

Town of Paonia
214 Grand Avenue
Tuesday, May 26, 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
Trustee Czech
Trustee Fischer
Trustee Foster
Trustee Ostrander

Absent:

Trustee Hunter

B) Approval of Agenda

Mayor Smith noted that, before approval of the agenda, the Special Event Liquor License for the Top O' the Rockies BMW Rally should be tabled to the next meeting because additional work was still needed and no supporting information was included in the packet.

Trustee Fisher makes a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Trustee Ostrander.

The motion carries unanimously.

C) Announcements

The Mayor announced that Mayor Pro-Tem Meorado had resigned from the Board, and that a resolution affirming the resignation would be on the next agenda. She also announced open community member seats on the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, with applications due to the Town Clerk by June 3, 2026, and encouraged residents to apply because both boards need citizen participation.

D) Public Comment

M. Brezonick comments on basement flooding and lack of staff response.

M. Bachran comments in support of outgoing Town Administrator.

E) Consent Agenda

Trustee Czech makes a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Trustee Ostrander.

The motion carries unanimously.

F) Staff Reports

1) Town Administrator/Treasurer

a) Demonstration of Communication with the Town with TextMyGov and Comment Card on the Website

Deputy Clerk Santiago presented an overview of Town communication options, including direct email, website forms, and TextMyGov. He explained how messages are routed through shared staff mailboxes, tracked, forwarded to the appropriate department, and retained. The Board discussed improving public

visibility of these tools, promoting TextMyGov sign-ups, and making website contact and agenda-request forms easier to find.

Utility and Permit Coordinator Bachran provided an update to the Board on the Smith Center repairs that are moving forward, with mold remediation started, no asbestos found, electrical work estimated, and contractor bids being sought. Current committed or anticipated costs total about \$31,920, and the work is expected to stay within the \$50,000 budget, with completion targeted by the end of June.

G) Actions & Presentations

- 1) Presentation - Update on the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection (GORP) Act, Western Slope Conservation Center (WSCC) — *Melissa Newell*

Melissa Newell of Western Slope Conservation Center (WSCC) presented an update on the Gunnison Outdoor Resources Protection Act (GORP) Act, describing it as bipartisan public lands legislation to permanently protect Gunnison Basin lands, including Delta County watershed, recreation, grazing, and wildlife areas. She noted the GORP Act has been introduced in Congress, has local and bipartisan support, and that WSCC is continuing outreach to build momentum and maintain community support.

Public Comment:

M. Durlin comments on number of bills awaiting approval.

No action was taken as this was a presentation only.

- 2) Presentation: Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) update from Consor Engineering- *Jenny Godwin*

Jenny Godwin of Consor Engineering presented the Board an update on the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP).

The Board briefly asked about crash-data details, including whether a recent fatality and animal-related crashes were included, and noted community concerns about safe pathways from the comprehensive plan. Mayor Smith also asked that the public input survey be coordinated with existing Town outreach tools, such as the website, TextMyGov, and SurveyMonkey, to maximize participation.

No action was taken as this was a presentation only.

- 3) Consideration of Resolution 26-05 Appointment of Officers — *Town Clerk Vetter*

Town Clerk Vetter explained that the resolution had been revised to remove the Town Administrator appointment, but still needed to appoint the Town Treasurer, Town Clerk, Municipal Court Judge, and Town Attorney.

Judge Julie Hoffman introduced herself, reviewed her service as Town Judge since July 2020, expressed willingness to continue serving, and noted that Municipal Court is held the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Smith recommended appointing Stephen Wynn as Treasurer through July 12, citing continuity during the ongoing audit and the recommendation that the Administrator and Treasurer roles remain aligned. Trustees discussed wanting more clarity on future options, while agreeing Wynn was the practical choice for the current transition period.

Public Comment:

M. Bachran comments in support of the Town Administrator also serving as Treasurer to avoid duplication, cost, and oversight issues.

M. Brezonick comments in appreciation of Public Works & Town response to gas leak and sidewalk work on Third Street.

After public comments, Mayor Smith clarified that the Treasurer line in the resolution would list Stephen Wynn with a finite appointment through July 12, 2026.

