion or explanation. Such agenda items may include ministerial tasks such as, but not limited to, approval of previous meeting minutes, approval of staff reports, addressing routine correspondence, approval of liquor licenses renewals and approval or extension of other Town licenses. Minor changes in the minutes such as non-material Scribner errors may be made without removing the minutes from the Consent Agenda. Should any Trustee feel there is a material error in the minutes, they should request the minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda for Board discussion.

Section 3. Removal of Item from Consent Agenda. One or more items may be removed from the Consent Agenda by a timely request of any Trustee. A request is timely if made prior to the vote on the Consent Agenda. The request does not require a second or a vote by the Board. An item removed from the Consent Agenda will then be

discussed and acted on separately either immediately following the consideration of the Consent Agenda or placed later on the agenda, at the discretion of the Board.

III. Executive Session

Section 1. An executive session may only be called at a regular or special Board meeting where official action may be taken by the Board, not at a work session of the Board. To convene an executive session, the Board shall announce to the public in the open meeting the topic to be discussed in the executive session, including specific citation to the statute authorizing the Board to meet in an executive session and identifying the particular matter to be discussed "in as much detail as possible without compromising the purpose for which the executive session is authorized." In the event the Board plans to discuss more than one of the authorized topics in the executive session, each should be announced, cited and described. Following the announcement of the intent to convene an executive session, a motion must then be made and seconded. In order to go into executive session, there must be the affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of Members of the Board.

Section 2. During executive session, minutes or notes of the deliberations should not be taken. Since meeting minutes are subject to inspection under the Colorado Open Records Act, the keeping of minutes would defeat the private nature of executive session. In addition, the deliberations carried out during executive session should not be discussed outside of that session or with individuals not participating in the session. The contents of an executive session are to remain confidential unless a majority of the Trustees vote to disclose the contents of the executive session.

Section 3. Once the deliberations have taken place in executive session, the Board should reconvene in regular session to take any formal action decided upon during the executive session. If you have questions regarding the wording of the motion or whether any other information should be disclosed on the record, it is essential for you to consult with the Town Attorney on these matters.

IV. Subject to Amendment

Section 1. Deviations. The Board may deviate from the procedures set forth in this Resolution, if, in its sole discretion, such deviation is necessary under the circumstances.

Section 2. Amendment. The Board may amend these Rules of Procedures Policy from time to time.



**TOWN OF PAONIA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MAYOR REPORT**

AGENDA ITEM:	Trustee approval of a statement of fact clarifying approved budgets, purchases and purchasing policy to be distributed publicly.
SUBMITTED BY:	Mayor Smith
DATE:	March 30, 2026
BACKGROUND:	The Town became aware of the attached anonymous flyer (Att. 1.) on March 25th and subsequently learned that this flyer was being distributed throughout Town. The kind of misinformation and blatant falsehoods included in the flyer denigrating our Town Administrator and us as the governing body deserves a unified public response. One of the most dangerous consequences of these kind of untrue accusations being made against our Town is that it can place us in jeopardy with our current granting and lending agencies. If this unfounded negativity is left unanswered, then perception becomes reality and a lasting impression may be erroneously created that we are operating outside of the public interest, making us a lending risk in the present and into the future. Therefore, please see the attached draft Statement of Fact incorporated into a Letter to the Citizens of Paonia (Att. 2) for your consideration. If approved, I'm suggesting that we direct staff to submit the letter to the Merchant Herald, High Country Shopper and Delta County Independent as a half-page or full-page display ad (depending on the outlet). By doing so, we can directly control when and where it's published. The price lists from all three publications are also attached. In addition, upon seeing the libelous flyer, Trustee Hunter recognized the need for an immediate response to set the record straight and created the attached flyer (Att. 6.) on March 26th and posted it throughout Town. This was done on her own accord, after consultation with the Administrator (to ensure her flyer content was 100% accurate) and the Town Attorney. This did not involve me or any other Trustee.

BUDGET:	Cost of display ads
RECOMMENDATION:	Make a motion to approve the public statement with any agreed upon changes and publish through display ads.
ATTACHMENTS:	1. Anonymous "10 Things Paonia should know about its Town Administrator" flyer. 2. Draft Statement of Fact (letter) to Paonia citizens from the Mayor and Trustees 3. Merchant Herald display ad price list 4. High Country Shopper display ad price list 5. Delta County Independent display ad price list 6. Flyer refuting the statements made in the original anonymous flyer

10 THINGS PAONIA SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ITS TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Stefen Wynn, MPA, ICMA-CM — All facts from public records

- 1 He was fired unanimously from his last job.**
Neptune Beach, Florida fired Wynn by unanimous City Council vote in January 2023 for "flagrant neglect of duty" and "willful misconduct which substantially impairs or damages the interests or reputation of the city." Paonia hired him six months later.
Newsday, WDC News, Asheville.com Jan 1 Jan 2023
- 2 He was accused of bullying employees and creating a toxic workplace.**
Neptune Beach council members accused Wynn of bullying staff, using profanity toward employees, and storming out of offices during meetings. He also turned off public comments on the city's official Facebook page.
Orlando, Sun-Sentinel Newsday 1 Sep 2022 1 Dec 2022
- 3 He controls all the money — alone.**
Wynn consolidated Town Administrator and Town Treasurer into one role. He prepares the budget that determines his own salary. \$106K in admin costs are allocated across enterprise funds — spread across four separate budget pages. The last time Paonia concentrated financial authority in one person, \$480,000 was embezzled over five years (2007–2012).
Town of Paonia FY2025 & FY2026 Adopted Budgets
- 4 The town's savings are disappearing.**
The FY2026 adopted budget projects fund balances dropping 23% in a single year (\$5.4M → \$4.1M). The Sales Tax CIP fund is projected to drop from \$513K to \$447K. Bridge Reserve projected down 73.5%. Meanwhile, new patrol cars, a street sweeper, and trucks keep coming.
Town of Paonia FY2025 & FY2026 Adopted Budgets
- 5 69% of the budget is grants and loans. If they stop, Paonia collapses.**
The FY2026 adopted budget is \$16.16M — but only ~\$4.6M is the town's own revenue. The rest is grants and loans. Wynn took on a \$9.74M water infrastructure loan adding \$263K/year in debt payments through 2045. As of the FY2026 budget adoption, waterline replacement projects were still being carried over from the prior year.
Town of Paonia FY2026 Adopted Budget, High Country Spotlight 1 Mar 2026
- 6 He grew the bureaucracy 6x faster than the population.**
Staff went from 19 to 25.7 FTE (+35%) with a 57% increase in admin positions. Population grew 1.1% during the same period. Personnel costs rose over \$530K (+28%).
Town of Paonia FY2021 & FY2026 Adopted Budgets, Econ. Overview
- 7 Surveillance cameras in Town Park — pointed at where your family gathers.**
\$50K+ on Verkada cloud cameras — a company fined \$2.95M by the FTC. Cameras installed in Town Park, where families gather for summer festivals. All footage stored in the cloud. Without a court-issued warrant or order, access to this footage is suspect in today's climate. Board approved unanimously, zero public comment. No surveillance policy exists. Would a majority of Paonia consent to this?
Town of Paonia Board minutes Aug 12, 2025, FTC.gov
- 8 Century-old trees dying. \$0 in the budget. Volunteers told to pound sand.**
Historic drought. Tree Board volunteers resigned, ignored, or surveilled — their own liaison called himself "the town's spy." Public Works won't even meet with them. But there's \$50K for cameras and new trucks for the fleet.
Delta County Independent 1 Oct 2025, Town of Paonia FY2026 Budget
- 9 This isn't governing — it's shopping.**
\$1M backup generators. \$500K cellular meters. \$250K squad cars. \$50K surveillance cameras. \$43K trash cans. \$33K sidewalk robots. Street sweeper requested. And only \$35K for our streets, and \$0 for the trees.
Town of Paonia FY2024 & FY2026 Adopted Budgets
- 10 Same pattern from Florida: anyone who asks questions gets pushed out.**
Trustee Brunner filed CORA requests and questioned a water tap sale — three months into his elected term. Wynn strong-armed the Board: remove him or I resign. They expelled Brunner. Wynn stayed. A hired administrator used his job as leverage to remove an elected official.
KVNB, High Country Spotlight 2011 Aug 2021

**This is a public servant?
Ask your Trustees why he still has a job.**

All facts sourced from adopted Town budgets, quarterly reports, court filings, and published news coverage.
Verify everything yourself. File a CORA request. Town of Paonia, 211 Grand Ave, Paonia CO 81428.



Town of Paonia

Offices of the Mayor & Board of Trustees

Paige Smith, *Mayor*

Rick Stelter, *Mayor Pro-Tempore*

Hector Mejorado, *Trustee*

Walter Czech, *Trustee*

Lucy Hunter, *Trustee*

Michael Heck, *Trustee*

Karen Tarnow, *Trustee*

Letter to Town of Paonia Citizens

In a recent public posting, the anonymous author(s) penned a list of misleading and false accusations about the Town of Paonia Administrator, the Mayor, and Board of Trustees. This posting contains many deliberately damaging and inaccurate attempted “gotchas,” meant to denigrate the Town Administrator.

Erroneous and libelous statements were made about the reasons for our Administrator leaving his previous position. Mr. Wynn was interviewed by the Trustees publicly and disclosed that he had filed a Whistle Blower Discrimination Lawsuit against his previous employer.

The author(s) have attempted to offer a spin on factual information in order to paint the Town Administrator in a negative light, when he has in fact served our community with distinction, integrity, and professionalism.

There has been a pattern of a few ill-willed players in Town harassing, bullying, and defaming Town Administrators. While there may have been issues in the past, this Town Administrator has tackled serious issues since his first day that have plagued the Town for decades. Because of this smear campaign, we the Town’s elected representatives would be remiss if we didn’t respond to myriad misinformation and deliberately damaging statements being passed as fact to the citizen’s we were elected to serve.

Paonia’s Form of Government: The overarching theme of the anonymous postings around Town and social media campaign is that the Administrator is making all the decisions for the Town without any direction or oversight from the elected body and these decisions are being categorized as consistently bad or negative for the Town. These statements are false and a deliberate misrepresentation of publicly available facts and events. The Mayor and Trustees rely on input from the Town Administrator and Department heads in order to make decisions necessary for the good governance and operation of the Town. The Town Administrator and Town Staff implement the decisions and direction of the Trustees. This is how Paonia’s Administrator/Trustee form of municipal government operates. All information provided here is discussed publicly and is available on the Town’s website.

Grant and Loan Funding for Infrastructure: The most significant recent achievement for our small Town is being awarded a total of \$10M in grants (50%) and low-interest loans (50%) to finally (after decades of deferred maintenance) address needed repairs and replacements to ensure we continue to provide drinking water for the 1500 households and businesses we serve. Our 2M gallon treated water tank is currently being relined as required by the state, long needed water meters on our most important mountain spring complexes (which is the sole source of Paonia’s drinking water) are being installed and we are also replacing 10,000 feet of 50+ year old rusted steel pipe that provides water to the majority of our users. All three projects combined have a price tag of \$10,803,000.

Paonia does not have this kind of cash on hand and none of these projects are remotely possible without having access to this level of cash up front. Just like someone buying a house needs to take out a loan. However, the author(s) believe that the Town being awarded grants and low-interest loans to address the Town’s aging drinking water infrastructure is not the correct path forward. Being awarded these

incredibly competitive grants and loans is the ONLY way to afford these expensive projects and would not have been possible without the leadership, level of competence and long-range planning provided by our Town Administrator and the team of staff that he has put together. Your elected body firmly believe that these are accomplishments to celebrate, not mock. We're astonished that addressing aging drinking water infrastructure by securing competitive grants and low-interest loans is somehow viewed as not in the Town's best interest.

Another major accomplishment is the \$3M project, to completely reconstruct a dangerous intersection that has been nearly fully funded through a state and a federal grant, with an expected Town match of just under \$33,000. This kind of grant funding for street repairs is unprecedented for a small town like Paonia. The level of coordination between federal, state, county and school board needed to secure this funding required a professional Administrator that knows how to expertly navigate each level of government.

Staffing: The author(s) opine that our Administrator "grew the bureaucracy." This is patently false. The Trustees approve staffing levels based on available funds, and anticipated service-level deliveries that they expect the Town to receive from staff. The Town Administrator and his team fill those vacancies to meet the desired service-delivery levels. The Town Administrator and Trustees have filled vacancies in staffing that have existed for years through carefully changing the culture of Town employment into a high-performing team of professional staff.

In order for these infrastructure projects to be successfully and continuously managed while also providing the daily services expected by citizen's requires adequate staff. Consequently two more full-time and two seasonal Park positions were approved by the Trustees for 2026. Referring to adequate staffing as "growing bureaucracy," ignores that these infrastructure improvements were not previously possible because of a lack of adequate staff.

Town Finances and Accountability: Beginning approximately 19 years ago the Town of Paonia had almost \$500,000 stolen by a single employee over a period of six years. Current Town staff and elected officials acknowledge this hard history, and more progress has been made in the last 2.5 years to protect the Town finances and improve transparency in financial reporting than has ever been made in the Town's history. Every decision about Town finances is made to ensure that this history is not repeated. Specifically, through our Town Administrator's own initiative, the Town's Municipal Code now requires the use of a fully defined purchasing policy for any procurement of goods or services. This forward thinking helped secure internal controls so that future administrations operate in a way that is secure and defined.

A robust set of internal controls have been put in place ensuring the Town's financial information (money) is not "controlled" by the Administrator "alone" as has been erroneously asserted. These internal controls, recommended by our Town Administrator and approved by the Trustees, include the use of Caselle government accounting software, and a third-party, contracted financial management firm, Professional Management Solutions both of which track, report, and reconcile the disposition of all public funds.

The Town relies on a second level of internal control provided by the Finance Committee consisting of the Mayor and a Trustee. The Committee reviews every invoice for services rendered and asks questions on the expenditures and associated budget record keeping allocations, etc. These questions must be answered to the Committee's satisfaction before an invoice can be included on the list of disbursements to be paid. Payment requires Trustee approval which is requested at every meeting. The Committee members both sign each check and ensure that every check issued or voided is accounted for.

Our Town Administrator has instituted budget reporting every month that had not been provided previously. This includes a running total of spending to date versus budgeted amounts for every line item

in every fund within the Town's budget and a summary of the current balance in each bank and investment accounts. This reporting is included in the first regular monthly meeting. This level of up-to-date information is vital to decision making throughout the year especially when unexpected expenses occur like broken sewer service lines, broken water lines, vehicle maintenance, etc.

Capital Improvement Planning: Another planning tool introduced by our Town Administrator is a five-year Capital Improvement Plan. This is a simple mechanism for each Department to assess what is needed to improve existing infrastructure and replace aging or obsolete equipment over a rolling five-year period. This Plan offers the Trustees and the public with a five-year snapshot with priorities identified by staff for the immediate budgeting cycle. The budget and these major capital improvements and purchases were discussed in five budget meetings held throughout the third and fourth quarters of 2025 and are described in detail on pages 68 – 76 and 145 of the 2026 annual budget report. Despite the author(s) referring to this long-term planning as “shopping,” it is not. It's responsible planning regarding the use of public funds to ensure the Town can continue operating under all known and unforeseen circumstances. This level of financial planning is considered good governance. It's part of our fiduciary duty and is what we were elected to do.

Trees: The flyer's author(s) incorrectly assert that the 2026 budget does not include funding for tree maintenance and that the Administrator told the citizen Tree Board to “pound sand.” Again, neither are true. Two new budget line items for trees totaling \$40,000 are in the approved FY 2026 Budget: Streets 10-45-71 Right-of-Way Maintenance \$25,000 and Parks 10-46-71 Right-of-Way Maintenance \$15,000. The Trustees, through Resolution 03-26, temporarily suspended the Tree Board due to expired terms and a resignation, leaving it without a quorum, while the Town hires a contracted, certified Arborist consultant to assist with long-term tree planning and maintenance. The Town is providing what the former Board asked for; a certified Arborist consultant and funding for tree maintenance.

Cameras: The author(s) question the Town's installation of cameras in public places. The proposal to install motion activated cameras in Town Park, Town-owned buildings, and critical water and sewer buildings was the topic of discussion during at least six public meetings held between October 2024 and December 2025 and is not a secret. The installation of these cameras in the Park has reduced vandalism considerably and the vandalism that has occurred has been quickly addressed and the perpetrators apprehended. These are not nefarious face recognition, or private property surveillance apparatus. Instead they are a tool used routinely across the country in cities and towns to monitor and protect the public use of publicly provided spaces.

Comments made like “he grew the bureaucracy” and “he controls all the money...alone” are factually incorrect. What is true is that the Town of Paonia would not be in the enviable position it's in today with ample funding to address long neglected critical infrastructure upgrades, with policies in place that ensure public funds are protected, and an approach to administration that treats all citizens equally and fairly if our Town Administrator hadn't been hired nearly three years ago.

We know this unified and published statement of fact will likely be met with more baseless accusations and misinformation. We are making this statement to ensure that the citizens of Paonia understand the decisions that we've made and that we are grateful for the progress the Town has been able to make and the services we are all being provided. All this has been made possible under the leadership of our Town Administrator, Stefen Wynn, and the highly performing team of professionals working on our collective behalf.

Nan - (970) 872-2308
Nanromane@gmail.com

Tom Wills (970) 964-7588
Elazarus.wills@gmail.com

The North Fork Merchant Herald

Raven Rumors Press, LLC P.O. Box 386 - Hotchkiss, CO 81419 - 229 W. Bridge Street
Editorial/Production: elazarus.wills@gmail.com Advertising: nanromane@gmail.com

PRINT DISPLAY ADS

As of February 2024	Height x Width	One Time	* Contract
Spot Ad	2.25" x 2.375"	\$ 19.95	\$ 17.85 /issue
Business Size	2.25" x 4.917"	\$ 33.00	\$ 30.00 /issue
Eighth Page	4.00" x 4.917"	\$ 53.00	\$ 47.25 /issue
Quarter Page	7.50" x 4.917"	\$104.00	\$ 93.50 /issue
Half Page	7.50" x 10.00"	\$180.00	\$164.00/issue
Full Page	15.00" x 10.00"	\$336.00	\$305.00/issue

* Contract rate available on 3 months or more

* Non-profit discount available

DISTRIBUTION:

2,500 copies/month printed on black and white newspaper and distributed at the end of each month in Crawford, Hotchkiss, Paonia, and Delta.

COPY DEADLINE: 20th of each month.

TERMS: All advertising charges are due upon publication. Charges are deemed delinquent 20 days after publication and will accrue late charges of \$5 a month.

Checks accepted - no credit cards.

Contact: Nan Romane
Nanromane@gmail.com or (970) 872-2308

North Fork Merchant Herald
PO Box 386, Hotchkiss, CO 81419

High Country Shopper Costs

Half Page

10" wide x 7" tall

Black & White

\$325.50

Half Page

10" wide x 7" tall

Color

\$370.50

Note on Half Page:

They can also increase the height of a half page ad in half-inch increments and quote accordingly.

Full Page

10" wide x 15.25" tall

Black & White

\$645.00

Full Page

10" wide x 15.25" tall

Color

\$720

2026

DELTA COUNTY

INDEPENDENT**Print Rates:**

Open Rate	\$11.50 PCI	\$3 PCI
Full Page	\$1464.00	\$378.00
Half Page	\$739.50	\$189.00
Quarter Page	\$377.52	\$94.50
Eighth Page	\$187.50	\$45.00
Business Card	\$61.00	\$12.00
Front Page Banner	\$250.00	Included

Color:**Frequency Discounts:**

5-14	15%	1 Col. = 1.556"
15-25	25%	2 Col. = 3.222"
26-40	35%	3 Col. = 4.889"
41+	45%	4 Col. = 6.556"
Guaranteed Placement	+15%	5 Col. = 8.222"
Insert Rates:	\$350 flat	6 Col. = 9.889"

Column Width:*All prices are net.***DIGITAL ADVERTISING**

Digital Pricing includes montrosepress.com run of site and Montrose Daily Press newsletters

300x250	\$16 cpm
728x90 Desktop/ 300x250mobile	\$16 cpm
970x250 Billboard display	\$20 cpm
Targeted email active emails 2200 participants	\$200 flat
Homepage takeover 1 Day	\$1500
Targeted or Programmatic Digital 300x250, 728x90 Desktop/300x250 mobile, 970x250 Billboard display	\$20 cpm
Geo Fencing	prices upon request
Targeted email maximum 10K recipients	\$350 flat
Sponsored articles 1,000 word limit 60 day placement (no changes)	\$900

*Ask about our many digital products***1/4**3 COLUMNS X 10.5"
(4.889" X 10.5")**FULL**6 COLUMNS X 21"
(9.889" X 21")**1/2**3 COLUMNS X 21"
(4.889" X 21")**HALF**6 COLUMNS X 10.5"
(9.889" X 10.5")**1/4**6 COLUMNS X 5.5"
(9.889" X 5.5")**1/8**3 COLUMNS X 5"
(4.889" X 5")**BANNER**

6 COLUMNS X 2" (9.889" X 2")

BUSINESS CARD2 COLUMNS X 2"
(3.222" X 2")**Deadline***Publishes on Thursday***AD DEADLINE:** Prior to 5pm on Monday

DELTA COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

126 E Meeker St., Unit D

PO Box 890

Delta, CO 81416

(970) 252-7099**General and Credit Policies**

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10 THINGS PAONIA SHOULD KNOW

ABOUT ITS TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

- 1** He was fired from a City Manager position with Neptune Beach, Florida. **After his firing, Wynn filed a lawsuit claiming he was actually fired in retaliation for being a whistleblower** – specifically for reporting financial mismanagement and a conflict of interest, including the police department going over budget and suspected fraud in the building and permit department.
News4jax June 27, 2023
- 2** He was accused of bullying employees and creating a toxic workplace. **These claims are subjective, unsubstantiated, and unverified by independent investigation.** Wynn's position is that the behavioral accusations were a pretext assembled to justify a politically motivated termination.
News4JAX January 18, 2023, WOKV
- 3** He controls all the money – alone. **This is blatantly false.** Per Town of Paonia Municipal code and State Statute, the Mayor and Board of Trustees serve as the legislative body and are responsible for approving the budget, setting tax rates, and authorizing spending. The type of embezzlement that happened previously in Paonia cannot happen today, due in large part to policies written by Administrator Wynn and approved by the Board. The Finance Committee and the Board as a whole review and approve all disbursements at every regular meeting. The Administrator does NOT determine his own salary! The Board conducts regular performance reviews and determines any raises for the Administrator. The Town of Paonia is structured such that Administrator Wynn manages and administers the funds operationally and the Board of Trustees approves budgets as the governing body.
Town of Paonia FY2025 & FY2026 Adopted Budgets
- 4** The Town's savings are disappearing. **Saving up reserves and then drawing them down for infrastructure projects is RESPONSIBLE PLANNING, NOT FISCAL DISTRESS.** Fund balances exist to supplement when revenues are constrained but costs rise, and to smooth out the gap between when money is needed and when it arrives. Fund draw-downs were reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees and our resulting fund balances are well within appropriate levels for a Town of our size. Paonia still maintains reserves well above its minimum policy threshold.
Town of Paonia FY2025 & FY2026 Adopted Budgets
- 5** 69% of the budget is grants and loans. If they stop, Paonia collapses. **Grants and loans are typically how municipalities pay for large/overdue infrastructure projects, this is nothing new, and this is not limited to Paonia.** The grants and low-interest loans are for specific projects and do not fund day-to-day Town operations. Regulators and lenders usually require towns to show they can service debt through user fees before approving financing. Water infrastructure projects are ongoing. Based upon recent local discourse, it would appear that improvement to the Town's water infrastructure is EXACTLY what citizens think our money should be spent on.
Town of Paonia FY2026 Adopted Budget =====➔

- 6 He grew the bureaucracy 6x faster than the population. **Though a few new positions were created, the majority of new employees were hired to fill already existing, open positions.** The population is somewhat limited by the water moratorium. The citizens have been asking for the Town to improve its infrastructure – filling staff positions and paying employees a living wage is part of how this gets done.
Town of Paonia FY2026 Adopted Budget
- 7 Surveillance cameras in Town Park – pointed at where your family gathers. **Yes, because Town-owned facilities have been vandalized and damaged, requiring tax-payer funded repairs.** Yes, the Board approved unanimously. No, there was no public comment, because no one from the public cared to speak on the matter. There is no expectation of privacy in a public space.
8/12/2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- 8 Century-old trees dying. \$0 in the budget. Volunteers told to pound sand. **There are two new budget line items totaling \$40,000 in the approved FY 2026 Budget for trees: Streets 10-45-71 Right-of-Way Maintenance \$25,000 and Parks 10-46-71 Right-of-Way Maintenance \$15,000.** The Board, through Resolution 03-26, temporarily suspended the Tree Board (due to expired terms and a resignation, leaving it without a quorum) while the Town hires a contracted, certified Arborist consultant to assist with long-term tree planning and maintenance. Volunteers were never told to “pound sand”, they were asked to follow the same rules as all other Town Boards and the Town is trying to provide them with exactly what they asked for – a certified Arborist consultant and money in the budget for tree maintenance.
2/10/2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, Town of Paonia FY2026 Adopted Budget
- 9 This isn’t governing – it’s shopping. **This is blatantly false.** Backup generators are necessary. Cellular meters reduce staff time, improve accuracy and efficiency, and replace meters that we can no longer obtain replacement parts for. Patrol cars are necessary, and for the first time ever the Town will be on a vehicle replacement schedule, which is a much more efficient use of taxpayer money than emergency repairs and replacements. Security cameras protect our facilities from vandalism and damage. The sidewalk robots were a part of our legally required ADA Transition Plan – the robots were part of the reason this particular consultant was the lowest bidder and winner of the project. Major street repairs are absolutely part of every budget discussion, but other infrastructure repairs (water & sewer) must happen first lest we repair the streets twice.
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- 10 Same pattern from Florida: anyone who asks questions gets pushed out. **This is blatantly false and the subject of ongoing litigation.**