Town of Paonia
214 Grand Avenue
Tuesday, June 9, 2026 6:30 PM
Town Board Meeting Minutes

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

A) Roll Call

Present:
Mayor Smith
Trustee Czech
Trustee Hunter
Trustee Fischer
Trustee Ostrander (via Zoom)

Absent:
Trustee Foster (excused)

B) Approval of Agenda

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

The motion carries unanimously.

C) Announcements

Mayor Smith announced volunteer openings for a two-year Planning Commission seat, open to town residents with applications due June 17th, and a three-year Zoning Board of Adjustment seat, for which town residency is not required.

D) Public Comment

- B. Brunner comments on dismissal of case and concerns of Town management.
- M. Bachran disputes Mr. Brunner's comments and speaks in support of Town's management.
- P. McCarthy comments on the former Administrator's harassment complaints, free speech, and Board past actions.
- S. Patterson comments on former Administrator's absence.

E) Consent Agenda

The Board corrected the May 26 meeting minutes to reflect that Trustee Hunter was excused and not present.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to approve the consent agenda with the aforementioned changes to the May 26 meeting minutes. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

F) Staff Reports

1) Town Administrator/Treasurer

Town Administrator Wynn reported that Town finances remained stable, departments were generally under budget, grant-funded projects were progressing, and enterprise funds remained healthy.

2) Police Chief

Sergeant Henderson reported completion of required annual training, implementation of a new Taser platform, the Town's transition to a .gov email domain, and completion of training for Officer Bradley White.

3) Public Works

No formal report was presented. Utility & Permit Coordinator Bachran provided brief updates on Smith Center mold remediation and drainage maintenance that helped resolve basement flooding concerns.

G) Actions & Presentations

1) Consideration of Approving a Proposal for RFP 26-02 Raw Water Monitoring - *Town Staff*

Water Operator Redden reported that only one complete proposal was received and the engineer's review was not completed in time for the meeting packet. The Board discussed postponing consideration to a special meeting on June 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., immediately before the scheduled water work session.

Public Comment:

No public comment received on this topic.

Trustee Ostrander makes a motion to set aside this agenda item until the special meeting on June 16, 2026, at 6:30 PM. Seconded by Trustee Fischer.

The motion carries unanimously.

2) Consideration of Alternative Camera Systems - *Town Staff*

The Board reviewed three camera options, discussed cloud storage concerns, installation and power requirements, and the number of cameras needed at critical infrastructure and Public Works facilities. Staff indicated that solar and cellular-powered cameras would remain operational during power outages and may be preferable to hardwired systems.

Public Comment:

- E. Brown comments on cameras and offers his help if needed.
- P. McCarthy comments on camera locations and Verkada system.

Board discussion included comparing pricing, installation requirements, system access, camera quantities, and the benefits of using one adaptable system. Trustees generally favored the Reolink option because it was affordable, easy to install, and capable of operating independently of Town power and Wi-Fi.

Trustee Fischer makes a motion to direct the staff to purchase the Reolink system after assessing how many cameras in total are needed, not to exceed 10 cameras. Seconded by Trustee Ostrander.

The motion carries unanimously.

3) Consideration of Approving Resolution 26-07: Declaring a Vacancy on the Board of Trustees - *Town Clerk Vetter*

Town Clerk Vetter explained that Resolution 26-07 formally declared the vacancy created by former Trustee Mejorado's resignation and authorized staff to seek applications and letters of interest, with the Board required to fill the seat within 60 days or proceed to a special election.

Public Comment:

No public comment received on this topic.

Board discussion clarified the application, interview, and appointment process, including that applicants would be considered publicly and the selected person would serve until the 2028 municipal election.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to approve Resolution 26-07 declaring a vacancy on the Board of Trustees and authorize staff to advertise for applications and letters of interest to fill the vacancy. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

4) Selection of a Mayor Pro-Tem - *Town Clerk Vetter*

Town Clerk Vetter explained that a Mayor Pro-Tem was needed promptly to provide continuity, serve as an authorized signer, and act during the Mayor's absence. The Board briefly reviewed current committee assignments, and Trustee Fischer volunteered to serve.

