

Town of Paonia
214 Grand Avenue
Tuesday, May 12, 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 Hunter
Trustee Ostrander

Absent:

Mayor Pro-Tem Mejorado

B) Approval of Agenda

Mayor Smith notes that the April 14, 2026 meeting minutes were not included in the packet and should be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to approve the Agenda with the removal of the April 14, 2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Trustee Fischer.

The motion carries unanimously.

C) Announcements

Mayor Smith proclaimed May 10–16, 2026, as National Police Week in Paonia, honoring fallen law enforcement officers and recognizing the service of Paonia’s Police Department. Chief Laiminger thanked his officers, which included Sergeant Henderson, School Resource Officer Heiniger, Police Officer Bardessona, Police Officer Sanchez, Police Officer Seeley, and Police Officer White.

D) Public Comment

L. Livingston – comments on Western Loop Replacement Project property.
P. Erickson – comments on tree trimming and climbing wall in Smith Center.
C. Patterson – comments on fence quote included in the packet.
P. McCarthy – comments on lack of board response.
B. Brunner – comments on appointment of officers.
S. Patterson – comments on broken water fountain at Town hall.

E) Consent Agenda

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

The motion carries unanimously.

F) Staff Reports

1) Town Administrator/Treasurer

Ashley Rodarte, Payroll and Accounting Specialist, presented the budget-to-actuals report on behalf of the Town Administrator/Treasurer, noting the report remains a work in progress pending final accounting and audit adjustments. She reviewed fund balances, investments, grants, revenues, and expenditures, stated no major concerns were identified, and noted some line items may still require updates or correction.

2) Police Chief

Police Chief Laiminger reported completion of the department's annual CIRSA audit, participation in local safety and community events, and assistance with traffic safety planning efforts. He also reminded the public to drive cautiously during increased summer pedestrian and bicycle activity.

3) Public Works Director

The Public Works report was included in the packet; however, no Public Works personnel were available to present or answer questions, so it was carried forward to the next agenda.

G) Actions & Presentations

1) Discussion of an alternate system and discuss termination of the Verkata contract

The Board discussed replacing the Verkata system with a simpler closed-loop camera system focused on critical Town infrastructure. Trustees raised concerns regarding cloud storage, data access, contract documentation, and the need for a formal camera-use policy, while also discussing temporary camera coverage at key facilities pending review of alternatives.

Public Comment:

P. McCarthey – comments on Verkata contract and investigation.

S. Kaldis – comments on terminating the Verkata contract.

M. Krieger – comments on review of camera system.

E. Brown – comments on public trust.

B. Brunner – comments on public access to camera feeds.

E. Short – comments on terminating contract with Verkata.

M. Dawn – comments on terminating Verkata contract in favor of closed-loop system.

S. Patterson – comments on Town attorney review of contract.

Paige (?) – comments against Verkata contract, removal of cameras, and financial costs.

C. Patterson – comments on creation of citizen committee.

Board discussion focused on how to transition away from the Verkata system without creating security gaps at critical infrastructure sites, including consideration of temporary simplified cameras and limiting interim access to Police and Public Works staff.

Trustee Ostrander makes a motion to ask the staff to work with Istonish to determine a very simple system like Corey used previously for the areas of bulk water fill station, equipment barn, water treatment plant, the sewer, the vault and front office. And when we have that, as soon as we know when they can be installed, we terminate the contract with Verkata.

The motion dies for lack of a second.

Trustee Ostrander makes a motion to install simple, no audio, just visual cameras the bulk of water station, water treatment plant, sewer plant, front office, and vault. To work with Istonish, to produce alternatives that need to be installed and done within 30 days so we can terminate the Verkata contract once we know that that's done. Seconded by Trustee Hunter.

During Board discussion, concerns were raised of a gap in security coverage if no new system is in place by the end of the 30-day period.

Trustee Ostrander amends her second motion to direct staff to work with Istonish to come up with a list of viable alternatives as discussed to the next meeting, such that we may make a decision within 30 days and terminate the Verkata contract in 30 days. Seconded by Trustee Hunter.

The amended motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Hunter calls to question the second motion.

The second motion carries unanimous.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion that in the interim, operations of the remaining Verkata cameras should only be accessed by the Police Department and Public Works staff. Seconded by Trustee Ostrander.

The motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to instruct staff to physically remove all the currently disabled cameras by no later than close of business next Tuesday, the 19th of May. Seconded by Trustee Foster.

The motion carries unanimously.

