

Town of Pierce
Regular Board Meeting
November 4th, 2024
6:30 P.M.

The Board of Trustees of the Town of Pierce, County of Weld, State of Colorado, met in regular session at Pierce Town Hall 144 Main Street, Pierce Colorado at the hour of 6:30 P.M. Monday, November 4th, 2024.

Mayor Cathy Ortiz called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Based on the roll call, the following Trustees comprising a quorum attended:

Mayor Cathy Ortiz

Trustees	Others Present:
Glen Lester	Kristina Duran, Town Clerk
Geoffery Broughton	Heather Rospierski Deputy Town Clerk II
Doug Herrick	James Godbold Town Attorney
Kenny Dill	
Larry VanWhy- Absent	

1. Review Letters of Interest for Open Board Position and Appoint to Fill Vacancy: The Town received 2 letters of Interest for the open Board position. The first was from Teresa Martinez and the second was from Julie Lukela. Teresa’s letter reads she has lived in Pierce for many years and cares about Pierce and what happens in the future. She feels she would be a great addition and does not have a personal agenda. She works at the market and has a great relationship with the citizens. Julie’s letter reads I know I will not be considered but it is very concerning to her that nothing was posted on the Town’s website, and she saw nothing posted in the post office until Monday, October 28th, 2024. While she was on the Board previously, she was gathering information about grants and knows there are many opportunities and would love to continue seeking said opportunities. A Roll Call vote was taken Trustee Herrick abstained from voting. Broughton voted for Julie, Dill voted for Julie, Mayor Ortiz voted for Teresa and Lester voted for Teresa. That was a tie vote. The Board opened it up to public comment. Connie Schwindt said we all know that Julie was recalled. The Town spoke. She ran for Town Board again in the election and got the lowest number of votes. It’s clear that the Town does not want her on the Board. Connie said as a resident if the Board chooses to put her back on the Board,

she will start a recall on all Board members who vote for Julie. For not following what the Town wants. Donna O Connor said “Connie I’m sorry you feel that way.” She would like to think that the crap that started between 2 people is over. We should all get along. She doesn’t care which one of the ladies gets the positions as long as they work for the Town. Deb Schreiter agrees with Donna that the nonsense that went on needs to stop, and she thinks Julie has gone above and beyond. Charlie Dehn said he started coming to the meeting after having an issue with the Planning Commission to see how the Town is run. He sees a lot of things that aren’t happening, and it starts with the office. Charlie says the office does not know how to grow a community. He has talked to Julie. He says to pick someone who has some experience and that would be Julie. Sue Spurgeon- Paris has spent over 20 years on the Board. She was on the Board when the Town had no money. She has watched the Board go at each other throats in one of the worst ways she has ever experienced. She feels it will be at that again if Julie is appointed. She feels like it would be a conflict between the Board and staff and keep the town from moving forward if Julie is appointed. Sue feels the Town needs to be very careful about what is done with the Board. If it comes to another situation to where we were it’s not going to turn out positive. Larry Schwindt recalls the days when Julie was Mayor and there was chaos at every meeting. No one was getting along. She refused to follow the rules. She also wants to control everything. She doesn’t care what any other ideas are. It would be a huge mistake to let her back on the Board. Donna O Connor said the whole Board and the staff need to go otherwise the Town is going to stay divided. Quit dividing the Town. Everyone needs to get along. It then was opened to the 2 candidates that submitted letters. Julie said she cares about this Town. She knows how to do grants and wants to help the Board come together. Teresa said she has a lot of good ideas, like how to raise money for the Town. She also loves this Town. A revote from the Board was taken Doug voted for Julie, Geoffery voted for Julie, Kenny voted for Julie, Cathy voted for Teresa and Glen voted for Teresa. Julie won. And was appointed to fill the vacancy.

2. Approval of Minutes from October 14th, 2024: Motion made by Trustee Herrick to approve the minutes from October 14, 2024. Second by Broughton. All “AYES”, motion passed.

3. Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Trustee Broughton to approve the agenda. Second by Dill. All “AYES”, motion passed.