Public Comment:

No public comment received on this topic.

There was no additional substantive Board discussion.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to appoint Trustee Fischer as Mayor Pro-Tem. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

5) Consideration of Approval of Resolution 08-26: Authorized Signatories - *Town Clerk Vetter*

The Board noted that the authorized-signatories resolution needed to be completed following the Mayor Pro-Tem selection. Following Trustee Fischer's selection as Mayor Pro Tem, Resolution 08-26 was needed to add her as an authorized Town signatory.

Public Comment:

No public comment received on this topic.

There was no additional substantive Board discussion.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to approve Resolution Number 08-26 Authorized Signatories, with the inclusion of Trustee Fischer as Mayor Pro-Tem. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

6) Consideration of Approval for RFP 26-03 for an Executive Search Firm - *Mayor Smith*

Mayor Smith presented the draft RFP and recommended using a professional executive search firm to manage recruitment, ensure an organized and impartial process, and incorporate community input.

Public Comment:

- Demarest comments in interest in Administrator position.
- S. Patterson comments against spending on a search firm.
- P. McCarthy comments on separation of duties and hiring locally.
- Unidentified Speaker comments on potential search firm bias.
- E. Brown comments on hiring locally even if applicant requirements are not met.
- C. Patterson comments on slowing the process down.
- M. Bachran comments in support of hiring a search firm.
- J. Redden comments in favor of an outside process rather than personal relationships.
- D. Bachran comments on allowing equivalent experience in place of formal education and knowledge of Paonia.

Board discussion reaffirmed support for a professional search firm while emphasizing community involvement and consideration of equivalent experience. Trustees also suggested extending the desired hiring deadline from November 30, 2026, to February 1, 2027, to avoid rushing the process.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to approve the draft RFP with the one modification of changing the date listed in scope of services, item 12, page 3, from November 30, 2026, to February 1, 2027, with changes throughout the document as needed. Seconded by Trustee Czech.

The motion carries unanimously.

7) Appointing a Trustee to the Ad Hoc Short-Term Rental Committee - *Town Clerk Vetter*

Town Clerk Vetter explained that former Trustee Mejorado's resignation created a vacancy on the Ad Hoc Short-Term Rental Committee and that another trustee needed to be appointed. Trustee Ostrander volunteered to serve.

Public Comment:

No public comment received on this topic.

There was no additional substantive Board discussion.

Trustee Hunter makes a motion to appoint Trustee Ostrander to the Ad Hoc Short-Term Rental Committee. Seconded by Trustee Hunter.

The motion carries unanimously.

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

The Board reviewed the cost and purpose of the seasonal USGS river gauge, clarified outstanding invoices, and discussed its value for maintaining historical streamflow data, future drought and flood planning, grant applications, and possible wastewater permitting needs.

Public Comment:

- S. Patterson comments on usefulness of the gauge.

Board discussion clarified that the gauge measures river flow rather than water quality and is not currently required for the Town's wastewater permit but agreed the long-term data could be valuable and costly to recreate if discontinued.

Trustee Czech makes a motion to continue this agreement with the USGS about the gaging station. Seconded by Trustee Hunter.

The motion carries unanimously.

H) Mayor & Trustee Reports

1) Ad Hoc Short Term Rentals Committee

Town Clerk Vetter reported that the committee's latest meeting functioned primarily as a work session because only two members attended and the recording failed; an executive summary had been received and would be posted, with further decisions deferred until more members were present.

I) Adjournment

Mayor Smith adjourns the meeting at 8:52 PM.

Samira M. Vetter
Samira M. Vetter, Town Clerk

TOWN OF PAONIA SEAL INC. 1902 DELTA COUNTY COLORADO

Sheree Fischer
Sheree Fischer, Mayor Pro-Tem