

June 7, 2023

Present:

Mayor: Larry Sitts
Trustees: Blaine Ice
Vance Brian
Casey Rushton
Calvin Melcher
Bill Kissell
Rod Swisher

Savena Sanchez, Representative of Anthony Contreras Family & Many Concerned Citizens of Holly
David Dougherty Granada Police Chief
Elsie Martin Granada Police Clerk
Austin Hazen Holly Fire Chief
Rodney Hazen Local Business Owner
Randy Holland Town Administrator
Cynthia S. Humrich Town Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Sitts presided over the regular meeting of the Holly Board of Trustees on the above date at 7:00 p.m.

Roll was called. All present, and gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to the Agenda. Trustee Brian asked to add Justin Harrington Walking Trail to Miscellaneous. Clerk/Treasurer asked to add Fire Department under 9. B) Old Business.

Minutes, May 3 , 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Swisher motioned to approve the above minutes as presented. Seconded by Trustee Melcher. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Current Bills. Trustee Swisher motioned to approve current bills subject to review by the Finance Committee on June 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Seconded by Trustee Melcher. Motion carried 6-0.

Notices and Communications. Nick from Element Engineering, at the end of April, requested us to complete the 8-step process, required publication about the water project. We put the first part of this process in the May 2023 Holly Shopper, to reach the local citizens. We did not receive any comments or concerns, so we may move to the final portion of publication, which will go into the Holly Shopper in June 2023. The completed 8 step process should be completed by mid-July 2023.

Public Appearances. Savena Sanchez, Representative of Anthony Contreras Family. She respectfully read the letter addressed to the Board of Trustees, leaders of the Town of Holly, regarding the recent incident of a family member. The letter addressed their concerns about a police department in Holly and condemning property within our community that poses a safety risk to the people of Holly. She also presented a document with many names on it showing the realization that the community is concerned about their safety. A few members present also reiterated points that Ms. Sanchez spoke about in her letter and why they were present. Mayor Sitts and Administrator Holland thanked the group for coming and assured them that we, the Town of Holly, heard their concerns and will take it under advisement with our legal counsel. A copy of the letter and the document with community names on it will be placed in the formal Town of Holly board packet.

Reports. Administrator Report. Administrator Holland reported: The police pickup is continuing to be equipped to be ready for service. Police Chief Dougherty will address more later regarding the police department progress. The Holly Swimming Pool opened Memorial Weekend with a pretty good turn out each day; however, we did have a breakdown; the pressure sensor went out on the boiler. The directive to the pool manager was if the pool temperature got below 77 degrees that she was to close the pool, we do not want to have any patron health issues. The June Bluegrass Festival was cancelled. Mr. Tefertiller is working with the administrator to get the handicap ramps installed at the park. We are still mowing at the parks with so much rain. The RV Park has 7 sites rented long term, for more than two months, due to the dairy construction. The ballpark lights installation is still waiting on the parts here and the same

for the light pole on main street (CIRSA claim). All Rite is supposed to be mixing asphalt for the next 3 weeks, we hope to be patching street holes next week. The mosquito machine is ready for use when needed. Cynthia and I sat in on a zoom meeting for the Brownfield funding. Trustee Ice and Administrator Holland attended the Operating Committee meeting for ARPA in La Junta, Colorado. They talked about Tri-State wanting to lease our generators, as they need more generator credits. However, if we do lease to them then we are under their direction as to when we turn the generators on, and Administrator Holland is not sure we want to do this. A question was posed; if our generators are EPA rated, and discussion about them wanting 50 hours of usage per year. Trustee Ice discussed more information about the ARPA meeting. It was noted that we are locked in on the transmissions and our electrical rates will remain stable until 2042. We have some carbon credits that we could sell off if we needed to. The addition of 3 new people on the crew; one recently hired is a high school graduate, and two seasonal summer helpers; they are doing well but learning. The 2023 Consumer Confidence Report was mentioned. Discussion on the house being condemned – Trustee Ice talked about after the 2007 tornado several houses in Holly were condemned. The house on highway 50 being one of them, the situation then and what to do about it now. There is a possibility it will have to be assessed for structural soundness, a health hazard to the community and asbestos. **Clerk/Treasurer's Report.** Cynthia reported receiving a 2023 lifeguard certification grant from DOLA in the amount of \$1,000 which covered over half of the total cost of the certification. All managers at the swimming pool are lifeguard certified, and the pool manager is doing weekly training with the lifeguards to make sure we do not have any incidents like in 2022. We coordinated an EMS training with the lifeguards in June which was beneficial to all. Shared with the board the 2022 cost for running the swimming pool, and that I have applied for the Huddleston Butler Memorial Fund and the Catholic Charities Funds to assist in some of the cost to run the pool. Also, in doing the research, other area municipalities with swimming pools go to their community for assistance because there is not much in the way of governmental assistance. We came up with a voluntary program called "Pool Partners". We did this because, not only do we have operating costs, but we need a new water heater and mixer, lifeguard rescue equipment, and a tarp and reel, which is going to come to approximately \$18,000.00. Conservation Trust Fund can be used to fill the pool with water, the chemicals use, the painting of the pool and repair labor, if the board approves us to use it. We are hoping to get our pool operational costs down to allow us to put these funds to other town maintenance needs. I met with USDA representative, Jennifer Garcia, who is a part of the water project with Element Engineering. Discussed some of the details regarding the water project. The 2022 financial audit with Amanda Brown has gone well. There will be some office procedures that will need to be changed in order to meet GAAP practices, but overall, everything is in order. She will meet with the financial committee to give the detailed audit information and then a letter to the board. Discussion on fund balances, TBK Bank FDIC requirements, and what COLOTRUST accounts can do for us. We need to move funds from TBK Bank because they only insure \$250,000 per owner, not per account. Discussion on reason for moving funds to COLOTRUST, minimal risk level, and what processes we need to do. The board agreed that I could move funds from TBK Bank to COLOTRUST and vice versa as I deem necessary. I will, however, notify the board through the board packets with the details. Presented the April financials and discussed the Power Manager training I can receive is only available through videos. **Library Report.** Trustee Ice motioned to approve the reports as given. Seconded by Trustee Brian. Motion carried 6-0.