Trustee Czech makes a motion to adopt Resolution 26-05 with the Town Treasurer being Stephen Wynn until July 12, 2026, and the Town Clerk being Samira Vetter, Municipal Court Judge Julie Hoffman, and Town Attorney Clay Buckner. Seconded by Trustee Fischer.

The motion carries unanimously.

4) Update on Potential Alternative Security Cameras - *Town Staff*

Staff updated the Board that camera alternatives were still being researched.

The Board discussed whether to temporarily keep Verkada cameras only at critical infrastructure sites to avoid a security gap while balancing privacy, public trust, and replacement timing.

Public Comment:

E. Short comments on public support in taking time to find appropriate alternatives.

S. Patterson comments on using local talent for an inexpensive, closed-circuit camera system.

P. McCarthy comments on keeping Verkada cameras on would damage public trust.

Paonia Water Operator Jordan Redden clarified that unauthorized access to water and wastewater facilities is a serious issue and that cameras help protect critical infrastructure and public health.

M. Bachran comments in support of keeping cameras as a short-term stopgap.

The Board agreed not to vote that night and to bring the Verkada/security camera issue back on June 9 with more information on replacement options.

5) Consideration of USGS Agreement 26REJFACO111 - *Operator Redden*

Town Water Operator Redden explained that staff could not confirm a clear need for the USGS monitoring station, noting it did not appear required for the Town's discharge permit or water administration needs.

M. Bachran comments on need for paying for full year when data is only useful for spring runoff/flooding information.

The Board questioned the station's purpose, location, cost, and whether the agreement amount sent to the Town may have been incorrect.

The Board decided to table the USGS agreement and have staff gather more information, including whether the agreement/billing matched the correct gaging station and cost.

6) Consideration of Approval for Public Works to Purchase New Lawnmowing Equipment - *Public Works Supervisor Byrge*

Public Works Supervisor Byrge explained that the current mower is aging, frequently breaking down, and becoming a safety and maintenance issue.

The Board compared mower options, cost, budget impacts, and whether staff could seek a better price before purchase.

Trustee Ostrander makes a motion to approve the Grasshopper contract and

ask staff to see if they can give us anything better for a deal. Then, regardless of what they say, approve the amount for the Grasshopper, not to exceed the proposal presented, and cost. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

7) Consideration of Approval of Purchase and Install of Two Dead End Signs —
Public Works Supervisor Byrge

Public Works Supervisor Byrge explained that two residents had requested dead-end signs, but staff brought the issue to the Board because approving individual requests could create a broader precedent.

Trustee Foster makes a motion to extend the meeting to 9:40 PM. Seconded by Trustee Fischer.

The motion carries unanimously.

Board discussion included whether signs were needed town-wide, the potential cost of signs, posts, and hardware.

Trustee Ostrander makes a motion to deny these two requests, but to direct staff of both Public Works and PD to come back with a set of criteria that would warrant a dead end sign and potential areas of priority, should they exist, so that a formal process can be created for request of dead end signs. Seconded by Trustee Fischer.

The motion carries unanimously.

8) Consideration and Discussion of Adding Two Standing Work Sessions a Month for Information on Town Projects and Upcoming Agenda Items. - *Town Clerk Vetter*

Town Clerk Vetter discussed adding regular work sessions to help trustees get background information, ask questions more informally, reduce lengthy regular meeting discussions, and that they would be public, recorded, and held only as needed.

Trustee Ostrander makes a motion to set standing work sessions on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:30 PM. Seconded by Trustee Fischer.

The motion carries unanimously.

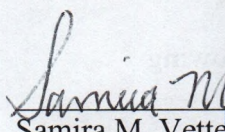
H) Mayor & Trustee Reports


1) Ad Hoc Short Term Rentals Committee

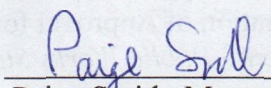
No update provided.

I) Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourns the meeting at 9:37 PM.


Samira M. Vetter, Town Clerk




Paige Smith, Mayor