

**ITEM 1 Call to Order: 6:00 pm**

**ITEM 2 Roll Call: Mayor Gibson, Trustee Billings, Trustee Brady, Trustee Cooper, Trustee McVey, Trustee West, Trustee Wittler.**

**Present: Mayor Gibson, Trustee Brady, Trustee Cooper, Trustee McVey, Trustee West, Trustee Wittler.**

**Phone/Computer:**

**Absent: Trustee Billings**

**Guest Present: Lexie Brooks**

**Staff Present: Merna McGinnis, Town Manager  
Tammy Newman, Town Clerk  
Heath Piper, Electric Superintendent  
Don Steerman, Town Attorney**

**ITEM 3 Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mayor Gibson**

**ITEM 4 Prayer, led by Trustee West**

**ITEM 5 Approve Minutes of the August 11, Board of Trustee's Regular Meeting.  
Approve Minutes of the August 16, Board of Trustee's Special Meeting.  
Approve Minutes of the August 23, Board of Trustee's Special Meeting.  
Approve Minutes of the August 24, Board of Trustee's Special Meeting.**  
Trustee Wittler made motion to approve August 11, 2022 regular meeting minutes and the August 16, August 23, and August 24, 2022 special meeting minutes. Seconded by Trustee West.  
Motion Carried.

**ITEM 6 Approve Bills**  
Trustee Cooper made motion to approve bills as presented. Second by Trustee Brady. Motion Carried

**ITEM 7 Public Comment for Non-Agenda Items**  
*Anyone who would like to address the Board of Trustees on any matter other than an agenda item will be given an opportunity, 3-minute time limit each person after signing the roster.*  
None

**ITEM 8 Re-Visit Agreement with Baca County Sheriff's**  
Town of Springfield and the Baca County Sheriff Department  
Trustee McVey made motion to continue agreement and change date to September on the agreement. Second by Trustee Wittler.  
Yes: Trustee Brady, Cooper, McVey, West, Wittler, Mayor Gibson  
No: None  
Motion Passed.

**ITEM 9 CIRSA 2023 Preliminary Contribution Quotations-Budget Preparation**  
Property-Casualty Preliminary Contribution Quotation: \$78,686.71, \$4386.00 more than last year.

Workers Compensation Preliminary Contribution Quotation: \$28,537.00, \$1063.00 more than last year.

Trustee Cooper made motion to approve the CIRSA 2022 preliminary contribution workers compensation and property/casualty quotes. Seconded by Trustee McVey.

Yes: Trustee Brady, Cooper, McVey, West, Wittler, Mayor Gibson

No: None

Motion Passed.

## **ITEM 10 General Business**

### **A. Ayres Main Street Project Update**

CDOT extension is October 31, 2022 to have bike racks and planters in place on sidewalks. At this time still waiting on the sippers for the planters.

### **B. Cobblestone Hotel Update**

Trustees received breakdown of building Inspector Craig Brooks time. Gave update on issues that has come up with hotel that needed addressed before they can do final inspections.

September 6-8 had interviews for all open positions. Estimated opening date set for first to mid of November.

### **C. Kestrel Housing Project**

Michael Yerman, reported that there was a problem with the soil so had to pull out and go to La Junta, while they recalibrate the foundations to add more rebar. Recorded the 20-foot utility easement so the utility lines will go run in the easement behind or west of the homes. Trustee Cooper voiced concerns about the forms that have been setting in the sun and rain all this time and plumbers make their measurements from what is set.

### **D. Landfill**

Trustees received quotes for rental of landfill scales. Trustee McVey had questions about what the cost would be to purchase scales as was not on the quote and the freight costs if was purchased would they go toward the purchase costs. Trustee Cooper feels quote was a little vague. Discussion on rent/lease or buy, would like to get quotes on a 10X70 new scale for purchase, and all costs associated with setup of scales for next month's meeting.

## **ITEM 11 Administrative Reports**

### **Merna McGinnis, Town Manager/ Treasurer**

Have started working on budgets for fiscal year 2023, have added 5% for employees' wages, and added 9% for insurance increase.

Trustees received the email from the state on the exemptions on sales of incontinence products and diapers and feminine products starting January 1, 2023. The State is allowing the local entities to adopt if they so choose or not. At this time the trustees agree to not exempt the incontinence, diapers & feminine products. Need to take a look at our taxing resolution and see what it says.

Donald Leonard has requested a leave of absence for 3 weeks, September 13, 2022 to October 4, 2022.

Trustee West made motion to approve leave of absence. Second by Trustee Cooper.

Yes: Trustee Brady, Cooper, McVey, West, Wittler, Mayor Gibson

No: None

Motion Passed.

Ms. McGinnis reported that her granddaughter has been coming in and working on the website, as she had an internship through the Oglala Commons.

**Special meeting October 5, 2022 at 5:00 pm to present preliminary budget to the Trustees.**

**Move the October 13, 2022 regular trustee meeting to October 18, 2022, at 6:00 pm.**

Board gave approval for Ms. McGinnis and Ms. Newman to sign payable's & payroll checks that need to get out so no late fees since Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem will both be out of town.

**Heath Piper, Electric Superintendent**

In need of a wire puller approximately cost \$4,500.00, asked if Merna could approve as long is under \$5,000.00. Trustee all agreed.

