

**Town of Pierce
Regular Meeting
April 14th, 2025
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., April 14th, 2025.

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:
Chris VanWhy	Kristina Duran, Town Clerk
Glen Lester	Heather Rospierski, Deputy Town Clerk II
Julie Lukela	James Godbold, Town Attorney
Geoffery Broughton	
Teresa Martinez	
Larry VanWhy- Absent	

1. Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Trustee Lester to approve the minutes from March 10th, 2025. Second by Broughton. All “AYES”, motion passed.

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

3. Public Comment: Janice Henry asked if the board minutes can be put in the newsletter. Clerk Duran said that shouldn’t be a problem. Janice cautioned the Board on spending the Town’s money. The residents pay for that. She also has a lot of concerns regarding the Town buying the elementary school. The school is old and will involve a lot of maintenance. She also has concerns about the water. The school is hooked up to North Weld County Water District. Trustee C. VanWhy said they are aware the school is taking their water shares for the new school. That is also something the Board has to consider. Janice said if it sounds too good to be true it is.

4. Request for Use of Bicking Field in 2025- Highland Recreation Association: Motion made by Trustee Broughton to approve the use of Bicking Field for Highland Recreation Association. Second by Lester. All “AYES”, motion passed.

5. NWCWD Water Agreement/ Purchase of ASPITS: The Board has an opportunity to purchase 10 more plant investment fees at about \$200,000. This is a 75% discount. The cost will increase 3 times more in the future. This is not shares of water, it is to increase our gallons per minute. This would come out of the water fund. Trustee Lukela asked if the rates would go up. Clerk Duran said yes, they will go up. Clerk Duran sent the Town’s fee schedule to Eric at NWCWD to review and see where the Town needs to increase. The Town’s current plant investment fees at \$12,500 and NWCWD charges a little over \$20,000 so we already know that

will have to go up quite a bit. The water agreement must be finalized by the end of April. Trustee Broughton made the motion to accept the NWCWD Water agreement subject to final adjustments made by the Town Attorney, Town Clerk, and Town Engineer. Second by Lester. All “AYES”, motion passed. Motion made by Trustee Lester to purchase the 10 ASPITS for \$200,000. Second by Broughton. All “AYES”, motion passed.

6. Schedule Spring Clean-Up for Pierce Residents: Motion made by Trustee Broughton to schedule the spring clean-up for May 31st. Seconded by Lester. All “AYES”, motion passed. The Town will also be doing the community garage sale on May 17-18.

7. Number of Hours for 2026 Police Contract: Mayor Ortiz suggested the Town drops down to 3 hours. The Town was given a few different options. 3 hours at \$188,000, 4 hours at \$ 251,000, 5 hours at \$ 313,000 and the current is 6 hours at \$ 295,000 with a 3.5% increase each year. Trustee Broughton suggested having community input and having the Ault Police Department come up to answer any question the town residents might have along with the Board. This will be added to next month’s agenda.

8. Letter of Interest for Lease of ½ Share Water Supply and Storage: Motion made by Trustee Broughton to lease ½ share water supply and storage to Justus Pettit for the cost of assessments. Second by Martinez. All “AYES”, motion passed.

9. Lease of 19 Shares of North Poudre Irrigation (NPIC Would Rent Out): Motion made by Trustee Lester to lease the 19 shares of North Poudre Irrigation. Just the irrigation water. Second by C. VanWhy. All “AYES”, motion passed.

10. Consider Allowing IT to Apply for SIPA Grant: This is a no-matching grant. Motion made by Trustee Lester to allow IT to apply for the SIPA Grant. Second by Martinez. All “AYES”, motion passed.

11. Pricing for Pleated Blinds for Town Hall Offices: Trustee Broughton wanted staff to get prices for blinds to help with heating and cooling in the office. Broughton believes the Board has some time to discuss it further. The main concern is heating in the winter. To replace the HVAC is going to be very pricy. Broughton wanted to see what else he can do to help with the winter. The windows in Town hall are not good and are most likely losing heating and cooling. Broughton knows the pleated blinds do help but not sure if they will help enough. There is an issue with cleaning them as they are cleaned differently than normal blinds. He suggested reaching out to the cleaning company regarding this and getting pricing on plastic for the windows for now as that is a much cheaper route.

12. Old Business: None.

13. Staff Reports

(A) **Mayor Report:** The Market held an Easter Egg hunt last Saturday, and Don Juan Mexican Restaurant is looking at 6-8 weeks for their opening.

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

(C) **Planning Commission:** A meeting was held last month regarding a detached garage that was approved. Also, Merle had to resign, so there is an open seat.

(D) **Town Attorney:** Only update is the 2025 legislative session, is set to wrap up early May. At that time, he will have a better idea what the house will approve and if anything will affect the Town. In June/ July he will have a summary for the Town.

(E) Town Engineer

1. Monthly Water Report: Report Provided.

(F) Town Clerk

1. Request to Pay Bills: Motion made by Trustee Broughton to pay the bills. Second by Lester. All “AYES”, motion passed.

2. Comment Box: None.

3. Schedule Employee Reviews for Public Works Director Lester and Town Clerk: Clerk Duran’s and Director Lesters review is scheduled for June 9th, 2025, at 5:30 P.M.

4. Weld County Mobile Medical Clinic: This is a new mobile medical clinic that Weld County will be unveiling. They would love to set something up to bring it up to Pierce. They generally work with the schools and senior centers. They also said if the Town has any Town activities that would be great. Clerk Duran reached out to Kenny at the senior center to discuss this. Also Duran thinks Pierce Day’s would be great. Also, a lot of mobile clinics can only do basic things, this one they can do a lot more stuff. This is free. No cost to the Town or residents.