Old or Unfinished Business. Granada – Holly Police Grant. Granada Police Chief David Dougherty applied for the Colorado Justice Assistance Grant, submitted the grant, gave an oral presentation, and then the committee had some questions about what else we might be able to do if they cannot grant the full amount requested. We stated that we would look at having three part-time officers instead of one full-time and two part-time. They wanted to know if Holly would be able to sustain a police officer after the four-year grant was over. Granada received notice that our application was denied, as they had 68 applications for \$7,337,927.00 to which JAG did not have but \$1,700,000 in funds available. JAG said that the other applications were more qualified and more likely to succeed. So, we can file an appeal which is due by June 14, 2023, with reconsideration committee's review on July 11, 2023. With this

appeal Dave will change data to show three part-time officers which shows less costs in salary and benefits. In the appeal process we could end up with any amount, maybe not necessarily the full amount. If we are denied again, Dave asked what our next step might be? Continued discussion on the possibilities of different scenarios and how Holly could be covered by law enforcement. The appeal will show that we really want this grant process and program to continue. Trustee Ice suggested that everyone believes we need law enforcement in Holly and do not have any choice but to go after the appeal. Discussion was brought up to consider possibly increasing the mil levy in order to gain constant law enforcement coverage. Dave was given the direction to appeal the grant process for three part-time officers. Dave gave a worksheet to show some preliminary financial figures on some cost options. The contract is still with Granada's attorney in the revisions. Mayor Sitts began discussion on the Prowers County Sheriff Department's viewpoint regarding their law enforcement in our area. The inability of individuals involved to show professionalism in the workplace which ultimately puts our community at risk. The mayor is going to visit with our attorney to see what can be done and wants to know if anyone has any objections to this action. No objections were made. Dave reported that in 2022 the sheriff's report shows only 168 calls to Holly, yet Granada took 700 calls in the same time frame. He also stated that of those 168 calls, the sheriff's office used vin inspections, serving documents, and county calls as part of the Holly calls. More discussion ensued regarding the incident that took place on Highway 50 and acquiring a Holly police department. **Holly Community Center/Fire Department Building Bid.** Discussion regarding receiving an invoice for \$22,800.00 from Ireland Design and the documentation I found to back up any payment requirements. We then received a phone call from Sam at Reliant wanting to discuss the situation from his perspective. Sam stated that on July 13, 2022, he presented financial information showing that the cost to rehab the old building was going to be around \$819,000 and that a new building would cost approximately \$1.3 million. Sam believed from that meeting that he was to pursue looking into the new building design. The July 13, 2022 minutes state that another meeting was scheduled for July 20, 2022 as a workshop for this project; unsure if that meeting took place. Supposedly, from then on there were weekly meetings regarding the design of the new building and that the Clerk would go back to the DOLA grant and apply for a new scope to show the original funds to go for the design and purchase of the new building. To that, in February of 2023, there was supposed to have been application for a Tier II grant toward the construction of the new building. This is supposedly where the other \$10,400.00 of the invoice is to be paid from. I have put an email in to Flint Timmins from DOLA for verification on existing grant status. I have not heard back from Flint yet. We requested to meet with Sam at Reliant to go over this project in detail. The boards direction regarding the invoice dated May 9, 2023 from Ireland Design is that we need to pay the \$12,400.00 and decline payment of the other \$10,400.00 as it was not preapproved in writing and the lawyer's letter concurs.

New Business. Protocol on Utility Disconnect Policy - Resolution. There is not a town policy or resolution on how the Town of Holly is going to process a disconnect. Discussion was made on the many ways we have tried to handle customers who are behind on their payments and then how we have handled disconnects. We need a set policy where we can say this is how we are going to handle disconnects every time. The Board of Trustees stated for us to create a resolution, have it checked with the lawyer, and then present it to the board to vote on at the next meeting. This is a needed document for the town's protection and those of us in the office; it will give us a legal standing.

Miscellaneous. Justin Harrington Walking Trail. Discussion on why we are not maintaining it, mowing. It was unclear to the Town of Holly's current administration that we needed to mow and maintain the trail. It will take the wide mower in places, and we will investigate it further.

Adjournment. Trustee Rushton motioned to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

/s/ Larry Sitts, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Cynthia S. Humrich, Clerk/Treasurer