Also, in need of a clay packer for the mini excavator, approximate cost is \$7,800.00 from Bobcat. The cost could be split between the water and electrical departments.

Trustee Cooper made motion to purchase the clay packer \$7,800.00. Seconded by Trustee Wittler. Yes: Trustee Brady, Cooper, McVey, West, Wittler, Mayor Gibson

No: None

Motion Passed.

Mr. Piper asked if the starting salary for the open electrical position could be raised to \$80,000.00 for an experienced journey lineman, the salary scale is now for an electrical worker with no training. Mr. Piper explained the advantage of adding another journey lineman to the electrical department, with cost savings for training and safety having two journey linemen working on the lines. Mike Ingle and Steve Bush salaries could be taken out of the electrical department and save approximately \$8,500.00. Mr. Piper asked to hire Mr. Phil Hinds to the electrical department at a starting yearly salary of \$80,000.00.

Trustee Cooper made motion to hire Phil Hinds to the electrical department for \$80,000.00 starting yearly salary. Second by Trustee McVey.

Yes: Trustee Brady, Cooper, McVey, West, Wittler, Mayor Gibson

No: None

Motion Passed.

**Tammy Newman, Town Clerk**

Received a letter from the LWCF grant, the town has been selected to receive \$248,000.00, just needs to go through one more signing before it is final. Should hear something in the next few months. Talked to the Gates Foundation, could qualify for \$25,000.00 to help with match for the total project. Received a call from Colorado Health Foundation and they could have up to \$50,000.00 from this year's grants that wasn't used by other grant recipients that could be used as part of money needed to replace swimming pool liner or cash match needed for the total project. They will be getting back to us soon with total fund total. Colorado Health Foundation will help with the community outreach, design and costs.

Mr. Steerman, town attorney didn't like the part in RenoSys quotation about the "measurement part" thinks RenoSys need to come and measure the pool to make sure everything is good.

Ms. McGinnis and Ms. Newman attended a webinar by the Brownfield grant on abatements for grants to abate properties.

Received email for the ARPA dollars needing a signed award terms and conditions agreement, the signed assurance compliance with the title of the civil rights act of 1974 and the budget that the money was spent on by September 30, 2022.

Trustee Brady made motion to approve the ARPA budget, terms and conditions and the and civil rights subject to legal approval. Second by Trustee West.

Yes: Trustee Brady, Cooper, McVey, West, Wittler, Mayor Gibson

No: None

Motion Passed.

**Don Steerman, Town Attorney**

Reported that he has a new clerk hired that hasn't passed the bar yet but will be helping him with getting caught back up.

**Mayor Gibson, Police Department**

Speed radar sign was purchased at \$3,500.00 to try on the north end of town for south bound traffic. If works well to slow traffic down then can look into purchasing another one for the other end of town. Will need to get approval from CDOT for permanent placement, could call and see if they would give a verbal ok.

Discussion on police positions, salary, sign on bonus and talked about maybe a (2) two-year retention time contract. Background checks, fingerprinting, psychological evaluation.

Mayor Gibson contacted Clay Klipfel and he was ok with the \$5,000.00 sign on/move bonus, had asked for \$85,000.00 yearly, Mayor Gibson countered with \$80,000.00 yearly then Clay Klipfel countered with \$82,000.00 yearly with the \$5,000.00 sign on/move bonus.

Trustee Brady made motion to hire Clay Klipfel for Chief of Police at \$82,000.00 yearly with a \$5,000.00 sign on/move bonus with a two-year contract. Second by Trustee McVey. Roll Call, Yes: Trustee Brady, Cooper, McVey, West, Wittler, Mayor Gibson

No: None

Motion Passed.

**ITEM 12 Mayor and Trustee Reports**

Trustee West had someone talk to him about 7<sup>th</sup> and Hill Street.

Octoberfest will be October 1, 2022 2:00-8:00 pm at 9<sup>th</sup> & Main to Colorado. Booths, games, food trucks, music and cornhole tournament. Crocktoberfest, chili cook off at Baca Brew \$5.00 to enter, judging starts at 4 and open to public to test at 5 and proceeds go to, Southeast Colorado Hospital Long Term.

Pheasants' Forever banquet is also October 1, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

Backing the Blue September 17, 2022 at Cat Creek event center.

Mayor Gibson represented the town at the state fair during the mayors and administration day.

Mayor Gibson would like to have a discussion about maybe becoming a Home Rule Charter instead of a Statutory town. Reach out to CML for help and would be good to have a consultant to work with.

Trustee McVey reported that Ms. McGinnis had reached out to departments and they have a few pieces of equipment that can be put into Auction Time by Jim Civis Auctions; Roller, distributor bucket truck, oil spreader. Put the roller, bucket truck and oil spreader on Auction Time. The vehicles on sealed bid later.

Getting police vehicles up and running, need to go get the vehicles from Jeff Woller Towing that has been out there for 6 months and have Chris Griffin look into fixing them, and get the recalls done on them.

**ITEM 13 Adjournment**

Trustee Cooper made motion to adjourn at 8:28 pm. Second by Trustee West.

**Next Regular BOT Meeting October 18, 2022, 6:00 PM**