5. Complaint Pursuant to Town Code of Conduct and Ethics: Town Clerk Duran filed a complaint against Trustee Lukela. Lukela wrote a check to the Town of Pierce for her water bill made out to Town of Piece (Tina’s Town). In Colorado, harassment can be charged as a crime under CRS 18-9-111 if you intentionally bother, annoy or alarm someone through repeated contact, obscene gestures, hitting, taunting, or following in public. The Town Board just recently adopted a Code of Conduct in September 2024 due to the behavior of some of the Trustees. Clerk Duran does not appreciate the continued comments made in reference to her. It is concerning to Duran that this continues after several years, and honestly is very strange and alarming. Duran comes to work, does her job and goes home. The snarky comments are made to intentionally bother her and try to affect her ability to do her job. Duran knows this is something small in comparison to some of the previous things that have gone on but she doesn’t want to end up with a bigger issue again. Duran has worked with several Mayors, Board members, Attorneys, Engineers, Judges and other entities over the 13 years she has worked for the Town and has never had any issues. This has her anxiety up and is causing her emotional distress. She has always and will always do what is in the best interest in the Town. She has never acted like this is “Her Town”, and is here to support the Trustees and citizens to the best of her ability. She hopes the Board takes things seriously this time around. Mayor Ortiz believes Trustee Lukela needs to resign from the Board. Resident

Connie Schwint said there will be a recall on Lukela if she doesn't resign. Town Attorney Godbold explained the process to the Board. Section 11 in the Code of Conduct. Lukela had a statement it reads: She apologies for allowing herself to get caught up in the negativity that surrounds this town. Leadership sets the tone. Her comment was unprofessional, and she got caught up in the many frustrations that are vented to her. She hears from people being unhappy and feel they have no voice or will targeted for voicing their frustrations. She feels somewhat perplexed that she is being called out on not following said Code of Conduct. When the Mayor has not followed and doesn't follow any Code of Conduct. Since she is being called out for not following the Code of Conduct, she would like to point out misconduct. Ortiz flipping residents off as expressed by a resident at a Board meeting, being rude and accusatory to a residents at a bar, that was brought to the attention of the Board. Attempting to remove people from a Board meeting for no grounds, rolling her eyes at people she doesn't like during meetings, made rude comments to residents on Facebook. Many people of this town express the double standard of this Town and this is a prime example. Lukela got involved in the Town with her interest of growth and budget and concern regarding coming to the meeting for years. She cannot unlearn what she learned as Mayor and her concerns are greater. She hopes the Board takes this seriously. The Town deserves better. Lukela said she will resign if Ortiz resigns. Duran said to Lukela this has nothing to do with her. Lukela said she gets it leadership sets the tone. Duran asked why is this directed at her and has for years when everything you just said has nothing to do with her? Mayor Ortiz said Lukela is only here to bring her drama, and the stories she makes up are not real. Connie Schwint said to Lukela if she have these complaints that residents bring to her, why aren't they bringing them to the Board? Broughton said for the Board to act on concerns resident's need to fill out a formal complaint. Broughton believes Lukela has good intentions but was hopeful we were beyond this. Ortiz said we all were. Clerk Duran doesn't have a preference. She wants it to stop and be left alone and doesn't want Lukela involved in her reviews. C. VanWhy said if this is a real complaint that the Board needs to step forward with the process and investigate it. He truly feels if you can't act like adults, you shouldn't have a position on the Board. Connie Schwint said if Lukela cares for the Town as much as she says she does she would just resign to save the Town money. Pam Wortman said if the Board said let's be adults and move on and do nothing if it continues, does that not give Tina more ammunition to sue the Town? Yes. Pam as a town resident would hate to see that happen. Pam has known Tina for a long time, she has done nothing but a phenomenal job. Pam doesn't think she would still work for the Town if she was Tina. That is just her opinion. She works in a office setting and if her bosses treated her the way she has seen Tina treated you bet she would walk out the door. If Tina were to walk, Heather might leave with her, and that is scary as a resident. Who would send the bills out who would pay the bills. As a resident that is scary. Pam believes the Board should all be grownups, the mean girls thing needs to stop. Irrelevant get rid of the seat that is doing it. Motion made by Broughton to assign an investigator who shall be a special investigator who shall be qualified disinterested party recommended by the Town Attorney. Second by Lester. All "AYES", motion passed

14. Department Reports:

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

(B). Streets & Drainage- Trustee L. VanWhy: Absent.

(C). Utilities & Energy- Trustee Lukela: None.

(D). Buildings- Trustee Broughton: None.

(E). Parks & Recreation Trustee Martinez: None.

(F). Growth & Revenue- Trustee C. VanWhy: None.

15. Board Communications: The Town has received the last reimbursement check for the Senior Center. Regarding the Town's Dog park, staff is waiting for the survey, and an address will be assigned at the Planning Commission meeting. The Town also received a thank you letter from Fort Lupton for the donation. C. VanWhy said there was an article in the Coloradoan regarding small town cities for wastewater, that there are big changes coming down the pipe. He asked if that was correct. Lester is not sure about wastewater, but water has seen a lot more regulations. Chris said a lot of small towns have older wastewater treatment plants and he heard they are forcing them to upgrade. Clerk Duran said our wastewater treatment plant isn't that old. Maybe 2012ish. Clerk Duran said we can ask M. Lester, but he hasn't mentioned anything.

Adjournment: 8:08 P.M.

Heather Rospierski, Deputy Town Clerk II