

**MINUTES
CARBONDALE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 17, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Carbondale Board of Trustees held a joint work session with the Pitkin County Commissioners and the Pitkin County Open Space and Trails Board at the Third Street Center.

The following Carbondale Board of Trustees members were present:

Mayor	Dan Richardson
Trustees	Ben Bohmfalk
	Marty Silverstein
	Erica Sparhawk
	Heather Henry
	Luis Yllanes
	Frosty Merriott
Staff Present:	
Town Manager	Jay Harrington
Town Clerk	Cathy Derby
Finance Director	Renae Grossman
Parks & Recreation Director	Eric Brendlinger
Recreation Center Manager	Jessi Rochel

Before accepting public comments, the Pitkin County Commissioners asked the BOT if they would like to make any opening statements. The Trustees made the following comments:

Trustee Yllanes stated that he is concerned about Filoha Meadows.

Trustee Silverstein stated that Pitkin County is operating on the premise that we need a trail that will cost \$20 million - \$115 million just to build, not to mention maintenance. He is also concerned about the Nettle Creek Water Plant, Filoha Meadows and the effect on wildlife and flora.

Trustee Merriott stated he is concerned about diminishing wildlife. He asked where will the wildlife habitat go? The options are developing 100 acres versus 800 acres.

Trustee Henry said she would like to see an analysis of a third option of no trail. She would also like to see continued economic analysis, and she wants to see the cost of each alignment including one with no trail.

Trustee Sparhawk stated that she has wanted to ride/walk the Crystal Valley railroad grade her entire life. She wants to support the trail but it needs to be done right. She thanked Pitkin County Open Space for purchasing Filoha Meadows – it could have been

a housing development. Trustee Sparhawk stated that climate change has made the biggest impact on wildlife.

Trustee Bohmfalk stated that we depend on partners to help us protect the wilderness. He supports the trail. He has been hiking the public sections of the proposed alignment. The trail would be a safety improvement for cyclists on Highway 133. The trail would be a potential draw for visitors doing low impact recreational activities. He asked if there are private land ownership issues. He would like to see the feasibility of an on-highway alignment.

Mayor Richardson stated that protecting the Nettle Creek watershed is of the utmost importance. Carbondale needs to maintain relationships with the land owners around Nettle Creek. Mayor Richardson noted that Carbondale takes care of the Crystal Valley Trail from Carbondale to the Pitkin County line and he is concerned about increased maintenance requirements.

The Trustees left the meeting and went to another room within the Third Street Center to discuss the 2018 budget.

2018 BUDGET – DEPARTMENT REVIEW – PARKS/RECREATION

Renaë gave an overview of the 2018 draft budget. Key points included:

Changes to the 2018 Revenues

- 6.9% increase in property taxes
- The excise and sales tax for retail marijuana is predicted to be flat
- 2% increase from sales tax over budgeted 2017.
- Mineral Leasing and Severance Tax are predicted to be flat in 2018
- The Town is expected to receive the same amount of County Road and Bridge funding it received in 2017

2018 Expenditures

- \$3,000 has been allocated to attorney fees to research a voluntary RETA
- Wages – 3% COLA increase
- Gateway RV Park - \$12,000 for water distribution work
- Carbondale Affordable Housing - \$30,000 transfer for surveys, committees and building fund balance
- General Reserve – transfer \$500,000 to Capital Construction Fund to balance the budget

PARKS & RECREATION

Eric explained that the department has been restructured. Previously parks was under the supervision of public works.

Parks

- They are focusing on maintenance and replacement of equipment. They have applied for an FMLD grant for replacement of playground equipment and (2) park bathroom upgrades.
- Focusing on improvements at Gateway RV Park


Recreation

- The recreation department is proposing to change its membership classifications and fees
- They are focusing on marketing (radio) to the Latino community
- Swimming pool heater needs to be replaced

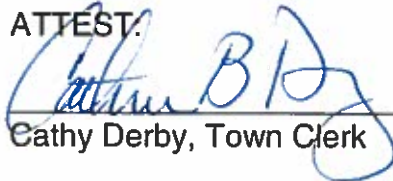
ADJOURNMENT

The October 17, 2017 work session adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on October 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED



Dan Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cathy Derby, Town Clerk