4. Public Comment*: Renee Cobe asked if anything has changed about dogs in Town getting out. She has called dispatch, and no one ever comes out. Clerk Duran said nothing had changed. If we are open call Town Hall if not call dispatch. Clerk Duran said she would contact the Ault Police Department regarding this. If dispatch is called someone should be notified of the call.

5. Water Use/ Billing Issue- Darla Dimmick: Darla was present. She has concerns that her water usage is going up without using a lot of water, especially in the last few months. The Board was provided her account history for the last 2 years. Darla said she is concerned because her bill shows she has used 20,000 gallons, 12,000 gallons, and 2 months at 10,000, and then it went down to 3,000 gallons for her bill in November. The Board reviewed her history, and she is consistent with her usage in June, July, and August. Clerk Duran said most residents would be

surprised by how much water they use, especially in the summer months. The Town checked your meter readings and had the guys go out to double-check your meter and it does not indicate you have a leak. Your usage went down. Darla said she will continue to keep an eye on her usage.

6. Consider adopting an Ordinance that Does Not Allow Jake Brakes in Pierce Town Limits:

Mayor Ortiz had someone come to her asking about not allowing jake brakes in Town limits. Motion made by Trustee Dill to allow Town Attorney Godbold to do research on this and bring back to the Board. Second by Broughton. All “AYES”, motion passed.

7. CDBG Grant Application for Pierce Senior Center: Motion made by Trustee Broughton to allow the Senior Center to apply for another grant. Second by Dill. 3” AYES”, 2 Naye by Ortiz and Lester. Motion passed.

8. Salary Study: Graves Consulting completed the salary study. 6 out of 7 employees are underpaid according to their study. Clerk Duran had to input years of experience other than that all the information came from Graves. The only experience Clerk Duran included is current experience. Duran will add this into the budget for 2025 to get all employees up to what they should be making. Duran said 6 out of 7 employees are underpaid and her salary was delivered door to door, and Clerk Duran is the most underpaid. We are here because we love working here and like being here. We try to be helpful. We can’t always. We do have rules to follow. Duran wants everyone to understand that a lot of the nonsense that was told was just nonsense. Trustee Herrick said this stops all the rumors. It’s here.

9. Old Business: The connex’s have come up at the last few meetings. Herrick suggested the Town put together a comp plan showing exactly what the town would expect and put in on ballot to let the residents vote. Clerk Duran said Chris Lemay stopped in and asked if the Town was going to reach out for help on the Comp Plan. He suggested it get budgeted for this year or next year.

10. Staff Reports:

(A). **Mayor Report:** None

(B). **Public Works:** Report provided

(C). **Planning Commission:** There was no meeting last month.

(D). **Town Attorney:** Natural Medicine Law in Colorado. In 2022 voters approved proposition 122, which decriminalizes the personal possession, growing, sharing, and use of psychedelic mushrooms. The Town can regulate the time, place, and manner.

(E). **Town Engineer:**

1. **Monthly Water Report**: No report was provided.

(F). Town Clerk

1. **Request to Pay Bills**: Motion made by Trustee Broughton to pay the bills. Second by Dill.
All "AYES", motion passed.

2. **Comment Box**: None

3. **Thanksgiving Lunch for Employees**: Staff got approved to close for 2 hours, date and time to be determined. Also, the Town will pay for the Thanksgiving lunch for the staff.

11. Department Reports

(A). **Water/Sewer- Trustee Lester**: None.

(B). **Streets & Drainage- Trustee Vanwhy**: Absent.

(C). **Utilities & Energy- Trustee Dill**: None.

(D). **Buildings- Trustee Broughton**: None.

(E). **Parks & Recreation**: None.

(F). **Growth & Revenue: Trustee Herrick**: Herrick asked Heather if she had heard anything from Allo. She has not.

16. Board Communications: Code Enforcement has a new report. Ryan has also been giving out many warnings and we have received complaints about the warnings.

Adjournment: 7:57 P.M.

Heather Rospierski, Deputy Town Clerk II