2) Discussion and Review of Security Camera Ordinance — Tabled *from April 28, 2026 Meeting*

The Board agreed that the proposed security camera ordinance needed further public discussion and should be addressed through a work session rather than acted on that evening.

Public Comment:

P. McCarthy - comments in support of tabling discussion.

B. Brunner - comments on policy and legislative issues for voters.

M. Krieger - comments on stronger public involvement.

S. Kaldis - comments in support of work session.

E. Brown - comments on prematurity of ordinance.

E. Short - comments on community input on camera decisions.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to instruct staff to start a doodle poll and schedule a work session for discussion of the camera ordinance. Seconded by Trustee Ostrander.

The motion carries unanimously.

3) Consideration of giving the Planning Commission Authority to look at Chapter 16, Article 6, for review and revision.

The Board discussed referring Chapter 16, Article 6, related to parking requirements, to the Planning Commission for review and possible revision. Discussion noted that portions of the code may be outdated, unclear, or contradictory, including references to a suspended parking fund and unclear parking requirements tied to special use review.

Public Comment:

P. McCarthy - comments in support of Planning Commission review.

S. Kaldis - comments in support of a broader review of parking requirements in commercial zones.

B. Brunner - comments in support of Planning Commission review.

After public comments, the Board briefly clarified with Town Attorney Buchner that it could request the Planning Commission review the parking code.

Trustee Foster makes a motion to request that the Planning Commission look at Chapter 16, Article 6, for review and revision. Seconded by Trustee Hunter.

The motion carries unanimously.

4) Consideration of approving the Smith Center repairs for up to \$50,000 for mold remediation, electrical and a general contractor.

Utility & Permits Coordinator Bachran presented the staff report and provided background on issues found. The Board discussed needed repairs at the Smith Center, including mold, electrical, and building issues, and considered

authorizing staff to move forward with remediation work while acknowledging costs could increase as additional issues were identified.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to extend the meeting to 9:45 PM. Seconded by Trustee Fischer.

The motion carries unanimously.

The Board continued discussing Smith Center repairs, including remediation work, contractor coordination, potential additional repair costs, and prioritizing health and safety issues while stabilizing the building.

Trustee Fischer makes a motion to extend the meeting until 10:00 PM. Seconded by Trustee Ostrander.

The motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Fischer makes a motion to approve the Smith Center repairs for up to \$50,000 for mold remediation, electrical, and a general contractor. And for Trustee Fisher to work with Daoine Bachran on getting contractors together and going through the bids. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

5) Consideration of Change Orders #4 & #5 from KLM

Town Administrator Wynn presented the staff report and explained the reasons for the two change orders.

The Board discussion on Change Orders #4 and #5 from KLM focused on additional engineering and construction administration costs tied to the water tank project. Staff explained the project had extended beyond the original timeline and that KLM continued providing inspection and oversight services necessary to complete the work.

Trustee Czech makes a motion to extend the meeting until 10:15 PM. Seconded by Trustee Ostrander.

The motion carries unanimously.

Continued Board discussion focused on delays, remaining project tasks, uncertainty in final completion timing, and the need to authorize additional funding so the project could continue through final inspection and closeout.

Public Comment

P. McCarthy comments on bid process.

Trustee Ostrander makes a motion that we have a work session that's for the board to hear from the contractors on work to perform to date from Respec, Wright Water, and SGM. Seconded by Trustee Foster.

The motion carries unanimously.

Trustee Fischer makes a motion to approve KLM Change orders #4 and #5 for mobilization and final inspection services associated with the 2 million gallon tank rehabilitation project and authorization for the Mayor to execute the agreements. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

H) Mayor & Trustee Reports

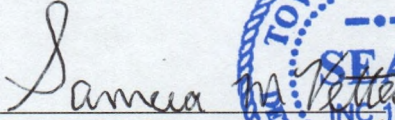
1) Ad Hoc Short Term Rentals Committee

Trustee Fischer provided an update on the Ad Hoc Short Term Rentals Committee that included discussed potential STR regulation updates, enforcement, and neighborhood

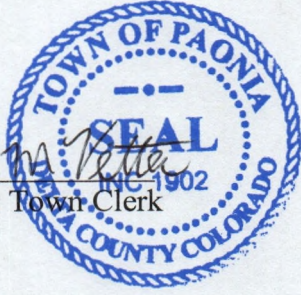
impacts, along with continued committee review and future recommendations to the Board.

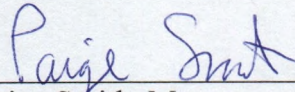
I) Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourns the meeting at 10:09 PM



Samira M. Vetter, Town Clerk





Paige Smith, Mayor