

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP RETREAT MEETING

AUGUST 26, 2009

The Council convened for a retreat workshop at 5:35 pm at the Four Corners Cafe, located at the Chipeta Sun Lodge on Chipeta Drive in Ridgway, Colorado. Members in attendance were Councilmembers Hebert, Hunter, Hynes, Johnson and Mayor Willits. Councillor Weaver and Mayor Pro Tem Clark were absent.

Town Clerk's Notice of Adjourned Workshop Meeting dated 8-13-09.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLANNING

Town Manager Greg Clifton explained the capital improvement planning process, which is done annually in advance of budget preparation. The process, which was placed into effect in 2002, prioritizes capital improvements and creates a five year plan used as a budget planning tool. He noted it is important the process, which identifies items for future planning, precedes the budget, as the budget doesn't drive the process, the budget becomes a constraint document. The purpose of the meeting, he stated, is to brainstorm on the items and rank their importance. Costs are approximate and do not always take into consideration funding possibilities. He presented two documents, a matrix summary sheet of capital projects over the last four years and their priority ranking. Also a capital improvement discussion list for 2010.

Public Works Director Joanne Fagan gave an update on the financing options for replacement of the polybutelene water service lines. She explained since her report at the recent Council meeting the Town has accepted the federal stimulus loan funds. An additional \$200,000 in funding was offered, and the start date for construction was extended to October 21st. The loan amount will be \$467,000 at 0% interest. Also \$33,000 from State Revolving Loan Funds at 2% interest rate will fund the first phase of the project.

The Council and staff reviewed the capital improvement discussion list. Manager Clifton reported an application has been made to Great Outdoors Colorado for a mini-grant of \$43,000 to construct a gazebo at the Athletic Park. This would require a \$15,000 match by the Town. There was discussion regarding conformance to emergency dispatch radio frequencies being mandated by Homeland Security. The Public Works Director reported that an application for State Revolving Loan Funds has been made for \$150,000 to be used for a stormwater drainage feasibility/engineering study in 2010. There was discussion pertaining to the update to the land use element of the comprehensive plan; and the hiring of an intern through a program offered by the Department of Local Affairs. It was agreed the time frame to complete the update to the comprehensive plan should be spread out over two years; and the Town should not participate in the intern program.

Council and staff reviewed the matrix and discussed ranking of each item. It was agreed to continue to move forward with, and phase in, the streetscape plan for the core of Town. There was discussion regarding presenting the voters with a question pertaining to implementation of a use tax to fund streetscape. It was agreed to place purchase of a police vehicle in the budget and if there are funds available six months into the budget year, the Council will then determine if the purchase should be made. There was discussion regarding gravel extraction from the river corridor. An item was added to the matrix regarding planting the bulb-out areas on the corners of S. Lena Street. There was discussion pertaining to possible purchase of the fire department building adjacent to Town Hall. It was agreed to not purchase cameras for the police vehicles; and during the budget review discuss purchase of a tent and stage for Town Park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk