Town of Paonia
214 Grand Avenue
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 6:30 PM
Town Board Meeting 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 Mejorado (via Zoom)
Trustee Tarnow

Absent:
Trustee Hunter

B) Approval of Agenda

Mayor Smith notes that the March 30, 2026 meeting minutes should be removed from the Consent Agenda due to not being agendized.

Trustee Tarnow makes a motion to remove the March 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes from the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

C) Announcements

Mayor Paige Smith proclaimed April 2026 as National Donate Life Month, recognizing the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation, honoring donors and their families, and encouraging residents to register as donors. Jessi Rochel, Chris Klug Foundation, thanked the Board for recognizing Donate Life Month and spoke briefly about the importance of donor awareness, education, and community participation in organ and tissue donation efforts.

D) Public Comment

E. Short – comments on STR process, facilitator, and data.

E) Consent Agenda

Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter makes a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the absence of the March 30, 2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

F) Staff Reports

1) Town Administrator/Treasurer

Town Administrator Wynn reported on updates to the 2-million-gallon water storage tank relining project, federally funded infrastructure projects, and the Ellen Hanson Smith Community Teen Center. He also announced that the Town received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the second consecutive year.

2) Police Chief

Police Sergeant Henderson reported that the Police Department received an $8,000 grant for replacement radios to improve communications reliability. He also announced Officer

Brad Bardessona received recognition from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for DUI enforcement efforts, including approximately 17 DUI arrests in 2025. Henderson further reported completion of Taser instructor recertification training and implementation of new Taser 10 equipment planned for June, and noted the department assisted with security during the recent "No Kings" rally.

3) Public Works Director

Public Works Director Nikki reported updates on water and wastewater operations, including repairs to the 2-million-gallon water tank and several water main breaks. She discussed seasonal street maintenance activities such as tree trimming, completion of the Stewart Ditch project, and installation of the Twin Lakes banner structure. She also reported on parks maintenance, including training seasonal staff and addressing safety concerns near Minnesota Creek at Apple Valley Park, as well as updates to the town's trash container distribution and recycling efforts. Staff also discussed proposed amendments to Stage One water restrictions.

G) Actions & Presentations

1) Review and Discussion of Draft Ordinance for Regulation of Security Cameras - *Trustee Hunter & Trustee Mejorado*

Trustees and staff reviewed a draft ordinance establishing policies for the Town's security camera system, including permitted uses, data retention, authorized access, privacy protections, and restrictions on facial recognition and license plate reader technology. Discussion focused on balancing public safety, infrastructure monitoring, transparency, and privacy concerns. Trustees discussed who should have access to camera footage, the need for a privacy impact assessment for existing and future cameras, and development of clearer operational policies.

L. Carol – comments against cameras without a policy.
J. Park – comments against town use of technology.
E. Short – comments on vendor stability & expense.
M. Houthuson – comments on Verkata's end-user agreement.
V. Fanfarillo – comments against surveillance.
K. Kerr – comments against facial recognition & long-term storage.
E. Yaori – comments against surveillance.
J. Homor - comments against surveillance.
S. Kaldis – comments against usage.
A. Leigh - comments against usage.
L. Atil – comments against surveillance.
Walter (?) – comments against audio recording.
C. Bookout – comments against spending on technology.
L. Barley – comments on external access.
D. Anon – comments against surveillance.
J. Shawcroft – comments against need.
C. Patterson – comments against surveillance.
L. Mitchell – comments against usage of cameras.
B. Mason – comments against surveillance and external access.
L. Denison – comments against all cameras in town.
M. O'Shaughnessy – comments of public having a voice.
R. Corona – comments on overreach and transparency.
S. Patterson – comments against external surveillance.
J. Dervin-Acherman – comments on community engagement.
L. Aby – comments against surveillance.
D. McClulin – comments against cameras.
May (?) – comments against surveillance.
P. McCarthy – comments against board decisions made.
A. Wynn – comments on lawyer input.

Board discussion included privacy protections, camera access, facial recognition capabilities, data storage, and the need for clearer governance policies. Trustees acknowledged significant public concern and agreed additional research and discussion were necessary before moving forward with the ordinance. Discussion also included whether some or all cameras should be temporarily disabled until a formal policy framework could be adopted.

Trustee Czech makes a motion to table this until the next meeting where the Board can discuss which of parts of this ordinance to adopt. Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter.

Voting Aye:
Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter
Trustee Czech
Trustee Heck
Trustee Tarnow

Voting Nay:
Trustee Mejorado

The motion carries.

Trustee Tarnow makes a motion to on the agenda for the next meeting, a decision as to whether to turn off some of the cameras until a adequate framework is put in place to regarding their governance. Seconded by Trustee Mejorado.

Voting Aye:
Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter
Trustee Czech
Trustee Mejorado
Trustee Tarnow

Voting Nay:
Trustee Heck

The motion carries.

Trustee Tarnow makes a motion for a 5-minute recess. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

The Board goes into recess at 8:44 PM.

The Board reconvenes at 8:49 PM.

2) Consideration of Approval of KLM Change order #3 - *Town Administrator Wynn*

Town Administrator Wynn clarified that a formal third change order had not yet been submitted, but one would be forthcoming upon completion of the final construction inspection for the Town's 2-million-gallon water storage tank relining project.

Board discussion focused on additional inspection costs caused by contractor delays, the desire to avoid multiple future change orders, and the project completion timeline. Staff noted the contractor had exceeded scheduled completion dates and that liquidated damages were already being assessed.

Public Comment:

D. Arnon – comments on clarification on change order and proposed work.

No motion was made on this item because the discussion was informational only and formal approval was deferred to a future meeting.

3) Consideration on Approval of Upgrading Firewall Systems for Compliance with Delta County for Access to CAD Software - *Town Administrator Wynn*

Town Administrator Wynn presented a proposal to replace the Town's existing firewall systems and configure a VPN connection to allow the Police Department secure access to Delta County's computer-aided dispatch system.

The Board discussion focused on replacing outdated hardware, improving network security, and ensuring compatibility with the Town's new IT provider and law enforcement operational needs.

Trustee Czech makes a motion to approve the proposal from Istonish for the firewall replacement and VPN configuration for the amount not to exceed $9,290 and the town to authorize the Town Administrator to execute all necessary documents. Seconded by Trustee Tarnow.

The motion carries unanimously.

4) Consideration of Electrical Repairs at Smith Center - *Town Administrator Wynn*

Town Administrator Wynn presented proposals for electrical repairs and upgrades at the Smith Center to address safety issues, code compliance, and operational needs within the facility.

Board discussion focused on obtaining the Smith Center into minimum electrical code compliance in time for the planned June 1 reopening, while avoiding unnecessary upgrade costs. Trustees discussed the large price difference between Merit Electric's proposal and AB Electric's lower-cost proposal, with staff explaining that some items in the Merit proposal involved optional upgrades to grandfathered systems rather than immediate code-required repairs, and the urgency of completing the work before increased community use of the building.

Trustee Czech makes a motion to ask Merit Electric to resubmit a proposal that is comparable to what AB Electric has proposed to do and then allow staff to choose which they believe would be most expedient. Seconded by Trustee Mejorado.

The motion carries unanimously.

5) Consideration of Enacting Stage 1 Fire Restrictions - *Town Administrator Wynn*

Town Administrator Wynn reported that Delta County and local fire districts had recently reviewed fire conditions and determined countywide fire restrictions were not yet necessary. He explained the Town was proactively coordinating with county emergency management and preparing a resolution so restrictions could be implemented quickly if conditions worsened. Discussion focused on regional coordination, preparedness, and ensuring the Town was ready to respond if fire danger increased.

No motion was made on this item. Staff indicated the matter would likely return at a future meeting if conditions changed or formal restrictions became necessary.

6) Consideration of Stage 1 Water Restrictions - *Town Administrator Wynn*

Town Administrator Wynn presented amendments to the Town's existing Stage 1 water restrictions due to reliance on the temporary 750,000-gallon water tank during the 2-million-gallon tank rehabilitation project. Discussion focused on simplifying watering rules by eliminating the prior odd/even address system and purple flag requirement in favor of designated irrigation days and times. Proposed watering dates/times were Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday between the hours of 7:00 PM to 4:00 AM.

Board discussion focused on enforcement, practicality for residents using automated irrigation systems, and adjusting watering hours to balance conservation needs with public convenience.

Trustee Czech makes a motion to approve resolution 05-2026 to amend and reaffirm Stage 1 water Restrictions with a date pushed to May 1st instead of April 21st. Seconded by Trustee Mejorado.

Voting Aye:
Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter
Trustee Czech
Trustee Heck

Trustee Mejorado

Voting Nay:
Trustee Tarnow

The motion carries.

7) Discussion and Consideration on Applying for BRIC Grant for Backup Generators at Town Hall, Water Plant and Wastewater Plant - *Town Administrator Wynn*

Town Administrator Wynn presented a proposal to apply for a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant to fund backup generators for critical Town infrastructure, including Town Hall, the water plant, and the wastewater plant. He explained the generators would improve emergency preparedness and ensure continued operation of essential services during power outages.

Board discussion noted that a prior grant application had been denied because the projects were not included in Delta County's Hazard Mitigation Plan, but the updated plan now includes generators, improving eligibility for funding.

Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter makes a motion that the Board of Trustees authorize the Town Administrator to submit an application to FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program to the purchase and installation of backup generators for the Water Treatment Plant, the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Town Hall and Police Department. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Tarnow makes a motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes, until 9:40 PM. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

8) Consideration of Arbor Day 4/24 Event & Proclamation - *Public Works Director Poulos & Town Administrator Wynn*

Public Works Director Poulos and Town Administrator Wynn discussed plans for the Town's April 24 Arbor Day event, including possibly planting a red maple tree at Apple Valley Park near the parking area to provide future shade. Staff explained they were coordinating with local schools to invite students to participate in the community event and proclamation ceremony.

Trustee Tarnow makes a motion that the Town goes forward with the plan for implementing Arbor Day and signing the proclamation. Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter.

The motion carries unanimously.

9) Follow-up Information Received from BLM with Regards to Town's Feb. 24, 2026 Protest Letter on Two Parcels to be Included in the March 2026 Lease Sale - *Mayor Smith*

Mayor Smith provided a follow-up report regarding the Town's protest letter to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) opposing inclusion of two parcels in the March 2026 Federal Lease Sale. Mayor Smith explained that despite the Town's objections, the parcels remained in the sale and were ultimately purchased by SG Interests.

The Board briefly discussed the outcome and the possibility of filing an appeal, though no appeal was recommended at that time.

No motion or formal action was taken on this item. The discussion was informational only.

H) Mayor & Trustee Reports

Mayor Pro-Tem Stelter provided a status update and direction of the Ad Hoc Short Term Rentals Committee, including committee structure, facilitation, public participation, and the ongoing process for developing potential short-term rental regulations.

Mayor Pro-Tem leaves the meeting at 9:36 PM

Public Comment:

E. Short - disputed reported STR numbers, criticized the committee process and facilitator, and raised enforcement concerns.

M. Durlin - asked whether a facilitator agreement would be finalized before the next STR meeting.

J. Park - challenged public STR statistics and opposed additional STR monitoring software.

I) Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourns the meeting at 9:38 PM.

Samira M. Vetter

Samira M. Vetter, Town Clerk

TOWN OF PAONIA SEAL INC 1902 DELTA COUNTY COLORADO

Paige Smith

Paige Smith, Mayor